

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE ON TUESDAY, 23rd May 2023 at 7.30pm.

- PRESENT:** Cllr N Plummer (Chairman) and Cllrs R Rowe (Vice-Chairman), S Corben, R Corben, J Hunt and C Jay
- In attendance:** Mrs Karen Rhys, Parish Clerk.
- Also present:** 3 members of the public.
- 1. Apologies:** Dorset County Councillor P Batstone (called to another meeting)
Cllr F Light
- 2. Matters Arising:** None
- 3. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman gave his annual report as follows:

Chairman's Report May 2023

During this year we lost our Clerk who was with us for a short period of time but was great support for the PC. Fortunately, we were able to find a suitable and experienced replacement who has settled well into the role and continues to learn the processes and procedures of the council and I would like to thank Karen for her support, and I hope she remains with us for a long period.

Plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations were well prepared, and it was great to see the volume of parishioners who took part and clearly enjoyed the events over the weekend, there was certainly something for everyone. During this celebration weekend there were four new Blue Plaques unveiled on buildings around the centre of the village to mark some events or people who lived in these significant buildings. I must thank Andrew Vickers for the sterling work he did to ensure the required planning was obtained and the plaques were in place for the event and for his organisation of the day. I must also thank all the volunteers during the Platinum Jubilee weekend as without these volunteers it just wouldn't happen – well done all.

The Kings Coronation weekend was also a great success with all types of events held by different groups around the parish – thank you for your hard work.

The project to update the pay area has gathered some pace through the year and the working party, led by Cllr Hunt, is working tremendously hard to raise the required funds. One of the fund-raising activities has been to put on two events on Saturday 17th June this year to cater for all parishioners and their families. The 'FitzFun' is an afternoon event for all with no entry fee to ensure it is available for everyone, with a focus on families. The evening event is 'FitzFest' which will be held in a marquee where there will be a great live band, BBQ and disco with a bar and this is ticket only at £6 per head, with only 250 tickets available. The Village Community Group has also been incredibly active in raising funds for this project and I would like to thank them for their help. The VCG have also re-painted the current play equipment to improve the aesthetics during the period it could take to

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complete this project. I have to say the working party have been a delight to work with and I do hope their hard work will be rewarded.

Cllr Jay is leading on reducing the speed of vehicles through Okeford Fitzpaine and is keen to see radar speed signs installed. He is investigating this with Dorset Council Highways see if we can qualify and authorise the installation. He is also working on 20sPlenty to see if we can have the speed limit reduced through the Okeford Fitzpaine and we hope to be able to give and update at our next PC meeting in June.

Finally

It would be remise of me to not recognise Cllr Rob Corben as he enters his 50th year as a Parish Councillor. Rob has obviously seen many changes through his tenure but has never wavered from doing whatever he can for the good of the parish. From grass cutting around the village, allotments, the Poor Lands Charity Committee and as a Councillor, his commitment has never faltered. Thank you Rob for service and commitment to the people of this parish, I hope this wont be your last year!

4. Open Session/Public Matters:

No issues raised or comments received.

The Chairman thanked all present and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

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