

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES

Present: Katriona Smith (Chair), Alison Kent, Ian Coombes, David Pink & Wendy Jonas

In Attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk), TDBC Cllr Gwil Wren, SCC Cllr James Hunt and 2 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: a) Resident had complained about contractors leaving mud on the road after works. It was a legal duty to clear the road. Only happened after SCC was involved. Chair would speak to land owners to ensure contractors understood their duties.

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: None

3. Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th August 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record after one amendment at 8.2 to read ‘to consult and inform’. The Chair signed each page.

4. Matters Arising –

4.1 Dogs loose around village issue – PCSO Fyne had spoken to the au pair of house in question to ensure the dogs are kept under control and not allowed to foul around the village, play area and run free.

5. Highways Issues

5.1 Beech Tree Cross – issued raised with drivers cutting the corner and nearly hitting other vehicles coming up the road. Agreed to ask the landowner to cut down the hedge for a better view of cars and create a splay on this corner. **Action: Katriona.**

5.2 Fly Tipping – agreed to contact TDBC to get rubbish removed along the top road.

6. Tithe Barn Project

6.1 **Verges** – David Pink confirmed that Highways had no issue with the grass verges being altered and used for parking but the County would not pay for this change. However, The Conservation Officer would not agree to this change so no further action can be taken.

6.2 **Funding Request** – David Pink had circulated details to the PC to provide funding of at least £1,000 towards architect fees to be able to put in applications for Grants to various organisations.

6.3 It was noted that the PC were Trustees of the Tithe Barn and did not want to get involved with the Project but to allow the TBMC to continue with the project works.

6.4 After a long discussion, it was agreed to make a decision on funding after receiving financial details and plans at the meeting on 7th December.

7. Play Area

7.1 Weekly Inspections: Agreed it was the responsibility of the person with the play area folder to pass this onto the person carrying out the following month's inspections.

Wendy Jonas	January
Alison Kent	February
Katriona Smith	March
David Pink	April
Ian Coombes	May

7.2 The annual report from The Play Inspection Company highlighted low or very low risks which would be monitored throughout the year. The swings height had been altered and would be reviewed if necessary. The hedge had been cut back by Tony and looked very neat and tidy.

7.3 Two signs were required: No Dogs notice and Please Close the Gate notice.

8. Finances:

8.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:

Clerk's wages £179.40, Tithe Barn £8.00, HMRC PAYE £44.80, D Wilson – noticeboard repair £56.48, The Play Inspection Co £78.00

8.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £0.91p bank interest – Aug to Oct
Bank Balance as at 11 November 2017 £9,966.97

8.3 **Fitzhead Events Group** – As there were no finance details available from the FEG it was agreed to have an Extra Ordinary Meeting on 7 December to progress their request for the PC to pay the insurance premium next year due on 1st June.

8.4 **Draft Precept for 2018/19** – after discussion it was agreed to set the precept for 2018/19 at £4,455 in principle but a final decision would be made on 7 December. The precept paperwork had to be received to TDBC by 12th January 2018.

8.5 **TDBC Maintenance Grant** – This grant had not been received this year. After discussion it was agreed to pay the Fitzhead Cricket Club £825.00 and PCC £470.00 only out of PC funds. Next year the PC would provide funds of only £500 to FCC and £250 to PCC and explain the reasons. The following year the PC may not provide any funding. Clerk would contact TDBC Finance to find out why the Maintenance Grant had not been received. **Action: Clerk**

9. **Emergency Planning Meeting** - Ian Coombes attended the meeting on 7 November in Milverton. At this stage, it was only necessary to collate people as a first point of contact in case of an emergency – ie flooding, heavy snowfall etc. Ian Coombes had put his name forward as first point of contact for Fitzhead

10. **DSFRS Consultation** – this was quite an involved and long on line questionnaire which Katriona Smith and Ian Coombes agreed to complete.

11. Planning Update

17/17/0011 4 Tithe Meadow – no decision to date.

17/17/0009/LB The Old Cider House – with drawn

17/17/0010/LB Cridlands – Conditional approval made on 20/10/17

17/17/0008/LB 3 The Nook – conditional approval made on 9/10/17

17/17/0004 Middle Goulds – conditional approval made on 10/10/17

12. Police Report – the report received by PCSO Louise Fyne would be put onto the website.

13. Taunton Deane Councillor's Report - Gwil Wren reported Deane House was being refurbished. No news on the proposed merger of TDBC and West Somerset Council as this was currently being reviewed by Secretary of State. Questions are being asked how this will affect producing a Budget and handling rates and assets of both councils should the merger be agreed. Broadband Update – Fitzhead currently not on Phase I or II of the Gigaclear Website for proposed installation of broadband. Need more people to show an interest on their website. Government stating by 2022 there will be 100% of broadband coverage.

14. Somerset County Councillor's Report – James Hunt reported:
SCC are in the Budget setting process currently. Council working towards finding £20m worth of savings. Government want councils to be self- funding by using business rates. There is a Library Service review consultation taking place at present.
The Children Centres area also under review to see how best to serve those in need. Please get involved with the Consultation and let others know.
Main issue is the need for 16 new schools in the county which has to be funded by SCC.
Children's Services are being reviewed by Ofsted at present. Still an issue to recruit and keep Social Workers.

15. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 15th February 2018 at 7.15pm.
The Extra Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th December 2017 at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18pm.