**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5th April, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

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

Edwin Norton. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: SCC Cllr. Andy Sully, Ed Firmin and 3 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.35pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. A drainage issue by Spring Cottages, a request will be sent to Cllr. Mike Rigby for Highways to rectify the problem.
2. A car parked frequently on the pavement. It will be reported to the PCSO.
3. Agreed for Cllr. Dee Childs to join the Somerset Bus Partnership group.
4. The heras fencing which was thrown into the stream by vandals has been retrieved.

Andy Lehner of West of England Developments, the land owner, will be requested to install a permanent fence at the bridge in Station Road.

**1.04.23 Apologies –** Cllrs. Graham Withnell, Dee Childs and Tom Catherall

**2.04.23 Declarations of Interest**

Nita Wyatt declared a personal interest in item no 7 as a member of the Village Hall

Committee.

**3.04.23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March, 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.04.23 Police Matters**

Updates are circulated electronically by the Clerk, no other issues raised.

**5.04.23 Actions from last meeting –** nothing raised.

**6.04.23 Update for new playing field**

A meeting has been arranged on-site for the 18th April by the Parish Council.

Representatives from the Parish Council will meet with Jessica Kemmish from

Somerset Council, the contractors and the landscape team to discuss the

landscaping.

**7.04.23 Update for Summer Fete**

Progress is good, a food supplier is being sought, a request was made by the Village

 Hall Committee for £2,000 for deposits. Proposed to agree to the £2,000 deposit

 being paid Mike Palmer, seconded Paula Knott, carried.

**8.04.23 Damage to slide, Children’s play area, Vilberie Close**

An inspection has been requested from Wicksteed Co. Ltd. Cllr. Andy Sully will

enquire if an inspection can be carried out by a Somerset Council play inspector.

**9.04.23 Access to West Somerset Railway Steam Fair**

The free bus service to the steam fair will hopefully be improved from last year.

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 Buses were often full before reaching the village. As there is no safe walking route to

the site, it is proposed that two buses will now run at 20 minute intervals.

**10.04.23 Reports:**

 **a) Somerset Council**

 At the first meeting of the Council powers were handed to Parish and Town Councils

to install a 20mph limit on certain roads. Funds are not available for this at the

present time, an email will be circulated in due course.

 There will be an election on the 4th May for the new Taunton Town Council

 A small budget has been allowed for Local Community Networks.

 **b) Footpaths** – nothing to report.

 **c) Clerk -** Update on the bus service, the £1 fare around Taunton and the evening

bus are both guaranteed until the end of 2023. The Government subsidised £2 fare

for single journeys elsewhere has been extended until the end of June 2023.

The cycle and footpaths on the Langford Mead estate have been sold by

St. Modwen as well as the vacant land.

**d) Health & safety -**  Slide at the Vilberie Close play area – see item 8.

**e) Environment** – no report.

**11.04.23 Planning (a)**

25/23/0003 Steel framed building for storage of garden machinery, Wick

House, Wick Lane, Norton Fitzwarren – no objections.

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

 **(c) Approvals and refusals** – no report.

**12.04.23 SWT Maintenance quote for emptying dog bins**

The quote for emptying dog bins for 2023/24 has increased by 10%.

 Proposed Mike Palmer to accept the quote, seconded Paula Knott, carried.

**13.04.23 Finance:**

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

 Interest (one month) £27.43

 Rent for six months from allotments April – September £300.00

1. **Payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

 S. Herbert - materials to repair fencing at playing field £212.33

 SWT Council for emptying dog bins, fourth quarter £415.58

 Fox Cubs, baby & toddler group 2 rooms rental for 4 weeks £136.00

Proposed to agree payments Nita Wyatt, seconded Mike Palmer, agreed.

**14.04.23 Correspondence for discussion (circulated prior to meeting).**

No discussion.

**15.04.23 Date, time and place of Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council**

 **Meeting.** Wednesday, 3rd May, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

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