**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 7th February, 2024 in the village hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Paula Knott, Vice Chair, Nita Wyatt, Graham Withnell, Phil Bareham,

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

Also present: Somerset Cllr. Mike Rigby, Andrew Ritchie, Churchwarden, All Saints, Nigel Quarman,

Flood Warden.

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

1. The road sign Great Western Way has graffiti on it. The Clerk will request the Council to

remove it.

1. A request for an increase in the grant for the choir tutor. An application form will be submitted.

**1.02.24 Apologies** – Dee Childs – away. Adrian Jones will be late.

**2.02.24 Declarations of interest** – Graham Withnell declared a personal interest in item

 No.9.

**3.02.24 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd January, 2024**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.02.24 Police Matters + update regarding shoplifting in our area.**

The Chairman has written to the Police & Crime Commission and he has agreed to

 meet and speak to the Area Manager of the Coop. The M & S garage by Cross

 Keys is also having major problem with shoplifting.

**5.02.24 Actions from last meeting**

The broken fences at Hilly Park will be raised with Cllr. Sully as the repairs should

 be the responsibility of housing at Somerset Council.

**6.02.24 Container for recreation ground – update.**

The base will be paid for and installed by the Village Hall as they wish to

 share the use of the container. The container will be installed on 16th February.

**7.02.24 Replacement notice board for the playing field.**

Proposed Nita Wyatt that the 750 x 550mm wide notice board for £390 + VAT is

purchased, an amount also to be included for installation. Seconded Tom Catherall

and agreed unanimously.

**8.02.24 To consider contribution towards costs to support Somerset Bus Partnership**

Discussed and agreed to donate £75.00, proposed Tom Catherall, seconded

 Mike Palmer, agreed unanimously.

**9.02.24 To consider purchase of replacement flags for All Saints Church**

Discussed and agreed to purchase one Union Jack flag and one St. George cross

 flag, also to purchase two ‘Norton’ flags which are being designed by the school

 children for the ‘non-official’ flag days. Proposed Tom Catherall, seconded

 Mike Palmer, all agreed.

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**10.02.24 Planning:**

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

 **b) Approvals and refusals**

 25/22/0015 Wick House – change of use of land for 2 Shepherd huts – approved.

**11.02.24 Reports:**

 **a) Somerset Council**

Airband have been refused permission to use the electricity poles in Rectory Road

 for the superfast broadband connection.

 A 999 call made by the Ring of Bells pub was not answered by the service in early

December.

 Cllr. Rigby will follow up both these issues.

 8.06pm Cllr. Adrian Jones joined the meeting.

 The support for the bus routes 25 & 28 will discontinue in April. A campaign is being mounted. The no. 28 bus could be diverted through the village to make up for the

cut backs.

Somerset Council’s budget will be set in about 2 weeks, there may be an increase in

grant from the Government. Somerset Council holds approximately 100 million

pounds of property which will be sold over the next few years.

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

**c) Flood Warden**

The report from Flood Warden Nigel Quarman has been circulated, there is an ownership dispute regarding the land between Ford Cottages and the B3227.

The road is sinking in front of Ford Cottages and a meeting is taking place between

Highways the Environment Agency and Nigel Quarman.

**d) Clerk**

Volunteers have been requested for the Emergency Plan.

A meeting with the National Grid to discuss work to the pylons is set for Monday, 21st, February 2024.

 **e) Footpaths**

T18/3 through Hilly Park has been partly cut and a tree has come down by Langford

Lane.

**f) & g) Health & safety and environmental**  - nothing to report.

**12.02.24 Finance:**

A quote for emptying the dog bins and for safety checks at the MUGA and tennis

court has been received. The Clerk will check how often the safety checks need

to be carried out before approval is given. Quote for dog bins approved.

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

Website for one quarter £54.00

R. Callan Electrical – installation of defibrillator (as quote) £470.00

 Proposed to agree payments Nita Wyatt, seconded Paula Knott, all agreed.

**13.02.24 Correspondence for discussion.**

A letter received from a resident complaining about poor mobile connection in

 Manor Park has been sent to Cllr. Mike Rigby. Andrew Ritchie, Churchwarden will

 investigate if a mobile mast can be installed in the church tower.

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

Wednesday,6th March, 2024 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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