

## FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Council Meeting held on 16 February 2017 in the Tithe Barn  
commencing at 7.15pm.**

### MINUTES

**Present:** Alison Kent, Ian Coombes, David Pink & Katriona Smith

**In Attendance:** Jill Loader (Clerk), TDBC Cllr G Wren, SCC Cllr J Hunt & 8 members of the public

**Public Speaking Time:** a) One member of the public informed the PC he had reported to the police the poor behaviour and control of hounds from the hunt in Fitzhead today. The clerk informed the meeting that PCSO Fyne had contacted her and to let everyone know a PC would be contacting the member of the public who had reported this. b) The Tithe Barn Committee outlined their plans to improve the heating, kitchen, electrics amongst many projects for the Tithe Barn. It was early stages, but hoped the PC would support where they could. Current issues was dog fouling on verges and lack of parking around the hall. Agreed to ask Highways who owned the verges.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** PCSO Louise Fyne
- 2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 November 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.
- 4. Matters Arising –**
  - 4.1 The Clerk had completed the Compliance regarding Work Place Pensions. Fitzhead PC did not require to provide a pension for the clerk.
- 5. Co-Option of new member –** Two members of the public had shown an interest and after a vote by the councillors, Wendy Jonas was co-opted onto the council. The other candidate was thanked for her interest.
- 6. Highways Update**
  - 6.1 It was noted that the drain by Ilex House was blocked. Also a notice had been published that on 6 March 2017 drainage works was being carried out by Washers Barn and there would be disruption around the lanes.
- 7. Fitzhead Events Group -** the main concern was the FEG would like the PC to pay for their insurance due on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. It has been agreed last year the PC would not pay for this after the first year. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting and to either pay the whole insurance, not pay at all, or pay a proportion. Last year the insurance was £288. The balance of accounts for FEG was £500. FEG were informed they must get quotes nearer the time, as they were responsible for this.

## **8. TDBC/West Somerset Merger Proposal**

- 8.1 Alison Kent had attended the recent meeting at TDBC to find out what was being proposed and the reasons behind it all. Cllr Wren stated WSC had been struggling financially for several years. Business Rates were being phased out by 2019. The Government were wanting LA to be self-financing. Both councils had been working together in some areas for while. If this is agreed a new council would be set up on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. There would be some cost cutting measures, reduction in councillors, staff reduction with more services going on line.
- 8.2 Consultation runs to 28 February 2017 for comments.
- 8.3 The Councillors agreed it would probably be approved and supported the proposal.

## **9. Broadband Masts- update**

- 9.1 Alison Kent informed the meeting she had no further update on the mast situation but would report her findings at the next meeting. **Action: Alison**
- 9.2 Cllr Hunt stated that Phase II of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband contractor had been appointed which was Gigaclear. Everyone is encouraged to register their interest on the website Gigaclear.com which would gauge interest and hopefully eventually get a better service in Fitzhead. Agreed to put a notice in the Parish Magazine.
- 9.3 Agreed Clerk would research company for details.

## **10. Lister House Surgery – Meeting with Somerset Partnership NHS Trust**

- 10.1 Katriona Smith had attended the most recent meeting regarding the surgery. Updates were available in the Parish Magazine keeping everyone informed. A new partnership had arisen between NHS & Somerset Partnership wanting to provide a good service and better care. A consultation period would take place after various options are worked out.

## **11. Play Area**

**Swing Quotes** – the clerk had obtained three quotes to replace the flat seat swings and cradle swings. After discussion it was agreed the following:

- 11.1 The councillors voted unanimously to spend £4,308.33 on the two sets of swings as per the quotation from Darrens Dens.
- 11.2 Matting – Agreed to obtain a quote from Darrens Dens to include replacement matting under the flat seat swings. Quote to not exceed £600.
- 11.3 If within budget Clerk to place order.
- 11.4 Inspection update - links on wobble board require replacing soon.
- 11.5 Inspection Rota - a) Katriona till end of March. Alison & Wendy – April. David – May.
- 11.6 Replacement seat: Katriona informed the meeting the SGA had agreed to donate a new seat for the play area. Ian Jonas agreed to help secure the seat when delivered. A thank you letter would be written in due course.
- 11.7 Seat Plaque – clerk to check where the old plaque was as it required fixing to the new seat.
- 11.8 Agreed to offer the compost for own collection from play area at the Auction of Promises.

**Action: Alison**

## **12. Finances:**

- 12.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:  
Clerk's wages £185.96 Tithe Barn £8.00, HMRC PAYE £46.60, Linda Matthews – Welcome Booklet printing donation £10.00, Clerk expenses £16.79 Total £267.35.  
Receipts received: Lloyds Bank £0.60 bank interest. Bank Balance as at 8 February 2017 £12,966.27

12.2 Risk Assessment and Internal Controls Document – these had been previously circulated by the clerk. After discussion these documents were approved.

**13. Planning Update:** Nothing to report.

**14. Taunton Deane Councillor's Report** – Gwil Wren had covered his report under the TDBC and WSC proposed council merger.

**15. Somerset County Councillor's Report** – James Hunt stated there would be County Council Elections in May and hoped to continue. He had covered his main report under the Broadband and Council Merger items.

**16. Police Report** – the report received by PCSO Louise Fyne would be put onto the website. The main concern was the stolen vehicle in Fitzhead which no-one has heard any details about.

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

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.15pm. This would be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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

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