**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Wednesday 14th June, 2023 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Adrian Jones, Graham Withnell,

Phil Bareham, Dee Childs, Nita Wyatt, Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: SC Cllr. Andy Sully, Taunton Town Cllr. Ed Firmin and 6 members of the public.

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

1. Request for an additional pedestrian crossing between the existing pedestrian crossings on the B3227. The request has been raised with SC Cllr. Mike Rigby, the Parish Council supported the request.
2. Flooding at the rear of the old post office. Cllr. Graham Withnell said that the drains were

faulty in that area and it had been brought to the attention of Somerset Council.

**1.06.23 Apologies –** none received.

Cllr. Edwin Norton absent.

**2.06.23 Declarations of Interest**

Nothing declared.

**3.06.23 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the**

**3rd May, 2023.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.06.23 Police matters**

No report has been received from the PCSO’s for a while. The Clerk will chase

up the lack of reports.

**5.06.23 Actions from last meeting.**

Items are covered by the agenda.

**6.05.23 Update from site visit to new playing field.**

The parking area is not finished. The pitch has been seeded and funds have been

retained by Somerset Council for extra seed if necessary. The hedging cannot be

funded, but there may be grants available from the Woodland Trust. The Multi use

games area should be released for use after the lines are painted and will hopefully

be opened for use the first week in July.

The attenuation pond is to be fenced and seed has been sown on the remaining

areas. The fencing around the perimeter will be removed, but the football pitch will

remain fenced off and will be maintained by Carrick Sports for another 12 months.

The brick pillars at the entrance will be reinstated.

1. **Grant funding for pavilion.**

The Chairman of the Playing Field Association, Keith Woodmason is to visit

North Petherton Football Club to investigate how their facilities were improved.

Help and advice will also be sought from Somerset Council.

1. **Tennis Group and booking system.**

A good response has been received from the advertisement for a tennis group,

Twelve have now come forward, one has offered to help run the group.

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A booking system needs to be installed and the Lawn Tennis Association

have forwarded details of a system which does not require electricity

and would be simple for the group to operate.

**7.06.23 Repairs and maintenance to the children’s play area**

The large slide needs a repair to the surface and the matting needs refurbishing.

Quotes are being obtained from Wicksteed’s and another play provider.

The annual ROSPA inspections are due Council will await their findings before

proceeding.

**8.06.23 Inadequate dog waste collection i.e. bin near to Dragon Rise.**

The developer is responsible for the dog waste collections. The ownership of the

foot and cycle paths has recently changed and has caused some disruption to

collections. Council agreed to monitor the situation and keep reporting non

collection.

**9.06.23 Preparation for Parish Council table at fete.**

Items displayed will be pictures of the achievements of the Parish Council, the new

sports field and help given to village groups.

A rota system will be agreed so that Councillors will be on hand for residents

enquiries, to record their opinions and note suggestions regarding the new

sports field or possible future projects.

**10.06.23 Planning:**

**a) Applications received since issue of agenda –** none received.

**b) Approvals and refusals** – none listed.

**11.06.23 Reports:**

**a) Somerset Council**

The £2 bus fare will continue until the autumn, then it will be capped at £2.50.

An £11 million grant has been won by Somerset Council to upgrade the bus station

into a mobility hub. Cllr. Mike Rigby is dealing with it.

Funds have also been awarded for additional vehicle electric charging points and

road repairs.

The Fixy bus has been very successful and over 15,000 items have been donated.

**b) Footpaths**

The public footpaths will need cutting in June, the Clerk will contact the contractors

to start with T18/28, T18/7 and T18/9, the nature reserve paths will also need cutting.

1. **Clerk**

Complaints have been made about the dog bin near to Dragon Rise, these have been

forwarded onto the landowners. Council will monitor.

Cllr. Graham Withnell has volunteered to be Council’s representative at the Local

Community Network (LCN) meetings.

A pilot exercise has been started by Somerset Council for parishes to choose street

names for their new developments, the Council agreed to take part as they have

always chosen names for the new developments in the past.

The newly planted trees along Great Western Way appear to be dying, Council will monitor.

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1. **Health and safety** – nothing to report
2. **Environmental** – nothing to report.

**12.06.23 To approve updated Risk Assessment.**

The Risk Assessment was considered, proposed to approve Paula Knott,

seconded Mike Palmer.

**13.06.23 Finance:**

Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:

R. Chiplin, parish maintenance £160.00

S. Herbert (Volunteer) equipment for work to playing field £63.89

A-Door Solutions deposit for replacement garage door at playing field-

£580.00 - balance of £800 (inc. VAT) due on installation of door.

Proposed to approve payments Nita Wyatt, seconded Tom Catherall, carried.

**14.06.23 Correspondence for discussion (already circulated):**

No discussion

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

Wednesday, 5th July, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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