**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th January, 2023 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Phil Bareham, Adrian Jones, Tom Catherall,

Graham Withnell, Edwin Norton. Clerk Janet Gobey

Also present: SWT Cllr. Edward Firmin, no public present.

The meeting started at 7.40pm, no questions received for the public question time.

**1.01.23 Apologies**

 Cllrs. Nita Wyatt and Dee Childs due to holidays.

**2.01.23 Declarations of Interest**

 None declared.

**3.01.23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December, 2022**

 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.01.23 Police Matters**

The usual monthly newsletter has not been received – the Clerk will chase.

**5.01.23 Actions from last meeting.**

Overgrown foliage in Station Road, Graham Withnell is making enquiries as to who is

 responsible for its maintenance.

**6.01.23 To consider preparation of an emergency plan.**

Various options were considered, it was agreed to follow the plan circulated by

 Wiveliscombe Town Council. Cllr. Graham Withnell volunteered to collect together

 the equipment recommended and will look into finding a suitable storage area.

 Proposed Phil Bareham that a sum of £500 is allowed, seconded Paula Knott.

The Norton News contains contact details of emergency services.

 Agreed to consider raising the credit limit of Council’s debit card. The plan can be

 advertised in the Norton News on the website and on notice boards.

**7.01.23 To consider quote for completion of hedge at playing field.**

Agreed to defer until the new playing field is completed.

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

 Following discussion it was generally agreed that the precept would have to be

 increased for 2023/24. Norton Fitzwarren has been advised by the new Somerset

 Council which will be in power from 1st April that Parish Councils will be expected to

 pick up more of the costs of running the parish after that date. Administration

 costs have increased and have been taken into account and an amount has been set

 aside for the new playing field. Grant applications are expected from parish

-1-

 organisations apart from those already allowed for in the draft precept. It was therefore

 proposed by Cllr. Graham Withnell that the precept is set at £38,000 as laid out in the

 Clerk’s draft, for the 2023/24 financial year, seconded Phil Bareham, carried. This will

 increase the precept for 2023/24 by £3,880.00.

**9.01.23 Reports:**

 **a) SCC & SWT Councils**

 Cllr. E Firmin reported that the Crescent car park is to be upgraded to increase spaces

 to include electric charging points and re-painted to increase car space size.

 The new night time bus service which will divert through Cotford St. Luke and

 Norton Fitzwarren and will start on the 30th January.

 **b) Clerk**

 The Maintenance Grant of £2039 from SWT Council will be paid this year by Somerset

 Council as SWT Council is being abolished from 31st March, 2023.

 A volunteer has come forward who is willing to carry out maintenance at the playing

 field. Council is willing to cover the costs of materials.

 **c) Health & Safety** – no report.

 **d) Environmental** – no report.

**10.1.23 Planning:**

 **a) Applications received since issue of agenda.**

Airband notification to install 1 pole adjacent to 10 Yarlington Close. Investigations

 revealed that there is not a number 10 in Yarlington Close.

 **b) Approvals & refusals**

25/22/0016 Single storey extension, Cedar Gables, Church Lane – approved

 25/22/0021A SCC non-illuminated sign, Great Western Way roundabout – approved.

 25/22/0010 Demolition of stable building and erection of 1 dwelling, Pen Elm House, approved.

**11.1.23 Finance:**

a)Presentation of April to December 2022 accounts.

 Proposed to accept the accounts Graham Withnell, seconded Adrian Jones, carried.

 b) Payments for approval and any subsequently received:

 R. Chiplin for cutting hedge in Church Lane £80.00

 SWT Council for emptying dog bins for one quarter £415.58

 S. Herbert for repairing guttering at the pavilion £142.02

 Fox Cubs Baby & Toddler Group for equipment & insurance £396.00

 Proposed to approve payments Paula Knott, seconded Adrian Jones.

**12.1.23 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated electronically but no discussion.

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

Wednesday, 1st February, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.10pm

-2-