

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 25th March 2021 via Zoom
commencing at 7.15pm.

MINUTES

Present: Alison Kent, Wendy Jonas, Ian Coombes, Martin Irish & Chris Summers

In Attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk), Cllr Dave Mansell

Public Speaking Time: None

1. **Election of Chairperson:** Following the resignation of Katriona Smith, it was agreed that Alison Kent would chair the March meeting only.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None
3. **Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
4. **Co-option of a New Parish Councillor:** The Returning Officer at SW&T Council had notified the clerk that Chris Summers was the only person to have shown an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Therefore, the PC was free to co-opt Chris Summers onto the Parish Council which was duly done. Chris Summers had signed the Members Declaration Form and would complete the other paperwork in due course. The Register of Interests form had to be completed within 28 days so the clerk could send off to SW&T.
5. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December 2020 were approved. These would be signed at the next meeting in May.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** a) Village Broadband update – David Simonson was working closely with BT Openreach to find out when the necessary cabling and green box works would commence. Further updates are published via the Village Newsletter. b) Village House names Map – clerk would make contact once lockdown was eased. c) Replacement noticeboards – this was in hand. d) Play Area Deeds – the clerk confirmed she had a copy of the deeds on file.
7. **Tithe Barn Project Update** – due to technical issues, Ian Coombes could not update the meeting. It was noted that a request for help to complete applications for larger grants was needed, along with practical help with obtaining quotes for works. This request had been published in the Village Newsletter and some good responses had been received. A more detailed update on the Tithe Barn Project would be given at the next meeting.
8. **Finances**
 - 8.1 It was agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks Salary £155.10, HMRC PAYE £38.00, Wiveliscombe Area Partnership £150.00. Clerk would obtain cheque signatures over the weekend.
 - 8.2 Balance of accounts: Current a/c £3,498.80, Deposit a/c £10,729.70, less unrepresented cheques £25.00 SALC training and £81.00 Play Inspection Co Ltd for the playground annual inspection. Balance as at 21/03/2021: £14,122.50.

- 8.3 **Funds earmarked:** Play area replacement equipment £6,000 to date. Tithe Barn Project £3,000, VAT Refund £1,205.00. Leaving a balance of £3,917.50
- 8.4 **The Risk Assessment and Internal Controls Documents** had been previously circulated, and were approved.
- 8.5 **Asset Register** – this had been previously circulated and approved as up-to-date.
- 8.6 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.19p bank interest

9. **Highways** - nothing to report.

10. Play Area

10.1 Weekly inspections were being carried out as per the rota. It was agreed to put Chris Summers onto the rota and receive some training on this task.

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

- 10.2 **Play Area Working Party** – it was agreed to meet on Saturday 17th April at 10am to review the annual inspection report and agree any works necessary.
- 10.3 Clerk to order the new picnic bench.
- 10.4 Concrete base to be laid.
- 10.5 It was agreed to accept the new play area maintenance fee of £615.00. This was an increase of 2%. Clerk to inform Richard Branfield of the decision.
- 10.6 The apple tree in the play area had been cut back as agreed, and an invoice would follow.

11. Planning Applications update:

- 11.1 17/21/005/AGN – Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural polytunnel for the housing of livestock at Pont Cottage. Decision of prior approval approved (no conditions) was made on 17/03/201.
- 11.2 17/21/0003/CR - Prior approval for proposed change of use of an agricultural building to farm/third party storage or workshop use (Class R) at Western Goults, Wiveliscombe Road, Fitzhead – this had been withdrawn

12. Somerset West & Taunton Councillor Report – Cllr Dave Mansell

- a) County Council Elections have been postponed until May 2022. This was due to the **Somerset Unitarisation Consultation** taking place till 19 April 2021. Two proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State: The four district councils - Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset – jointly submitted a proposal for two unitary councils: Eastern Somerset comprising the area covered by Mendip and South Somerset District Councils, and Western Somerset comprising area covered by Sedgemoor and Somerset West & Taunton District Councils. Somerset County Council submitted a proposal for a single unitary council for the area of Somerset County.

It was encouraged for the PC or individuals to make comments on this consultation.

- b) Broadband for Fitzhead – the Connecting Somerset and Devon new contract had been awarded. It was important for Fitzhead to cover all options offering superfast broadband to see which company would deliver the quickest.

13. Somerset County Councillors Report – Cllr James Hunt – none received.

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

15. Matters to Report - a) agreed to write a thank you letter to Katriona Smith for her hard work during her time on the Parish Council. b) Speeding through Fitzhead – it was agreed to find out the various options available to try and reduce speeding through the village.

16. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 20th May 2021 at 7.15pm.
This would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.47pm.