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THE ORDINARY MEETING OF OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE ON TUESDAY 4th June 2024

PRESENT: Cllrs R Rowe (RR Chair) Charley Read (CR Vice Chair) F Light (FL) S Finklaire (SF)
S Corben (SC) & R Chenery (RC)

IN ATTENDANCE: Sam Smith (PC Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: 11 members of the public

WELCOME & APOLOGIES: All Present

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS: None

2. MINUTES: Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 14th May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S INTRODUCTION: Cllr Pauline Batstone presented the PC with a small, inscribed gift (a gavel) she thanked everyone for their support during her serving time as a Councillor. Our new Unitary Cllr Steve Murcer attended the meeting. Cllr Murcer introduced himself and thanked residents for voting for him. The first meeting of Dorset Council since the May elections has taken place. Cllrs were appointed to various areas of responsibility - Chairman, Officers etc. Cllr Murcer sits on the 'People & Health Overview Committee' & the 'School Transport Appeal Committee'. Contact cards for Cllr Murcer are being printed and will be distributed shortly. All residents are encouraged to use the DC website to report pot holes, bins issues, dead animals on the road etc. Our DC Highways Officer will be off on sick leave until July. Rolly Skeats will be covering her work. Cllr Murcer will chase DC Highways for some action with regards to the repeating pot hole in the road on way to Belchalwell. There is a 'spring' under the road which may be exacerbating the problem.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: Nothing raised

4. UPDATES ON OPEN ITEMS:

Neighbourhood Planning: Okeford Fitzpaine has its own 'Planning Statement' a few amendments are still needed. We are waiting for DC to update their own Local Plan before we consider developing a full Neighbourhood Plan.

Darknoll Lane: Awaiting a start date and for the weather to improve. **Clerk** to chase Highways.

Little/Mill Lane Crossing: Wessex Internet have agreed for remedial work to be carried out in late Spring. Waiting for the weather to improve - **Clerk** to chase Wessex Internet.

Museum: Waiting for some roof tile replacements. Completed, item now closed.

Grants: The PC was not eligible as it did not meet the criteria for the Dorset Council grant 'young people services' **RR** has identified another available grant, she will investigate further.

Horse warning signs: The Clerk has contacted Amanda Penfold (DC Highways) & the signs are currently in the workshop waiting to be placed on the works schedule to be erected. Amanda is currently off sick. The **Clerk** will contact Rolly Skeats to chase.

Blocked Drains/Flooding/Highways issues in Village: Residents are concerned with regards to excessive water flowing into Lower Street. The Clerk has contacted Rolly Skeats at DC Highways and has been informed that the area has been put forward for a drainage scheme and is within the top 10 jobs to be completed by DC Highways. Works are being completed in a priority, with the risk to property flooding completed first. Hopefully, a solution for our village should be forthcoming within the next 3 months. The ditch also needs to be cleared and **SC** has met with some contractors to obtain some quotes. All agreed that the area/ditch needs strimming 1st for visibility. **SC** had also obtained some strimming quotes for the stretch from Chapel House to the new telegraph pole. This would be a whole day job inc taking the grass cuttings away. The stream is flowing and the ditch is deep. All agreed to go ahead with the strimming. **SC** is waiting for one more quote, **SC** agreed to confirm the costs with Cllrs via email.

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Resurfacing of Village Hall Car Park: **SF** and **RC** have been working on a long term solution for the car park, taking measurements & photos etc. The current surface has not held up well, mainly due to large amount recent rain. There are 3 areas. It is flat and sloping and the car park area doesn't have to be all same surface. 3 potential contractors have visited the car park, all with different ideas/suggestions. Tarmac is the most expensive, but it would be fully permeable with stone rolled in to soften the look. Tarmac would cost approx £49,000 but could be split with a gravel combination to bring the cost down. Other options - concrete the right-hand side beside the building to match the current area for disabled access etc - £2,9090. Install rubber grids in the ground that hold pea gravel, drainage good. The grids can cope with 1/5 slope, on the left side to the entrance £15,500 inc 1st section of the bridleway. Adding stone to the bridleway could prevent future flooding. North side parking install stone £2,740. Total cost for whole car park approx £21,000 total plus VAT. Still awaiting 1 quote. How would we fund this? **RR** to enquire if Sec 106 monies can be used, but money for the car park has already been accessed. The work could be done in sections to reduce the immediate cost. It was agreed for **RC & SF** to obtain more quotes for the grid/gravel solution.

New Play Area Working Party/Bowey: Jermery Hunt is still managing the play park refurbishment although he is no longer a serving PC Cllr. Work commenced at the beginning of May 2024. Funding for the 1st phase will come from section 106 monies. A wildlife area is being created. Cllr Light has contacted 'Men in Sheds' and the bug boxes are ready to go. A wood exchange taken place in lieu of payment. The 1st phase is nearly finished and is booked to be inspected this week. The **Clerk** will arrange/source some safety signage. Phase 2 of the park will be at a later date, once the monies have been released from the chicken farm development site. There is a gate surplus to requirements at the play park and an old broken bin. **SC** to dispose of the bin and store the gate. The wet ground has been churned up by contractors who have agreed to correct this.

Fipenney News: Latest edition is delayed slightly. The hosting change over is still pending & the **Clerk** will speak to George for further guidance.

The Village School: **RR** has informed the diocese of our decision not to buy the school. She has received no reply and further information on the sites future has not been forthcoming.

Coronation: The commemorative stone needs to be installed. The slabs need to be removed and a platform needs to be built. **SF** might know someone who can complete this work, liaise with **SC**.

Noticeboards: The manufacturers have agreed to replace the Cross noticeboard free of charge as the paint covering is still under guarantee. A new one is on order. **RC** agreed to look after Belchalwell board on behalf of the PC.

Community Investment Committee: It was agreed to remove the word 'committee' and change the group to 'advisory'. It was confirmed that all spending must be referred back to the PC for a final decision as the group has no financial remit. The group are currently looking into the possible development of the pavilion. Obtaining some designs from architects etc

Tree survey: **SC** has obtained a 3rd quote for the needed tree work. We will need to apply to DC to prune some of the trees as they are in the village Conservation Area. The Clerk will need photos/description etc with the proposed pruning marked on trees to enable her to submit an application to DC. The Clerk is waiting for the pictures from **SC**

D Day celebrations: 6th June 2024. The lighting of the beacon on the hill was planned. Unfortunately, this will not be going ahead due to the lack of forthcoming volunteers. A number of litter pickers came forward, **RR** thanked them, but not enough volunteers for traffic control. A peace flag will be flown at the Church, and a D Day lunch is planned in the hall.

Rose Cottage: Dorset Council is working with the persons liable for the condition of Rose Cottage. Dorset Council are aware.

Poor Lands Trust: The field is currently not registered with Land Registry by the PC or PLT. Andrew Vickers has given all the relevant documents to **RR** to pass on to the solicitors, who will register the land on our behalf. **RR** to visit solicitors this week.

5. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

5.1 Village Shop: A general discussion was had about the future of the village shop. The current owners had requested that this was discussed openly at a PC meeting. Is there the appetite amongst residents for it to become a community shop in the future? Thoughts were mixed with regards to if this would be a viable option. It was agreed by all to wait and see if the shop and building is sold to a private buyer first.

5.2 Play Park: The annual safety report has been received for the recreation ground play equipment. **SC** agreed to read the report and action any repairs that are needed. Clerk to resend report to **SC**

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5.3 Horses & Speeding issues: Another incident between speeding cars, a tanker and a horse has been reported. There is only limited action that the PC can take. The horse signs need to go up asap.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: P/VOC/2024/02400 Banbury Cross Boarding Kennels/Cattery Angers Lane, Fiddleford erect 2 no dwellings, create new vehicular access with brick piers, sliding metal gate and 1.8m high boundary wall. Create 4 no parking spaces (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/VOC/2024/00263 to amend approved plans (unit b) – no objections from all PC Cllrs.

6.1 Planning Decisions:

P/HOU/2024/01834 25 Lower Street, Okeford Fitzpaine

Erect outbuilding & clad existing garage – approved by DC planning.

P/PAAC/2024/01715 Angiers Farm, Angers Lane

Change of use & conversion of agricultural building into 2 dwellings – Prior approval refused, need to submit a planning application.

P/PAAF/2024/02120 Banbury Cross Farm, Angers Lane

Change of use from agricultural building to flexible commercial use – Prior approval refused, need to submit a planning application.

P/FUL/2024/01266 Rodford Farm, Shillingstone Lane DT11 0RB - erect stables, fodder, storage building – approved by DC planning.

7. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

Village Hall Management Committee – RC agreed to be the PC representative on the VHMC.

Rights of Way/Footpaths Officer Jeremy Gartside did not give a report. A resident in the village would like to look into the possibility of diverting a footpath near their property. RR and SC to meet with the resident to discuss.

Recreation Ground/Pavilion: nothing further to report

Village Community Group (VCG): SF reported there would be no Mid Pie Café this weekend due to no volunteers being available. For the summer, the café will shut for 1 weekend every month. An online auction ends this Sunday, 10 separate groups will share the money raised. The next film night will show Indiana Jones. There is a 'Wolf' outing to Bere Marsh Farm coming up.

Tree Officer: nothing further to report

PPC: The new flooring is completed, and the church will be open on Monday

Highways: nothing further to report.

8. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT:

Payments to be authorised -

£423.40 S Smith (Clerks wages & expenses June)

£93.60 Annual Safety inspection (Playsafety Ltd)

£28.80 DD Flag for church (RR reimbursed)

Receipts: £150 (50% contribution from Football Club) for skip hire

The Clerk still has no access to the PC bank accounts. This issue has been ongoing since the Clerk took over. Numerous forms have been completed by the Clerk and RR for NatWest. The Clerk has received no paperwork in the post. The Clerk to chase again! It was agreed to move banks once this is all finally sorted.

8.1 PC end of year audit/financial accounts: The accounts need to be signed by the 30th June at a PC meeting. The Clerk will arrange a date. This is providing that the Clerk can access the PC accounts at NatWest in time.

9. OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: none

10. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA: PC annual audit

Okeford Fitzpaine Council resolved to note the date of the next meeting as **Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in The Pavilion, Castle Lane** There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.20pm.

A confidential item was discussed after the public left – Plot of land at Castle Lane – Clerk has kept notes.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed –

Chairman presiding.....Date: