**NORTON FITZWARREN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th March, 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present:** Mike Palmer, Chairman, Dee Childs, Phil Bareham, Nita Wyatt, Adrian Jones, Tom Catherall,

Edwin Norton. Clerk: Janet Gobey.

Also present: SC Cllr. Andy Sully, Taunton Town Cllr. Ed Firmin, Keith Woodmason, Chairman, Norton Fitzwarren Playing Field Association, Nigel Quarman, NF Flood Warden and 5 members of the public.

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

1. Flooding in Rectory Road - the Clerk will enquire if the farmer will clear the ditches.
2. The layby on the B3227 at Manor Park is eroding, the Halse Water is undermining the road. Somerset Highways are monitoring the situation.
3. Airband broadband – can the existing cable poles be used to prevent additional poles having to be being erected. Cllr. Phil Bareham will chase.
4. The fence is broken by the Doctor’s Surgery – Cllr. Andy Sully will make enquiries as to who

Is responsible for repairs.

**1.03.24 Apologies -**  Cllrs. Graham Withnell and Paula Knott. SC Cllr. Mike Rigby.

**2.03.24 Declarations of Interest -**  none declared.

**3.03.24 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February, 2024.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4.03.24 Police Matters**

A number of shoplifters have been identified and appropriate action being taken

against them, including banning orders by the Co-op store.

**5.03.24 Actions from last meeting –** Covered by the agenda.

**6.03.24 To consider use of remaining funds for the new playing field.**

Additional storage and changing rooms are urgently required. The purchase of a

Container(s) positioned adjacent to the pavilion would be an option.

The Clerk and Keith Woodmason, Chairman of the NF Playing Field Association will

make enquiries and obtain quotes.

**7.03.24 Bus service and proposed train link to Taunton Station.**

Bus Service

The proposals are that the no. 25 bus service will run 3 hourly and the 28a will, during the day, divert to run through Cotford St. Luke and Norton Fitzwarren to make up for the loss. There will be an 28X express service from Minehead to Taunton.

There is a possibility that one evening service will be lost.

Rail Link

Cllrs. Phil Bareham and Dee Childs attended the West Somerset Railway meeting

which looked at the proposal for a train service from Bishops Lydeard to Taunton.

A station at Norton Fitzwarren is intended. Unfortunately, a proposal to donate land to the WSR has been withdrawn by the developer Crest Nicholson.

-1-

Agreed the Clerk will write a letter of support for the proposed rail link to Steve Williams, of the WSR.

**8.03.24 Somerset Council Treescape Scheme**

A goverment funded proposal to increase the treescape between the Blackdown and

Quantock hills has been received from Somerset Council. Agreed to apply for tress

to be planted on the unused land at the west of the allotments.

**9.03.24 Planning: (a)**

25/24/0003EV charging stations at Cross Keys Garage – no issues.

 25/24/0004 Subdivision of Fitzwarren House into two dwellings.

 Concerns to be raised about exiting the site on a difficult bend and the

 drainage of surface water onto a section of the B3227 which already suffers from

flooding.

 **(b) Applications received since issue of agenda**

None received.

 **(c) Approvals and refusals –** none listed.

**10.03.24 Reports:**

 **a) Somerset council**

The news report from Cllr. Andy Sully has been distributed before the meeting.

Somerset Council’s budget for 2024/25 has been set but there will still be a serious

problem for next year and the Council could still become bankrupt in the 2025/26

financial year.

**b) Taunton Town Council**

Taunton Town Council precept has been increased to cover the CCTV, locking Vivary

Park gates and the Tourist Information Office. The public toilets may also be taken

under the control of the Town Council. Replacing the wooden bridge in Goodland

Gardens is also being investigated.

**(c) Flood Warden**

There is a build-up of mud in Wassail View, this area is the responsibility of Falcon Housing. It is usually cleared out once a year.

The ‘Flood’ signs were deployed on the B3227 on the 25th February, there was also flooding in Wassail View. Ownership of the water courses at Ford Farm and therefore responsibility for maintenance has not been determined.

The bank which supports the B3227 along Halse Water is collapsing.

**(d) Clerk –** SomersetHeritage Centre have repaired the steps to the hill fort. An

education pack is being is being prepared, the notes and drawings will be available

over the next couple of months.

**(e) Environmental**  - no report

**(f) Health and Safety** – no report.

**11.03.24 Finance:**

 **a) To approve maintenance contracts for 2023/24.**

Weed treatment in the village - Complete Weed Control Ltd.

 Hedge and grass cutting – Adam Burnett of Midgard Forester

 Proposed to accept the quotes for 2024/25 from these contractors,

Mike Palmer, seconded Nita Wyatt, agreed unanimously.

-2-

1. **Funds received from October 2023 to February 2024 (for information only).**

 Rent from allotment site Oct. – March £300.00

 Maintenance grant from Somerset Council £2039.00

 Interest £421.81

 **c)** **Invoices and payments for approval and any subsequently received:**

 Norton News (advance on 2024/25 grant) £1,000.00

 Flag Studio, 2 flags for the church £546.90

 Midgard Forester parish hedges £369.00

 Somerset Council, clearing of Norton Brook £924.48

 Donation to Somerset Bus Partnership £75.00

 R. Chiplin, hedge cutting, playing field balance owed £60.00

 Titan Containers, delivery of container, cleaning etc. £912.00

 Titan Containers, 3 weeks rental £39.60

 S. Heyns, installation of notice board £85.94

 Stone for football track £120.24

 Proposed to agree payment Edwin Norton, seconded Adrian Jones, carried.

**12.03.24 Correspondence for discussion.**

Circulated prior to the meeting, no discussion.

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

 Wednesday, 3rd April, 2024 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

 The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

-3-