

## FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 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 and three members of the public.
2. **Public Speaking Time:** a) Flooding within Fitzhead – the Chairman allowed the three members of the public to voice their concerns regarding the recent flooding events around the whole village. Photographs and videos were shown depicting the horrendous flood waters. It was agreed that all the evidence would be given to the clerk and arrange with SCC Highways, EA and any other Flood Department within SCC, a meeting with the PC to walk around the village and discuss why this had been particularly bad and try and find a way forward to improve the situation. This topic would be discussed in greater detail within the meeting.
3. **Apologies:** SCC Cllr James Hunt
4. **Declaration of Interests/Dispensations:** None
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 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**
  - 6.2 Fitzhead Community Group – the clerk read out the group’s financial status and plans for future events. It was agreed not to give any financial support automatically but to react to requests when received.
  - 6.3 Self- closing gate in play area – agreed Ian Coombes to continue to research a better solution. **Action: Ian**
  - 6.4 Play Area Hedge – this would be cut within the next two weeks. Garry Alford would be cutting the inside of the hedge. **Action: Garry**
7. **Flooding Issues within Fitzhead**
  - 7.1 The councillors discussed the concerns raised at the meeting earlier. It was agreed to hold a meeting with SCC Highways Dennis Quick and the Flood Team and walk around the village to find out exactly what has been done over the years with drains and works. Agreed to obtain all the paperwork and video evidence to show County and others the issues. **Action: Clerk to arrange meeting before Easter.**
8. **Play Area Update**
  - 8.1 Mark Christopher had completed the works in the play area at a reduced price, due to some of the initial repairs not being so bad. Agreed to write a letter of thanks.
  - 8.2 Inspections Rota – this had failed recently – it was agreed Katriona Smith would create a drop box to be able to put records of inspection on. This meant it wasn’t completely necessary to have the folder. **Action: Katriona**

8.3 **Rota moving forward** : March – David, April – Garry, May – Alison, June – Ian, July – Scot.

8.4 The stock valuation for the play equipment was noted.

#### 9. **Defibrillator for Village Proposal**

9.1 This was discussed and noted that there were First Responders in both Halse and Wiveliscombe. It was agreed to ask Milverton PC after a year of them having their defibrillator, how successful it was and what the usage had been over the year before Fitzhead making would make a decision.

#### 10. **Ditch Clearing around Fitzhead:**

10.1 It was noted that Highways were planning on installing a new pipe along the top road and re-doing the ditch soon. It was agreed to see what Highways carried out before the PC would get Dave Grabham to clear any ditches.

10.2 Pot holes – agreed Garry Alford would report any pots holes for repair to Highways.  
**Action: Garry**

#### 11. **Finance:**

11.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices: Tithe Barn £21.58, PAYE to HMRC £25.20, Clerk's salary £100.69, Clerks expenses £14.50, Online Playgrounds £47.67 (vat element), M Christopher £600.00.

11.2 Mandate update – following correspondence from Lloyds bank it was necessary to sign another mandate form taking off the previous cheque signatories. Alison Kent and Garry Alford signed the necessary form and this would be posted off.

11.3 Risk Assessment – All agreed but to include Pump House inspection. Agreed Ian Coombes would carry out this inspection. **Action: Clerk & Ian**

11.4 Balance of Accounts as at 18 January 2016 - £11,870.66.

#### 12. **Correspondence:**

12.1 **New External Audit regime for smaller authorities:** The clerk informed the meeting the choice whether or not to opt out of the external audit arrangements that Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) are putting in place, which will take effect from April 2017. It was unanimously agreed to remain in as the current system worked and Fitzhead would continue to not have to pay an External Audit Fee.

13. **TDBC Report** – Gwil Wren reported that TDBC had approved its budget for next year. A band D property had increased by £5.00, plus £1.74 for the Somerset Rivers Authority. The council was experiencing a decline in revenue due to the change in business rates for small business. They would be getting funds from new developments in the future. The Government were looking towards Councils being encouraged in self-funding. Somerset's best chance was through tourism.

14. **SCC Report** – no report received.

15. **Police Report** – this had been circulated and would be put onto the website. It was agreed to contact PSCO Louise Fyne to ask her to contact the owner of the red car across from Cridlands for removal. **Action: Clerk**

16. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which would also be the Annual Parish Meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm. 2016/59