

OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE HELD ON TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021

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

In attendance: Mrs S Deary (Clerk), Cllr P Batstone, Dorset Council and 8 members of the public.

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

The Chairman gave his annual report as follows:

Who would have thought that one year on from my last report we would still be living with Government restrictions due to COVID. I for one did not and I am sure we are all grateful that the restrictions are steadily being lifted so that we will hopefully soon be back to some type of normal. The restrictions we have all been under and the furlough of a great deal of Dorset Council employees over the year has led to some frustrations and delays with some of our work but we will have continued to be persistent.

The sterling work of volunteers within the community through this time has continue and I would like to thank everyone involved for all your efforts which I am sure have been well received by those that needed you through this time.

From the PC perspective I feel our Zoom meetings, once we all got used to them, have been a great success but they will never replace our face-to-face meetings and I am sure we will be able to commence these again very soon.

It was very sad this year to have lost two members of the PC through resignation and I would like to thank them both for their efforts during their time in office. We will soon know if we are to have an election for the vacant seats on the parish council in May and if so I do hope everyone will take part.

The piece of land at Mary Gardens, which NDDC historically tried to build additional houses on, was handed over last year and now has a smart looking fence around it.

We have been able to support the history group in part funding several Historic Blue Plaques for the village and I am sure we are all looking forward to having them installed as soon as they are able to do so.

We have also rebuilt a wall near the village hall which had started to lean over the years, and we will be doing the same at a wall near the pavilion.

The neighbourhood plan remains very high on our agenda and although more work is required to get this finalised I am confident we can get this complete this year.

Finally

We will also investigate further what we can do to ensure that traffic passing through the village does so in a safe manor.

5) OPEN SESSION/PUBLIC MATTERS

The Chairman invited members of the public to ask questions.

Mr Burt considered that the Neighbourhood Plan was not moving forward as it should. He felt that a public meeting should be held to show what has been done on the Neighbourhood Plan and any changes that had taken place, as residents were unaware on what projects were currently in the plan.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 7.42 pm

The Ordinary Parish Council meeting followed immediately.