**Parish Council news report**

(based on the draft minutes of the meeting on the 5th July)

The meeting started at 7.33pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, thanks was given to Mike Palmer for sending congratulations on behalf of the Parish Council to the King and Queen on their coronation. A card has been received from their Majesties in acknowledgement and with their thanks. This is displayed in the village hall.

No questions from the public on any other matters.

**Police Matters**

Update regarding Norton was received, the village has been very quiet and there was

no trouble to report.

**New playing field**

The new multi-use games area and tennis court in the new playing field at Manor Park are now open and free to use by residents. It has been decided not to install a booking system sue to the high cost of purchasing the coded entry system.

**To consider request for larger portion of the rent for the Benefice Office**

(Present agreement is for 50% of the rent which is £630.00 for six months).

 The request is for the grant to be increased to 60% of the total rent to reflect the

 greater benefit to Norton Fitzwarren as opposed to Staplegrove parish.

 Questions were answered by the Rev. Paul Irving and a vote was taken.

 Eight for and one opposed, carried. Agreed to increase the grant to

 60% of the total, £756 to be paid six monthly.

**Safety inspections to play and exercise areas**

The damage to the slide in the Vilberie Close play area has now been repaired.

The independent safety reports have now been received and do not raise any issues

of concern.

**Feedback from village fete**

The fete was a big success many residents offering suggestions and raising issues

 at the parish council’s table. These will be discussed at future meetings.

 Thanks were given to the parish council by the village hall for funding the fete.

**Reports:**

 **Footpaths**

Additional help with the footpath cutting has been obtained, a recommended

independent contractor is cutting some of the Parish’s paths.

**Health & Safety**

There is damage to the pavement in Blackdown View – to be reported to Somerset

Highways.

**Environment**

The drains in Church Lane and by the Doctor’s Surgery are blocked these have been reported to Somerset Highways.

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

Wednesday, 6th September, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.