**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5th October, 2022 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Phil Bareham, Nita Wyatt, Tom Catherall, Edwin Norton.

Clerk: Janet Gobey. Also present: Andrew Ritchie, PCC Church Warden, Cllrs. Andy Sully and Ed Firmin and 2 members of the public.

The meeting started with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. The door to the litter bin by the lych gate is broken, Cllr. Andy Sully will arrange to have it repaired.

**1.10.22 Apologies**

Cllrs. Paula Knott, Graham Withnell, Adrian Jones and Dee Childs gave their apologies.

**2.10.22 Declarations of Interest**

Nita Wyatt item 7 and 12(C), Tom Catherall item no. 7.

**3.10.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September, 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.10.22 Police Matters**

There has been further vandalism in the village, windows being broken in cars and

 to property. An update will be sought from the Police.

**5.10.22 Actions from last meeting.**

Covered by the agenda.

* + 1. **Grant application towards the removal of graffiti from All Saints Church**
1. Request for re-allocation of funds of £204.62 (balance from grant awarded

 in 2020 for covid) to be used towards excess payment for graffiti removal.

1. Application for £295.38 (balance of excess insurance payment for removal

 of graffiti).

 PCC Churchwarden Andrew Ritchie explained and answered questions regarding

both parts of the grant application. A vote was taken for both a) and b), 4 for and 1 against. Agreed the re-allocation of £204.62 from a previous grant during covid and to award a grant in full for £295.38.

**7.10.22 Continuation of grant for tutor of the village hall choir.**

The choir is open to all ages and abilities and meets once a week in the village

 hall. Proposed Mike Palmer to award £1,200 to pay for the tutor, seconded

 Phil Bareham agreed unanimously.

**8.10.22 To consider boundary options for the Local Community Networks (LCN’s)**

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 Cllr. Andy Sully explained the purpose of the Local Community Networks

 which will be set up when the unitary Somerset Council comes into being in

 April 2023. The LCN’s will be committees in various parts of Somerset which will

 feed back local opinions to the Somerset Council. Three choices were available

 to the Parish Council. Agreed unanimously to opt for plan ‘C’ which will include

 Norton Fitzwarren in with other parishes and exclude it from the Taunton

 Town Council area.

**9.10.22 Update for new playing field.**

It is intended for phase 1 to take place in Autumn and for phase 2 which will

 include the new pitch to be installed in the spring. Enquiries to be made to

 Cllr. Rigby regarding the maintenance funds for the field held by SWT Council.

**10.10.22 Reports:**

 **a) SCC** – no report

 **SWT Council**

 SWT Council has introduced a Cost of Living appeal, a hardship fund which will

 will offer grants to those in need.

 Two electric minibuses have been purchased which are wheelchair friendly.

 An Arts Council has been set up, supported by District Councillors to promote

 culture for the whole County.

 **b) Footpaths**

 Progress is being made with clearing a wider path on footpath T18/9 which

 follows the allotments.

 Enquiries have been made with SCC Rights of Way regarding the request to fit a gate in Stembridge way where the footpath meets the B3227, the gate

 would have to be wheelchair and pushchair compliant. An appropriate gate

 would therefore have to be much larger and it is unlikely there would be enough

 room for it to be fitted.

**c) Allotments**

 A few tenants have given up their plots, the vacant plots will be advertised.

 The AGM for Tenants will be held at the pavilion on Friday, 7th October at 7pm.

 **d) Clerk**

The new litter bin in Great Western Way has been moved further away from

 private land and is now adjacent to the Wychanger shop.

 **e) Health and Safety** – nothing reported.

 **f) Environmental** – no report.

**11.10.22 Planning: (a)**

25/22/0021/A Display of 3 non-illuminated sponsorship signs on Great Western

 Way roundabout – no objection.

 **(b) Applications received since issue of agenda:**

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Application 25/22/0018 removal of bank for parking 34 Rectory Road has been

 withdrawn.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals:**

25/22/0020/T Approved to fell 1 beech tree at Marshall Court.

 25/21/0038 Change of use of land for playing field and construction of tennis

 courts and MUGA adjacent to existing playing field – approved.

**12.10.22 Finance:**

 **(a) Presentation of six monthly accounts**

The accounts were presented by the Clerk, no queries raised. Proposed to

 approve Phil Bareham, seconded Nita Wyatt.

1. **Payments received (for notification only):**

SWT Council Parish Maintenance Grant £2039.00

Balance of precept from SWT Council £17,060.00

Interest £4.16

1. **Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

SWT Council grant for parish maintenance (£760.00 to Playing Field Association and £315.00 for churchyard maintenance.)

Norton News 2022/23 grant £2,500.00

 Parish Maintenance £285.00 - Strimming nature reserve & grass cutting.

 Somerset Association of Local Councils affiliation fee 2022/23 £887.21

 Somerset Playing Fields Association for ROSPA safety inspections £240.00

 SWT Council - To emptying dog bins July to September £415.58

 Proposed to approve Nita Wyatt, seconded Phil Bareham.

**13.10.22 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated electronically prior to the meeting, nothing raised.

**14.10.22 Date, time and place of next meeting.**

Wednesday, 2nd November, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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