

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE ON
TUESDAY 14th MAY 2024.**

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Present: Cllrs R Rowe (Chair), C Read (Vice Chair) S Corben, F Light, S Finklaire & R Chenery

In attendance: Sam Smith (Parish Clerk)

Also present: 9 members of the public.

1. Review of the past year: RR thanked Neil Plumber for all his hard work over the past 5 years especially during the pandemic period. His report is as follows –

Ex Chairman’s Report May 2024

During this year we have had two changes of Clerk. Our new clerk is Sam Smith, who comes with a great deal of clerk experience and qualifications. I would like to thank Sam for her support after recently joining us, and I hope she remains with us for a long period.

So what else has happened during the year:

The plaque to celebrate the Kings Coronation has been purchased and will be sited at The Cross in the near future. The closure of the village school was a great disappointment and although the PC looked to see what could be done to save it, alas there as nothing that could be done. The works to update the Bowey pay area is well under way and we hope the work will be completed in time for children to use this new facility during this years school summer holidays. The working party for this project put in a great deal of thought and effort into its design and raising valuable funds for the project. They were all a delight to work with, I am very pleased their efforts have been rewarded with phase one underway.

The FitzFun and FitzFest events in June last year were a highlight for me and were a great success The events raised a large amount of funds for the Bowey play area project and it was fantastic to see so many people and families enjoy the day. The ‘FitzFun’ was a fantastic afternoon event for all, with a focus on families. The evening ‘FitzFest’ event was held in a marquee where there was a great live band, BBQ and disco with a bar. Sadly, we were not able to replicate the event in June this year but hopefully it will be repeated and maybe develop into an annual event in the future for all to enjoy again.

After several years of campaigning the PC managed to persuade Dorset Council that there was indeed a need for a Speed Indication Device (SID) in Okeford Fitzpaine to help reduce the speed of vehicles through the village. The SID alternates between two locations, Castle Lane, and Shillingstone Lane and is supported by volunteers from the village.

Cllr Rob Corben retired from the PC after 50th service as a Parish Councillor. This is a significant milestone and should not be underestimated. You will still see Rob volunteering and involved around the parish, whether it is mowing grass around the village, involved with the running of the allotments, the Poor Lands Charity Committee or as Governor at Shillingstone School. I wish Rob well for the future and thank him for his service and commitment to the people of this parish. Finally...after being elected 5 years ago it is time for me to stand down as a councillor. This has not been an easy decision for me to make as I have enjoyed my time, but needs must. I wish the new council all the very best for the future. Regards Neil Plummer

2. Objectives for the coming year: RR would like to complete all the outstanding PC projects before taking on new challenges.

3. Open session/public questions: No issues raised, or comments received. Residents who attended thanked RR for taking on the role of Chairperson.

The Chair thanked all present and closed the meeting. **END**

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed as so by the –

Chairman presiding..... Date: