**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Wednesday, 1st February, 2023 in the village hall.**

**Present:**  Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Dee Childs, Adrian Jones,

Phil Bareham, Graham Withnell and Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SWT Cllr. Edward Firmin, Don Wyatt, Chairman, Village Hall Committee and 6 members

of the public.

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

1. Flooding by Ford Farm Cottages, the flood water covered the B3227 and nearly flooded the

cottages. The residents will contact the Environment Agency’s Bridgwater office and the

Parish Council will obtain an update regarding ownership of the dam.

1. Update regarding the lifebuoy for the Halse Water near to Station Road. Meadfleet will be

installing new brackets for the lifebuoy.

**1.02.23 Apologies**

Cllr. Edwin Norton is unwell, SWT Cllr. Andy Sully.

**2.02.23 Declarations of Interest**

Nita Wyatt and Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item no. 8 as members

 of the Village Hall Committee.

**3.02.23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February, 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.02.23 Police matters**

An update for the Norton Fitzwarren area has been received from PSCO Marshall

 Bernhardt, nothing of particular concern has arisen in our area, a few road related

 incidents due to the poor weather.

**5.02.23 Actions from last meeting**

Cllr. Graham Withnell is still endeavouring to trace the owners of the overgrown foliage

in Station Road. Agreed that the parish council would ask their contractors to trim it.

**6.02.23 New playing field – update**

A meeting has been organised between the Playing Field Committee and SWT Council

 on the 20th February. Access is still difficult to the allotments, a breakdown of costs

 has not been received. SWT Cllr. Ed Firmin will enquire who will be responsible for

 completing the project after SWT Council is abolished on the 1st April 2023.

**7.02.23 Emergency Plan – update**

The village hall is a designated place of safety, no need for extra preparation as the

 County Council will provide all equipment necessary. Don Wyatt Chair, Village Hall

 is liaising with the County Council officer and will update the Parish Council.

-1-

**8.02.23 To consider grant application from the Village Hall Committee for a summer fete.**

 Various options were considered, any funds generated would be set aside for a

 fete next year. An offer was made to run a beer tent. Adrian Jones proposed to agree a

 figure up to £6,000. £3,000 from the grant fund and £3,000 from Council’s reserves.

The parish council will have a stall at the fete to promote the new playing field and to

display what is done for the parish. Seconded Tom Catherall, carried.

**9.02.23 Police & Crime Commissioner – Councillor’s forum**

Dee Childs attended the meeting, the Commissioner requested that public reporting

 crimes should use the website and to ensure the reference number given is

 retained. A mobile police station has been on trial. Lack of communication with

 parishes was raised as an ongoing issue. Volunteers were requested for various roles

 which are listed on the Avon & Somerset Police website.

**10.02.23 Somerset Bus Partnership – update**

Updated bus timetables have been installed at all the bus stops in the village. An

 evening bus service is now available, the no. 28 now diverts through Cotford St. Luke

 and Norton Fitzwarren. The £2 return bus fare is guaranteed until the end of March.

 Bus/rail connectivity is now being looked into. The bus station in Taunton may be

 refurbished and brought back into use.

**11.02.23 Reports:**

 **(a) SCC & SWT Councils**

Cllr. Ed Firmin gave a report for SWT Council.

 The junction on Trenchard Way, which will make access easier to the railway station

 and multi-storey car park, has now started and will take approximately 5 months to

 complete.

 A request was made as to how the new playing field will be affected when the

 unitary council takes over on the 1st April – Cllr. Firmin will make enquiries.

 **(b) Footpaths** – no issues.

 **(c) Clerk –** SCC have agreed to install two signs for the village hall so that it can be

 seen from both directions.

 **(d) Health & safety** – no issues.

 **(e) Environmental** – no issues.

**12.02.23 Planning: (a)**

25/23/0001/CJ Installation of solar equipment on the roof of Growth Technology,

 Great Western Way – no objections.

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

None received.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals**

25/22/0019 Change of use of land Wick House, B3227 – approved

 25/22/0025 Change of wording to condition 4 re access and drainage, Pen Elm

 House – approved.

**13.02.23 Finance:**

-2-

 **(a) Internal Auditor**

Council’s existing internal auditor can continue for 2022/23 but there will be a small

 increase to £160.00 + mileage for the fee.

 **(b) To consider increasing the daily limit bank transfer payment for bills and the**

 **debit card single payment limit.**

Discussed, but agreed to defer in light of the decision not to proceed with separate

 emergency planning. (Item no. 7).

 **(c) Payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

PCC Norton Fitzwarren £630.00 for six months’ rent for benefice office.

 Website quarterly payment £54.00

 SWT Council for emptying dog bins 3rd quarter £415.58

 Village hall – rent for 3 sessions for Fox Cubs Toddler & Baby Group £102.00

 Quarterly website fee £54.00

 Proposed to agree payments Adrian Jones, seconded Paula Knott.

**14.02.23 Correspondence**

Circulated electronically, nothing raised.

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

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

 The meeting closed at 9.15pm

-3-