

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2022 in the Tithe Barn commencing at 7.15pm.

MINUTES

Present: Chris Summers (Chair), Alison Kent, Ian Coombes, & Wendy Jonas

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

Public Speaking Time: None

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Martin Irish & Gwil Wren
- 2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th August 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** a) New Walk walls issue – the previous owner had now moved. The new owners had only just moved in but would be contacted in due course to discuss the issue.
- 5. Tithe Barn Refurbishment Project – update**
 - 5.1 The new heaters had been installed but the new controller required replacing as it was faulty. The heaters were working on the old system which was not as efficient but once the controller was in place the heaters would work much better. The angel of the heaters could be adjusted if necessary. A smaller heater would be installed in the kitchen in due course.
 - 5.2 An update on the project would be going into the parish magazine and newsletter.
 - 5.3 All works for the Tithe Barn Project had been handed over to Malcolm Webber as agreed by the TBMC.
 - 5.4 A meeting was planned for next week to discuss the maintenance jobs and other works to progress the project.
 - 5.5 It was understood that Sue Mitchinson had access to the Milverton & Fitzhead website. It was agreed that Wendy Jonas would liaise with Sue to check this was correct and a link to the Parish Council Website was there.
 - 5.6 Ian Coombes stated that the company Inspired Efficiency had carried out an assessment of the barn to report on any areas for carbon neutral sustainability. If this could be achieved a grant would be available.
- 6. Play Area**
 - 6.1 Weekly Inspections: The monkey bars cross braces had been fitted 6 weeks ago and had resolved the issue. The swings would be jet washed and treated in the Spring when the weather would be better. Several dry days were necessary.
 - 6.2 The apple tree required pruning. Clerk to chase up Richard Branfield for a quote.
 - 6.3 Play area reports – all reports to be emailed or handed to Clerk for filing. Any backed dated reports to be sent too.
 - 6.4 Seat – this required cleaning and attention – agreed to carry works out in the Spring.

7. Finances:

- 7.1 It was proposed, second and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:
Clerk's wages £203.38, HMRC PAYE £50.80, Clerks Expenses £5.44, Tithe Barn Hire £15.00, Community Heart Beat – Defib sub £126.00, Microsoft office sub £79.99, Fitzhead Cricket Club Maint. Grant £825.00, Fitzhead PCC Maint. Grant £470.00, Play Area Maint. Grant £375.00
- 7.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.36p bank interest, HMRC VAT refund £1,137.79, SW&T Maint. Grant £1670.00
Bank Balance as at 6 November 2022 - £10,589.26
- 7.3 **Earmarked Funds:** £3,000 Tithe Barn Project. To be held until required.
- 7.4 C459 had never been presented for £16.00 Tithe Barn Hire. It was agreed to write this off.
- 7.5 SW&T Maintenance Grant – Dave Mansell advised this grant may not be available next year as it was only SW&T that had provided such grants amongst the District Councils. It was agreed to inform the cricket club and PCC these grants may not be forthcoming next year.
- 7.6 Halloween Party held in the Tithe Barn – any funds that had been remaining from the closure of the Events Goup had been split between the PCC and Tithe Barn. It was agreed that any costs incurred by the Halloween Party should be discussed by the TBMC.
- 7.7 **Draft Precept for 2023/2024** – this was discussed in detail and was unanimously agreed to set at a provisional amount of £5,500.00 for next financial year. The forms necessary to fill in and sign had not been received by the PC to date from the new council. They were expected in December. Another meeting would have to take place to finalise this and forms to reach Somerset Council by 20th January 2023.
- 7.8 **Budget vs Expenditure** – the clerk stated the council had spent 59.18% so far against the budget. The Councillors had received a spreadsheet detailing the expenditure to date.
- 7.9 Hedge cutting contractors – should the PC require hedge cutting or ditch clearing works it was agreed to obtain the necessary insurance certificates and licenses from the contractors before works to commence.

8. **Noticeboard** - quotes had been received for a new noticeboard by the pub. After discussion it was agreed to get revised quotes for a smaller board to take 4 x A4 sheets for PC use only in recycled plastic material.

9. **Planning Updates:** 17/22/005/ 006/LB – a decision of conditional approval was made on 14/09/2022. 17/22/0008/T carry out management works to 14 yew trees at St James Church. Decision of no objection was made on 16/09/2022. 17/22/0009/T – notification to fell one fir tree at Fitzhead Court – a decision of no objection was made on 27/09/2022. 17/22/0010/T – Felling of oak tree, cut and lay hawthorn hedges and trimming of holly and hawthorn hedge at Meadow Gate. A decision of no objection was made on 31/10/2022. 17/22/0011 – installation of electric vehicle charger at Redstone Cottage – a decision has yet to be made. 17/22/0014/T – notification to fell one coniferous tree at Rosebank – a decision has yet to be made.

17/21/0007 – Knights Farm Planning Application – it was noted that some alterations to this application was available to view online. Letters had been sent to some residents who had made comments but the PC had not received a letter or email to date. It was agreed that the original comments previously made by the PC should stand.

10. Highways – a) Dave Mansell had advised that hedges could be cut back off the highway by a PC contractor with the owner’s permission. A discussion regarding who was responsible to cut hedges back off highways ie council or landowner took place. It was agreed to get a clearer response from Council on this matter. Dave Mansell agreed to look into this for the three hedges causing an issue – Old Cider House, Pear Tree and Crooks Orchard. It was agreed that any issues for Highways should be registered on the online portal where they would be assessed for priority. Ie pot holes, ditches and white lining.

11. Bin by Pub issue – the clerk had raised a report to get the bin by the pub repaired and replaced to a more suitable position, together with a cost for a dog waste bin and empty price.. On return from her holiday the matter had been closed with the bin only being emptied. Dave Mansell agreed to find out the costs and report back for a dog waste bin.

12. Somerset West & Taunton & Somerset County Councillors Report - Cllr Dave Mansell

- a) The Somerset Fund was still available for anyone struggling with the cost of living.
- b) Somerset Council new lead Executive Duncan Sharkey had been appointed and had finally started. He was working to get the new council in place for April 2023. Re-structuring of staff at District Level from the four councils were going through a consultation period. There would be redundancies at top tier level for some. The Council were working on setting the budget too. Savings were being looked at to bridge the budget gap. The Local Community Networks areas being set up would be finalized by 14th December.

13. Police Report – on website.

14. Resignation of Clerk – Jill Loader had resigned as clerk after over 15 years. The vacancy had been advertised in the village online newsletter and the Parish Magazine for December.

15. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.