

## **FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in the Tithe Barn commencing at 7.15pm.**

### **MINUTES**

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

**In Attendance:** Jill Loader (Clerk), Dave Mansell (SW&T Cllr & SCC Cllr)

**Public Speaking Time:** None

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Wendy Jonas
- 2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** Under Agenda items below
- 5. Tithe Barn Refurbishment Project:**

Ian Coombes informed the meeting the new heating system was planned to be installed during September. Malcolm Webber had secured a competitive price. The new gate into the churchyard was planned to be made and fitted in November. John Murphy had taken over as Treasurer and would be working on policies and procedures to improve the current system. This would allow Ian Coombes to work on applying for grants. It had also been discovered that this project could be VAT exempt which would help financially. Sue Mitchinson was working on taking control of the Fitzhead Website for accessing the diary and being able to post information. A contract between TBMC and Malcolm Webber was being worked on.
- 6. Play Area**
  - 6.1 Weekly Inspections: It was noted the monkey bars framework was not stable – there was movement and possibly required cross braces for stability. Clerk to contact Darren Geenslade.
  - 6.2 The apple tree required pruning. Clerk to contact Richard for a quote.
- 7. Finances:**
  - 7.1 It was proposed, second and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:  
Clerk's wages £192.76, HMRC PAYE £48.20, Tithe Barn Hire £15.00
  - 7.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.08p bank interest.  
Bank Balance as at 2 August 2022 - £10,136.89
  - 7.3 **Earmarked Funds:** £3,000 Tithe Barn Project. To be held until required.
  - 7.4 **Exemption Certificate:** The External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP, had received and logged the Fitzhead Exemption Certificate for year ending 2021/22. No further action was required on either side.

- 7.5 **VAT Refund Clarification re Tithe Barn Project.** The clerk had received information from SALC/NALC regarding the position of claiming back VAT on behalf of the Tithe Barn Committee and Parish Council. It was agreed that section 7 under the LTN21 Local Council Help to Village Halls the Parish Council did not fulfil all 4 points and would therefore not be able to reclaim the VAT. It was also noted the Tithe Barn had discovered this project could be VAT exempt.
- 7.6 **Annual Governance Statement** – re Sole/Joint Trustees clarification. The clerk informed the meeting that Section 9 under the Annual Governance Statement was correctly noted as N/A. FPC were not sole trustees to the Tithe Barn MC, nor had any control or interaction with the Tithe Barn Bank Account, and FPC no longer paid invoices on behalf of the TBMC to claim back any VAT even if the invoices had been paid by shared funds.
- 7.7 **Start Up Fund following Covid** – from SALC. It was agreed to transfer £1200 from FPC account to TBMC for the £1200 start up fund received. This covered the purchase of the new dishwasher.
8. **New Walk Footpath** – the broken walls towards the bottom of the path were caused by tree roots, which was the owners responsibility to maintain. It was agreed to speak to the owner to find out what her plans were to get this repaired as it was a hazard for walkers.
9. **Noticeboard**
- 9.1 It was proposed to get quotes for a new noticeboard outside the pub as the current was in a very poor state.
10. **Planning Updates:** a) 17/22/0003 – conditional approval had been made on 24 May 2022. b) 17/22/0004/T – decision of no objection was made on 11 July 2022. c) 17/22/005/ 006/LB – no decision has been made to date.
11. **Highways** – a) White lines – still needed repainting at the top of Tylers Lane, Tithe Meadow, Church Road and beside Byams. Some lines had been painted recently at the top of Beech Tree Cross. b) Pot holes – Chris would report the pot holes near their address on the highways website again in-spite of receiving an email they had been done. The hedge on the corner of Pear Tree Cottage had been cut back but not enough. It was agreed that Dave Mansell would find out the legality whether FPC can cut back domestic hedges or whether it was the responsibility of the homeowner when it in-fringed on the highway.
12. **Somerset West & Taunton & Somerset County Councillors Report - Cllr Dave Mansell**  
The District Council had appointed a new Chief Executive – Andrew Pritchard. Both Gwil Wren and Dave Mansell were on the Places Scrutiny Committee which covered transport and highways. Superfast Broadband was progressing with some areas having Airband and Openreach cabling! The Local Government Scrutiny Committee were meeting next week. There would be budget deficits so savings would have to be made where possible. There was a Cost of Living support fund available for anyone struggling – link to be sent and circulated. A consultation on the Local Community Networks was due at the end of August for comments.

**13. Police Report – on website.**

**14. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.