**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting with the Police Commissioner on Wednesday 2nd November, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Adrian Jones, Phil Bareham,

Graham Withnell, Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: Mark Shelford, Police & Crime Commissioner, Police Sgt. Cath Forest, SWT Cllr. Andy Sully and 4 members of the public.

Mark Shelford explained his job and his responsibilities, Council raised concerns about the reduced number of police in rural areas. Mark Shelford said that police are being recruited and it is intended to recruit 1300. The PCSO’s for this area have to cover a very large area much larger than before.

Local Councillor Crime Forums are being organised in the local area and will be repeated every 8 months

Communication was also mentioned as being poor, local residents expressed the view that there is no point in reporting crime as nothing is seen to be done. MS emphasized that it was very important to report any crime and to note the log number the police gave out.

In Norton Fitzwarren a Beat Surgery is held in the village hall and the Norton Mini Police and the Police Cadets are very successful. Mark Shelford and Police Sgt. Forest left the meeting.

Immediately following the meeting with Mark Shelford, the Parish Council meeting commenced.

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 8.35pm.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Adrian Jones, Phil Bareham,

Graham Withnell, Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SWT Cllr. Andy Sully and 4 members of the public.

The meeting started with 15 minutes open discussion for the public.

No concerns raised.

**1.11.22 Apologies** – Cllr. Dee Childs

**2.11.22 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.

**3.11.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October, 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.11.22 Actions from last meeting** – Nothing to report.

**5.11.22 Update from meeting with SWT Council regarding new playing field.**

A online meeting was held yesterday, unfortunately the fence around the football pitch

cannot now be installed due to escalating costs. The construction of the pitch is to be

undertaken by Carrick Sports. A plan of the MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) is to be

sent to the Parish Council. It was also recommended that the tennis court is kept locked

and managed, a volunteer tennis group would be sought.

A commuted maintenance sum will be paid to the Parish Council and advice regarding

how to manage the facilities will be supplied.

-1-

**6.11.22 Update from Bus Partnership meeting.**

The Bus Partnership meeting was attended by Cllr. Dee Childs. Unfortunately the Bus

Recovery Grant Scheme from the Government ends in March. It was reported that

Somerset has the worst bus service in the Country with the lowest user figures. The

Local Councils state funds are not available to subsidise services after March 2023.

Accurate timetables are to be installed in timetable cases at all bus stops. Unfortunately

the £1 single journey fare only applies to the Park & Ride and not the Norton Fitzwarren

area.

**7.11.22 Community Governance Review – Decision Notice**

Somerset County Council has confirmed that no part of the existing area of Norton

Fitzwarren Parish will be included in any new Taunton Parish/Town Council. The parish

boundaries will be tidied up between Norton Fitzwarren Parish and Bishops Hull Parish

to run along the main line railway. Staplegrove Parish Council is to be abolished so the

boundary with Norton Fitzwarren parish will be extended slightly to run along Silk Mills

Lane instead of the Back Stream.

**8.11.22 Reports:**

**a) SCC & SWT Councils**

Cllr. Andy Sully reported that Taunton is to have its own Council and will be known as

Taunton Parish Council, it will come into force on 1st April 2023 at the same time as the

new unitary Somerset Council.

Taunton residents have had the opportunity to take a ride in a self-drive vehicle as

part of a roadshow in Taunton.

The County Council budget is under considerable pressure and the changeover to a

unitary council will not result in a budget surplus as was initially hoped for.

**b) Footpaths**

Cllr. Phil Bareham and the Clerk intend to join the ZOOM meeting concerning Parish

Council’s rights and abilities to maintain public footpaths, meeting organised by SALC.

Meadfleet will be requested to cut back the overgrowth on their urban footpaths.

**c) Clerk –** Covered by the agenda.

**d) Health & Safety –** Nothing to report.

**e) Environmental –** No report.

**9.11.22 Planning:**

**a) Applications received since agenda -** nonereceived.

**b) Approvals & refusals –** none listed for this parish.

**10.11.22 Finance:**

**a) Payments received (for notification only):**

CIL payment from SWT Council £2224.90 from application 25/16/0024 for Fitzroy

Barton, Fitzroy.

**b) Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

SWT Council – Installation of new dog/litter bin Great Western Way £1116.00

SWT Council - To empty new dog/litter bin August/September £79.92

-2-

Alex Forster – footpath clearance £345.90

SALC – Councillor training £25.00

Approved at the October meeting:

PCC Norton Fitzwarren – grant towards graffiti on church - £295.38

Village choir – grant for Tutor’s fee £1,200.00

Proposed to approve payments Nita Wyatt, seconded Paula Knott, carried.

**11.11.22 Correspondence for discussion.**

The Clerk will update any Parish Council contact numbers with the SCC Civil

Contingencies Unit.

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

Wednesday, 7th December, 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

-3-