**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

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

Graham Withnell, Tom Catherall. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: 5 members of the public.

The meeting opened with 15 minutes open discussion for the public, matters raised were:

1. Cllr. Nita Wyatt said that Norton School had started a local foodbank to help some

parents who are struggling, would the parish council consider a grant application.

An application form will be sent to the Secretary and to be placed on the agenda for the

next meeting.

1. A resident of Ford Cottages enquired if the parish council could appoint a Flood Warden

and keep sand ready for sandbags. Volunteers would be needed.

1. A request if CCTV would be installed at the tennis court. There is no electricity on site at the moment. A power cable would have to be laid.

**1.09.23 Apologies**

Cllrs. Dee Childs on holiday, Edwin Norton, unwell.

**2.09.23 Declarations of interest**

Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item no. 7

**3.09.23 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th September, 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.09.23 Police matters**

A gun firing over Ford Farm has been reported to the PCSO.

**5.09.23 Actions from last meeting.**

Covered by the agenda.

**6.09.23 To consider grant application from Norton Trailblazers**

Agreed to award a grant to the Norton Trailblazers, an activity group for local

 Children of £570.00 for helmets and climbing gear. Proposed Paula Knott,

 seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**7.09.23 To consider a grant application for the village choir tutor for six months**

The grant application is for six months as Chairman Don Wyatt will be handing

 over Chairmanship next spring. Agreed to award £600, proposed Tom Catherall,

 seconded, Paula Knott, carried.

* + 1. Ford Farm application ref: 25/21/0024 92 Dwellings & 25/21/0027 Norton by-

 pass and pumping station.

 Crest Nicholson now own all the land, the resolution of the phosphate issue

 has now stalled. Monthly meetings have been set up by Somerset Council

-1-

 for all parties to discuss and resolve any issues.

**9.09.23 New playing field – update.**

The grass on the football pitch is growing well and as a result the heras

fencing has been removed. The faults in the tarmac have been reported,

repairs to the gate and the re-installation of the notice board needs to be

carried out. One of the brick pillars cannot be moved further out due to

cost.

**10.09.23 Flooding at rear of old post office.**

Graham Withnell has met with Somerset Highways to try to resolve the

 issues. A broken pipe between the two properties is causing the flooding.

 Somerset Highways will clear the gullies on the main road and relay the pipe.

 Barratts will pay some of the cost if the fault is on their land. Work will

 start after Christmas.

* + 1. **Planning:**

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

1. Approvals and refusals:

25/23/0012 1st floor extension, 21 Dabinett Close – approved

25/23/0009 2 To prune 2 Oak trees, Apple Tree Close – approved.

25/23/0007 Old Post Office, B3227, prior approval given for 2 dwellings.

25/23/0031 Single storey extension etc. ‘Southfields’. 41 Rectory Road.

(disposed of).

**12.09.23 Purchase of defibrillator for playing field**

Agreed to look to purchase a defibrillator – Graham Withnell will investigate.

**13.09.23 Reports:**

**a) Somerset Council**

Report from Cllr. Andy Sully has been circulated, reported that the 25 bus is

often by-passing Milverton, and the subsidy for routes 25 & 28 will end in the spring.

**b) Taunton Town Council**  - no report

**c) LCN meeting** – no report

**d) Clerk**

 Somerset Highways have inspected the footpath from Manor Park to

 Rectory Road to investigate what can be done to improve the steep slope

 at the Rectory Road end. Investigations are ongoing.

 **e) Footpaths**

T18/9 from Manor Gardens has been cut, PPLO Phil Bareham offered to

 trim other paths which need attention.

 **f) Health and safety** – The dog bin in Station Road is broken with sharp

 edges on the lid, the cost for a litter/dog combined bin is approximately £1,000, agreed to replace as it could injure someone using it.

-1-

 **g) Environment ­-**nothing to report.

**14.09.23 To confirm contract for Weed Control in the village**

A quote from Complete Weed Control agreed by email is now confirmed,

 for 3 treatments per year in the older part of the village. Proposed to

 accept Mike Palmer, seconded Paula Knott, unanimous.

**15.09.23 Finance:**

a) Six month accounts April – September 2023.

 Proposed to accept the accounts Nita Wyatt, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

 b) Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:

 Midgard Forester – footpath clearance £34.50

 C.J. Takle – repair to bench, playing field £165.00

 R. Chiplin – grass cutting £200.00

 Somerset Association of Local Councils affiliation fee £924.89

 Proposed to agree payment Adrian Jones, seconded Paula Knott, carried.

**16.09.23 Correspondence for discussion.**

Circulated electronically before the meeting – no discussion.

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

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

 The meeting closed at 9pm.

-3-