**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the village hall.**

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

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

Also present: SC Cllrs. Mike Rigby and Andy Sully and 5 members of the public.

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

1. Cllr. Phil Bareham said Airband Broadband have been told that they are not permitted to

attach their cables to the poles carrying the electric cables. SC Cllr. Mike Rigby will

investigate.

**1.01.24 Apologies** – none all present

**2.01.24 Declarations of interest.**

Nita Wyatt declared a personal interest in item no. 9 as a member of the

 Village Hall Committee.

**3.01.24 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December, 2024**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.01.24 Police matters**

Serious problems with shoplifting at the local Coop have been reported.

 The Coop will be requested to report each event on the 101 Crime reporting

 line. The Chairman will speak to the Manager and write to the Police & Crime

 Commissioner.

 It was also reported that a 999 call was not answered which was made by the

 Ring of Bells public house. Cllrs. Mike Rigby and Andy Sully will investigate.

**5.01.24 Actions from last meeting -**  covered by the agenda.

**6.01.24 Presentation by Nigel Quarman, Flood Warden, for an Emergency Plan.**

 Several assembly points will be needed, the Village Hall is one, the school

 could be another. The Emergency Plan for Kingston St. Mary was shown as

 an example. The plan should cover flooding, fire, power cuts, extreme cold or heat,

 and rail disaster. Volunteers would be needed, a link to the church, good

 communications and equipment. Flood warning signs have been purchased and

 Hi-Viz vests. Volunteers will be sought to start a Community Volunteer Group.

 It was agreed to take item 11(a) next as Cllr. Mike Rigby must leave the meeting

early:

**11.01.24 Reports: (a) Somerset Council**

Cllr. Rigby reported that he has resigned from the Council Executive.

 It is hoped that the no.28 bus will divert through Norton Fitzwarren on Sundays.

 Evening buses are not affected as there are funds in hand for another 2 years.

 Ford Farm developers are having meetings with Somerset Council regarding

 phosphate mitigation. Cllr. Rigby left the meeting.

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**7.01.24 Wooden fencing in Hilly Park**

Cllr. Andy Sully will contact Somerset Council Housing as the land is part of the

 land maintained as Council housing.

**8.01.24 Licence for new playing field.**

The revised licence submitted to the Parish Council for signing will enable Council

 to use the land and if they wish, to maintain it. It was agreed to sign the Licence.

 Proposed Mike Palmer, Chairman seconded Dee Childs, agreed unanimously.

**9.01.24 Storage container for recreation ground – update**

The village hall will pay for the ground works for the container as they wish share its

 use for storage. Awaiting account application form.

**10.01.24 Installation of defibrillator – update**

The defibrillator has been installed but a sensor light is to be installed above the

defibrillator and green light will be positioned on the gable end of the pavilion.

**11.01.24 Reports:**

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

 **c) Flood Warden** – nothing further

 **d) Clerk –** A quote is being obtained for the cleaning out of the Norton Brook where

 it runs along the north of the playing field on land belonging to the Parish Council.

 **e) Footpaths -**  very muddy.

 **f) Health and Safety and environmental**

A ‘No dogs’ sign for the play area in Apple Tree Close is needed, the Clerk will

 obtain two for the gates.

**12.01.24 Planning:**

 **a) Applications received since issue of agenda**

None received.

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

* + 1. **Finance:**

 **a) Presentation of accounts for period April – December 2023.**

Proposed to approve accounts Mike Palmer, seconded Paula Knott, carried.

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

London Hearts, contribution towards defibrillator £750.00

Somerset Playing Fields Association – subscription £15.00

Somerset Council for replacement litter bin, Station Road £600.00

Website for one quarter £54.00

PCC All Saints Church rent for six months £756.00

Proposed to approve Nita Wyatt, seconded Mike Palmer, carried.

**14.01.24 Correspondence for discussion.**

A letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

confirming that Parish Council precepts would still be paid in the event of

Somerset Council becoming bankrupt.

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

Wednesday, 7th February, 2024 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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