

## FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in the Tithe Barn commencing at 7.15pm.**

### MINUTES

**Present:** Katriona Smith, Alison Kent, Wendy Jonas, Ian Coombes & Martin Irish

**In Attendance:** Jill Loader (Clerk), Cllr Dave Mansell and 4 members of the public.

**Public Speaking Time:** None

**1. Apologies for Absence:** None

**2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None

**3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None

#### **5. Broadband for Village**

5.1 The Clerk updated the latest situation regarding getting superfast broadband to Fitzhead. Following a request via the village newsletter the clerk had forwarded the latest information from Cllr Dave Mansell regarding what services were available and how to go about registering and funds. This project has been taken up by David Simonson who has worked on getting a Community Fibre Partnership scheme in place with over 60 registered houses on the scheme with Openreach. Further news will be forwarded once available. It was agreed to send a thank you letter from the PC.

#### **6. Village House Names on a Map**

6.1 A request for having a map with house names on and post codes was discussed. It was agreed to ask a member in the village for their artistic services to see if this could be drawn up.

6.2 Green Pot Sticker Notice – agreed to find out this scheme in case of emergency so the paramedics would know where to find relevant medicines etc. Action: Ian Coombes.

#### **7. Tithe Barn Project Update**

7.1 The Tithe Barn Committee are due to meet on Saturday 12 December to discuss the overall budget for this project which has been estimated at £330,000.

7.2 The meeting will also discuss grant funding and match funding opportunities.

7.3 Current a/c £15,031.33. Savings a/c £20,747.42. A further £532 is due for the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown.

7.4 There were also maintenance issues to discuss too which included woodworm in the ceiling and window frames.

#### **8. Play Area**

8.1 Weekly inspections are being carried out as per the rota. The wobble board is splitting.

Agreed to monitor for deterioration. Clerk to check when the annual play area inspection will be carried out, as it should have been completed in November.

## 8.2 Weekly Play Area Inspection Rota:

Ian Coombes	August/September
Martin Irish	October/November
Alison Kent	December/January
Wendy Jonas	February/March

8.3 Picnic Bench – it was agreed to put the concrete base down in the spring. Once down, the bench would be ordered.

8.4 Play Area Deeds – these are with the Solicitors – clerk to obtain an electronic copy.

8.5 Replacement play equipment suggestions – it was agreed to put a notice in the parish magazine to see what equipment the children would like when it comes to having to replace items.

## 9. Finances:

9.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerk's wages £271.87, HMRC PAYE £67.80, SALC £25.00, Tithe Barn £16.00, Microsoft Office Subscripton £79.99, Clerks Expenses £46.06, Fitzhead Cricket Club £825.00 Maintenance Grant, Fitzhead PCC £470.00 maintenance grant. Payments made in October for Tithe Barn Project Levitate £2,304.00, Stenning QS £1,140.00.

9.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.25p bank interest, SW &T Council £1,670.00 maintenance grant, Tithe Barn Committee £2,586.40, Bank Balance as at 29 November 2020 £16,039.94. Funds earmarked for play area replacement equipment £6,000 to date. Tithe Barn Project £3,000, VAT Refund £1,205.00. Leaving a balance of £5,834.00.

9.3 Year End Exemption Certificate – this had been approved by the External Auditor for year ending 2019/2020.

9.4 Precept for 2021/22 - this had been circulated previously. After discussion it was agreed to reduce the replacement of play area equipment fund amount to £500 for this year. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed for the precept for 2021/22 to be £3,700. Clerk to send signed precept form back to SW&T by 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## 10. Somerset Action in Villages for the Environment & Climate

10.1 This proposal was discussed and it was agreed to contact the company to find out how the grant application would work and if there were any financial costs to the parish council. The council were happy to support this but not with any financial implications.

## 11. Highways - update and issues to report:

- a) The ditch between Cats Ash Lane and Beech Tree Cross on Cats Ash Road had been dug out.
- b) The ditch on Fitzhead Road, Halse between Hills Cottages and The Old Cider House had been dug out recently.
- c) The drains close to the letter box in West Fitzhead was blocked with mud and required reporting.
- d) Pot holes down Tylers Lane near the top required reporting along with new white junction lines request.

## **12. Planning Applications update:**

- a) 17/20/0012/T Notification to fell one Ash tree within Fitzhead Conservation Area at The Byre, Fitzhead. A decision has yet to be made on this application at SW&T Council.
- b) 17/20/0010/T Notification to carry out management works to one yew tree within Fitzhead Conservation Area at Byams House, Fitzhead. Decision of No Objection was made on 19/10/2020.
- c) 17/20/0008/T Notification to fell two Spruce trees with Fitzhead Conservation Area at The Manor House, Fitzhead. Decision of No Objection was made on 09/09/2020.
- d) 17/20/0006 Replacement of dwelling (cabin) with associated works on land at Pond Cottage, Fitzhead. Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 28/09/2020.

**12.2 Planning White Paper** – Cllr Dave Mansell explained the Government had issued a white paper outlining new planning regulations which made developing areas of land easier. Final details were not clear but areas would be put into Zones which would protect or allow development of land. There were concerns regarding this and it wasn't yet known how much power local councils would continue to have. The consultation period was now closed.

**13. Replacement Noticeboards** – a) the main noticeboard by the pub requires attention. It was agreed that I Jonas would take-a-look and either repair, replace with the noticeboard from the Tithe Barn not being used or replace with the bus shelter noticeboard. This board required refurbishment. b) Agreed to remove all the pictures from the tithe barn noticeboard, so notices could be seen and updated.

## **14. Somerset West & Taunton Councillor Report– Cllr Dave Mansell**

The council were continuing to work via email and from home. SCC and the Public Health Authority were working closely together regarding the Covid 19 situation. The SW&T Community Chest Fund was still available for up to £7500 for community groups affected by Covid 19 for recovery purposes. £1.7mm had been distributed to 148 businesses in this ward from the Business Grant which had been available at the start of the first lockdown. The Test and Trace Support Grant was available until the end of January if you have to isolate and can't work for up to £500 per person. The District had a Town Centre Recovery Fund for Taunton, Wellington and Minehead. Wiveliscombe and already received £25,000. It was a busy time for the council with 2 full meetings last week, one this week and one next week which are held via Zoom. Climate Energy and Ecological Energy Projects are being reviewed. The Local Plan is on hold following the merger of the two councils. The proposal of re-organizing Local Government has been submitted to Government for a decision. SCC have proposed a unitary council for the whole of Somerset. Where-as District have proposed 2 unitary councils – namely East and West Somerset. A decision has yet to be made.

**15. Somerset County Councillors Report – Cllr James Hunt** - none received.

**16. Police Report** – the report received by PCSO Louise Fyne was on the website.

**17. Resignation of Councillor** – Katriona Smith announced her resignation as Parish Councillor as she was moving out of the Parish in January. Clerk to contact SW&T.

## **18. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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