**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th December, 2022 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Graham Withnell, Nita Wyatt, Dee Childs,

Tom Catherall, Edwin Norton. (Paula Knott will stand in for the Clerk and take the minutes).

Also present: SCC & SWT Cllr. Mike Rigby, SWT Cllr. Andy Sully, SWT Cllr. Ed Firmin, Don Wyatt,

Chairman, Village Hall, Limara Sherman from the Fox Cubs Baby & Toddler Group and 5 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.30pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. An enquiry from the village hall if bags of salt can be obtained from SWT Council, enquiries will

be made. The salt bins have been checked and are full.

1. A village gala is proposed for next summer following the success of the Queens Platinum Jubilee

celebrations.

1. Drainage by Rose Cottage, Cllr. Graham Withnell will raise this again with County Cllr. Mike Rigby as there has been no response to his email to Highways.
2. Update from West Somerset railway, the steam rally proved very successful, the rally for 2023

will be held the first weekend in August. WSR are looking to improve the site at Norton Fitzwarren by installing a carriage shed for equipment. The stone processing at the site will cease when the current temporary planning approval expires and the site will return to a green field.

**1.12.22 Apologies:**  Cllr. Phil Bareham is away, Cllr. Adrian Jones will be late. The Clerk

Janet Gobey cannot attend due to illness, Cllr. Paula Knott will take notes.

**2.12.22 Declarations of Interest**

 Cllrs. Nita Wyatt and Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item 6.

**3.12.22 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd November, 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.12.22 Police matters –** no report and no concerns raised.

**5.12.22 Actions from last meeting**

Overgrown hedges and vegetation in Station Road, enquiries will be made as to

 who is responsible for the upkeep.

**6.12.22 To consider grant application for the Fox Cubs Baby and Toddler Group**

Limara Sherman, present answered Councillors questions, following discussion

 agreed to pay the rent for two rooms in the village hall, term time only to be

 reviewed after 6 months. Also to award £396.00 for new equipment and two years

 insurance. Proposed Tom Catherall, seconded Edwin Norton, agreed unanimously.

-1-

**7.12.22 To consider preparation of an Emergency Plan**

Item deferred until the January meeting.

 It was agreed to take item 9 Reports (SCC Council) next.

**9.12.22 Reports (a) SCC Council**

Cllr. Mike Rigby reported the new Somerset Council will commence on 1st April 2023,

 The budget has a deficit of £20 million and it will not be possible to achieve a balance

 this year. All departments are facing cuts of between 10 -20%. The new Somerset

 Council will be looking to Parish Councils to accept more costs.

 The bus service through Norton will be included in the £1 per journey service, evening

 bus services will go through Norton, timetables will be updated.

 Up to £50,000 has been allocated towards a feasibility study for a cycle path from

 Bishops Lydeard to Norton.

 The delay to the Ford Farm development is still as a result of the phosphate issues.

 Planning applications have to be approved by Natural England. Cllr. Rigby left the

 meeting.

**8.12.22 Update regarding new playing field**

The foundations have been started for the multi-use games area and the tennis court.

 Cllr. Andy Sully is following up the lack of response to his email requesting a breakdown

 of the costs.

**9.12.22 Reports (continued): (a)**

 **SWT Council –** Cllr. Andy Sully reported the Cost of Living Support grants are available

 until 31st March, 2023. The Small Business grants to save on energy are no longer

 available. Cllr. Ed Firmin reported an underspend of £200,000 this is being monitored by

the Scrutiny Committee. SWT Council has a general reserve of £8 million.

 Airband broadband are removing telegraph poles from areas where they are not

 permitted.

 **(b) Footpaths**

The Parish Council’s maintenance contractors have offered to carry out the work

 required on the public footpath network.

 **(c) Clerk** – no report.

 **(d) Health & safety**

The new play area in Apple Tree Close has been started.

 **(e) Environmental** – no report.

**10.12.22 Planning (a)**

25/22/0023 Removal of bank for parking vehicles, 34 Rectory Road

 Agreed to respond that Council does not object in principle but the recommendations

 made by Somerset Highways must be complied with.

 **(b) Applications received since issue of agenda** – none received.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals** – none

**11.12.22 To consider draft precept request for financial year 2023/24**

Item deferred until the January meeting.

-2-

**12.12.22 Finance – payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

R. Chiplin for grass and hedge cutting £310.00

 Somerset Playing Field Association - annual subscription £15.00

 Proposed to approve Nita Wyatt, seconded Graham Withnell, carried.

**13.12.22 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated electronically prior to the meeting – no discussion.

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

Wednesday, 11th January, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

-3-