**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Wednesday , 5th July, 2023 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Dee Childs, Phil Bareham,

Graham Withnell, Adrian Jones, Tom Catherall, Edwin Norton. Clerk: Janet Gobey

Also present: Reverend Paul Irving, Andrew Ritchie, Church Warden, Gideon Amos, Liberal Party,

Ed Firmin, Taunton Town Cllr. And 4 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.33pm with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, thanks given to Mike Palmer for sending congratulations to the King and Queen on their coronation. No questions from the public.

7.45pm Cllr. Paula Knott joined the meeting.

**1.07.23 Apologies**

None all present.

**2.07.23 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.

**3.07.23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June, 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.07.23 Police Matters**

Update regarding Norton was received, no issues to report.

**5.07.23 Actions from last meeting:**

Covered by the agenda.

**6.07.23 New playing field**

 **(a) To consider draft Licence/Lease for the new playing field.**

The Licence submitted by Somerset Council contains several sections that are

 of concern. A meeting will be sought to discuss Council’s concerns with Somerset

 Council.

 **(b) To nominate signatories for Licence/Lease for the new playing field**

Agreed signatories to be Mike Palmer, Chairman and Paula Knott, Vice Chair

 To sign when the Licence/Lease has been approved by Council. Proposed Nita Wyatt,

 seconded Graham Withnell, carried.

 **(c) Tennis Court entry system**

Agreed to set aside £1,000, a coded entry system will be investigated.

 Proposed Mike Palmer, seconded Phil Bareham.

 **(d) Maintenance of the area apart from the football pitch.**

A quote is awaited from Open Spaces, Somerset Council.

**7.07.23 Six monthly review of the room rental for Fox Cubs Baby & Toddler Group**

Discussed and agreed not to renew as the grant was intended as a ‘start-up’ grant.

**8.07.23 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

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 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 (Tom Catherall) opposed, carried. Agreed to increase the grant to

 60% of the total £756 to be paid six monthly. Proposer Mike Palmer, seconder

 Adrian Jones.

**9.07.23 ROSPA safety inspections and upgrade to Vilberie Close play area**

The damage to the slide has been repaired. A quote has been received for

 replacement of the rubber matting for £8707.20. The ROSPA report has now been

 received and it does not raise any issues with the rubber matting. As a result of this

and the high cost for replacement it was agreed the Clerk enquire if replacement

of the matting could be carried out in stages.

**10.07.23 Feedback from 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 for funding the fete.

**11.07.23** Planning: (a)

 25/23/0009/T Management works to 2 Oak trees, Apple Tree Close,

 Langford Mead. – A recommendation to be sought from the Landscape Officer,

 Somerset Council.

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

 (c) Approvals and refusals

25/20/0031 Height of garage, 41 Rectory Road, decision - “Finally disposed of”.

**12.07.23 Reports:**

 **a) Somerset Council** – Report received and circulated prior to meeting.

 **b) Footpaths**

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

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

**c) Clerk**

The Clerk has been contacted by West of England Taunton to enquire if access

would be allowed to the land between Manor Gardens and the allotments in

order to clear the land to plant trees to provide ‘credits’ under the phosphate

scheme. Council agreed access could be provided if it is under the weight limit

for the bridge.

**d) Health & Safety**

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

Highways.

**e) Environment**

The drain in Church Lane and by the Doctor’s Surgery are blocked – to be reported

to Somerset Highways.

**13.07.23 Finance:**

Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:

 Fox Cubs room rental 4 weeks £136.00

 Robert Chiplin, grass cutting & strimming £160.00

 A-door Solutions balance for replacement garage door £800.00.

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**14.07.23 Correspondence for discussion**

Circulated electronically prior to the meeting - no discussion.

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

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

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