

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 13th August 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)

Public Speaking Time: None

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Dave Mansell & Mark Blaker, Cllr Roger Habgood
- 2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - 4.1 Point 7.2 - Running costs of the Tithe Barn was £3,716.42 which wasn't recorded in the May minutes.
 - 4.2 Point 8.2 - Padlock combination number had also been given to the Councillors and clerk.
 - 4.3 Point 8.3 - The play area noticeboard key has been lost. The lock would be cut off and replaced.
 - 4.4 Planning Application 23/20/0014 – CQ – this had not been reported in May. It was agreed to put the comments made in the minutes as a record as follows.

‘Although this planning application is under Milverton Parish, this development will have more impact on Fitzhead village as it is the main road out of the village to Taunton and Wellington. A safety issue is on the highway where the existing farm track joins the road. This section of highway has for many years been extremely prone to flooding, where deep water remains standing for several days/ weeks as there is no provision for any run-off drainage. In cold weather thin ice forms right across the road, which The Highway Authority are fully aware.

The Fitzhead Parish Council would like to suggest that if Planning Permission is granted, then a condition of this permission should be that drainage off the cambered entrance should be rectified in a permanent way BEFORE any buildings works commence.

Drivers of all types of vehicles tend to drive faster along this section of road and therefore consideration should be taken with improving safety by improving the access and visibility. We trust our comments will be noted. ‘

5. Byams – parking on highways issue

- 5.1 After discussion it was agreed this was not a matter for the Parish Council and the owners should seek legal advice on this private matter. It was agreed to contact Highways see what they could advise if anything.

6. Village Defibrillator - Emergency Contact Runners List.

- 6.1 The clerk had obtained most consent forms for contact numbers to be circulated in the general domain, as runners to get the defibrillator to the casualty.
- 6.2 The list would be circulated on to the village noticeboards, website and a circular in the next parish magazine.

7. Tithe Barn Project Update

- 7.1 The Tithe Barn Committee had met with the Architect and Surveyor recently. No further news was reported. Roger Mitchinson was heading up as Project Manager now. Muriel was remaining as the Treasurer.
- 7.2 Discussions regarding different options to consider within budget were being worked on and should be finalized by the end of September.
- 7.3 Small remedial works were being carried out in the Tithe Barn at present.
- 7.4 An update on this project would be placed in the Village Newsletter.
- 7.5 Current a/c £13,866.26 (£10,000 grant). Just Giving £1,107.92, Co-Op £242.59. Savings a/c £25,984.00.

8. Play Area

- 8.1 Weekly inspections were being carried out now the play area was open, with minor repairs to the swings. The wobble board is splitting. Agreed to monitor for deterioration.
- 8.2 Agreed to contact Richard Branfield to prune the apple tree.
- 8.3 Agreed to contact Mike Loosemore to find out if he will cut the hedge on his field side or get permission for PC to do this.
- 8.4 Agreed to contact Lloyds bank to see if they have the deeds to the play area.
- 8.5 Weekly Play Area Inspection Rota:

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

- 8.6 Picnic Bench – it was agreed to put the concrete base down by the end of September. Once down, the bench could be ordered.

9. Finances:

- 9.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:
Clerk's wages £207.60, HMRC PAYE £52.00, SALC £68.12 – subs, Richard Branfield £720.00 – play area maintenance, Re-written cheque (Post Office) regarding SW & T – uncontested election fee 2019 £100.00, as the council were not accepting cheques (previous cheque returned.)
- 9.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.39p bank interest,
Bank Balance as at 8th August 2020 £15,169.59.

10. Planning Update –

- 10.1 17/20/0006 - Application: 17/20/0006 Replacement of dwelling (cabin) with associated works on land at Pond Cottage, Fitzhead Road, Fitzhead. The Parish Councillors agreed at the site meeting that although this was a two storey house there was a desperate need to keep young families within the village. It was noted that the area will remain screened for privacy, and it was felt the application had been nicely planned. The Councillors had no objections.
- 10.2 Application: 17/20/0008/T - The Parish Councillors had no objections to the felling of two Spruce Tree within the Fitzhead Conservation Area at The Manor House, Fitzhead.

11. Highways - issues to report:

- a) The ditch between Cats Ash Lane and Beech Tree Cross on Cats Ash Road requires desilting
- b) The ditch on Fitzhead Road, Halse between Hills Cottages and The Old Cider House requires desilting
- c) On Fitzhead Road between Crooks Orchard and the Cricket Ground the tarmac requires repair where it has melted and damaged
- d) Bad visibility at the junction of Church Road and Fitzhead Road the foliage requires trimming on the left of the junction
- e) We also have queries from residents regarding the junction from Croford Hill onto Cats Ash Road being dangerous and could we install a mirror for better visibility, do you have any advice for better visibility when crossing to Fitzhead Road at this junction?
- f) Regarding the desilting, if Highways are not going to desilt the ditches prior to the winter we are happy to instruct a local contractor to do so and forward the invoice to Highways for payment.

12. Somerset West & Taunton Councillor's Reports – Cllrs Mark Blaker and Dave Mansell Council Services. Nothing to report.

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. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 26th November 2020 at 7.15pm.

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