

## **OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020 VIA ZOOM**

**Present: -** Cllr N Plummer (Chairman) Cllr R Rowe (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr R Corben Cllr S Corben  
Cllr D Day Cllr D Gartside  
Cllr S Le Riche

In attendance: Mrs S Deary (Clerk), Cllr P Batstone, Dorset Council and 6 members of the public.

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** None
- 2) **MATTERS ARISING:** None.
- 4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave his annual report as follows:

Being a newly election parish councillor from the 2019 elections I have to say it was a surprise to me to be voted in as Chairman in my first term, but it has been an absolute honour to carry out this role over the last 12 months. I am grateful for those more experienced councillors, both past and present, who have been gracious enough to guide me when needed and from which I have learned a great deal and also the Clerk who has done a great job in supporting me – thank you all for your support.

The piece of land at Mary Gardens which NDDC have historically tried to build additional houses on has now been handed over to the PC ownership and therefore protected against such development. This came as a package and included a strip of land behind Nethermead which has also been handed over to the parish.

All village groups came together to develop a plan for the whole community to celebrate and enjoy the 75-year anniversary of VE Day. This was an extremely engaging process with all groups agreeing to support and take part in the organisation of the three days of celebration, Unfortunately all the planning was in vain as COVID-19 scuppered everyone's fantastic efforts, but I am confident this would have been a fantastic event and one which I hope we can replicate as a community with all groups coming together again very soon.

On the subject of COVID-19 we must recognise the superb support and effort of volunteers within the community who have done a sterling job for the benefit of all of us who live in the parish to help those who most needed it during this torrid time – thank you to you all.

In addition to the many volunteers helping those in need, the Village shop and both Pubs in the parish have gone beyond their normal excellent support for the community and again I would like to thank them for adapting to the requirements of parishioners.

This year we have installed four new Village gate signs to enhanced entrance to village, which have been further enhanced through the planting by the village community group. We have also, with the help of more volunteers, installed clearer directions around the parish via new fingerposts so thank you to those involved in that project.

We have also replaced the fencing around Bowey field which has improved the look and safety around that area and this year we will look to refurbish the play area surface to make it easier to maintain and improve the area for the children in our parish.

Last year we were approached by the Village Hall trustees for some funds to complete the extension to the kitchen and after a meeting, where it was explained to me that there was a shortfall in funds of £20k to complete the project, we were able to support this with £20k of S106 money.

The Village Neighbourhood Plan is very close to completion and is paramount if we are to have a chance of minimizing the effect of further developments within the parish and the impact they may have. I, we, are determined to have this in place very soon.

The incidents of speeding through the village has become a regular and emotional topic and despite the committed efforts of Cllr Gartside over a long period of time we must recognise that it is unlikely that we will have a 20mph limit applied to the village. That said, we will remain focussed on this subject and will reach out to the community for volunteers to join a team to explore what can be achieved, or actions that can be taken to make this village safer for the community.

Finally

I will continue, and put more effort into, the further development of my relationships with the groups within the village and hope that together we can replicate the work which was carried out earlier in the year in support of the cancelled VE Day 75-year anniversary. It would be fantastic if we could hold a combined annual event which encompassed all of the parish groups and for the benefit of all ages and all parishioners across all of the parish.

## **5) OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC MATTERS**

The Chairman invited members of the public to ask questions but none were put forward.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 7.38 pm

The Annual Parish Council meeting followed immediately.