

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2015 in the Tithe Barn commencing at 7.15pm.

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Garry Alford (Chairman), Alison Kent, Ian Coombes, Katriona Smith, David Pink.
In attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk) TDBC Cllr Gwil Wren, SCC Cllr James Hunt and two members of the public.
2. **Public Speaking Time:** The issue of mobile phone and broadband coverage within Fitzhead was raised. What could the PC do to get BT or others to improve the existing service. Cllr Wren outlined various points – ie a mobile phone mast was needed within this area. In Milverton some residents were with Vodafone using relay points in their homes which helped. Not all residents were on the BT superfast broadband service as BT had not enabled the service fully. To get a proper service it was necessary to encourage other mobile service providers to help with connecting to homes. Government have said full coverage will be provided by 2019. A solution could be for the community to purchase a satellite but would need this installed high up.
3. **Apologies:** None
4. **Declaration of Interests/Dispensations:** None
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Matters Arising**
 - 6.1 Play Area Bench – clerk to ask Dave Wilson or Mark Christopher to fix to ground following report. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Planning:**

The clerk updated the meeting with the planning application decisions from TDBC:

 - 7.1 17/15/001/LB – no decision to date
 - 7.2 17/15/0013 – no decision to date
 - 7.3 17/15/0010/LB – conditional approval was made on 2 November 2015.
 - 7.4 17/15/0011 – conditional approval was made on 10 November 2015
 - 7.5 15/15/0012/LB – conditional approval was made on 10 November 2015.
8. **Correspondence:** Discussed under separate headings.
9. **Finance:**
 - 9.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices: Tithe Barn £20.30, PAYE to HMRC £34.40, Clerk's salary £137.44, Fitzhead Cricket Club £825.00, Fitzhead PCC £470.00, Online Playgrounds £238.33, TDBC Election Fees £100.00. It was agreed to keep the maintenance grant of £375 usually given to the Community Group towards play area maintenance now the PC were responsible for the play area.

- 9.2 Fitzhead Community Group – it was agreed to ask the group their financial position in case they required some support from the PC, as the PC had supported them in previous years. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.3 **Draft Precept 2016/17** – the clerk had issued a draft precept for 2016/17. After discussion it was agreed to put forward a precept of £3,600. This increase was mainly due to the need to cover any maintenance of the play area.
- 9.4 **Year End Accounts 2014/15** – the clerk had received the signed Annual Return with one minor error of having put staff costs into box 6 rather than box 4 on the return. This would be 'restated' in the return next year.
- 9.5 **Bank Mandate** – additional signatures – the clerk had received a letter from Lloyds asking the Chairman to contact them to clarify signatures on the existing mandate as there were discrepancies. Lloyds wouldn't confirm with the clerk as she was not a cheque signatory even though she receives the bank statements and manages transfers.
10. **Play Area**
- 10.1 Scott had the play area folder which would be collected by Ian for December.
- 10.2 Repairs quotes – two quotes had been received. After discussion it was agreed to ask Mark Christopher to carry out the works at the cost of £950.00 (no vat).
- 10.3 Self- Closing Gate - the quote received for a self-closing gate was very expensive. After discussion it was agreed that Ian Coombes would investigate a cheaper and easier solution and put a sign up asking people to close the gate. **Action: Ian/Clerk**
- 10.4 Hedge cutting – Garry Alford stated this was in hand. **Action: Garry**
11. **Ditch Clearing around Fitzhead** - this was on hold until the hedges around the village had been cut.
12. **Highways Issues** – none reported.
13. **TDBC Report** – Gwil Wren reported the Government's Autumn Statement would affect local councils and make them more responsible for all income. The Government were reducing the restrictions on allowing Councils to raise the council tax. TDBC till need to balance the books and would find ways to do this next year.
14. **SCC Report** – James Hunt reported the Government were helping with funding towards Social Care and Pot holes but this was still not enough. Health and Well-Being Fund was available for local organisations. Deadline for applications was the end of February. Any Highway issues could be reported directly to Highways or himself.
15. **Police Report** – this had been circulated and would be put onto the website.
16. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 25th February 2016.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.