

**MINUTES OF THE OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE ON
TUESDAY 2nd July 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: 12 members of the public

WELCOME & APOLOGIES: Cllr Rowe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dorset Cllr Steve Murcer had sent his apologies in advance by email.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS: None

2. MINUTES: Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Murcer did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: Nothing raised

4. UPDATES ON OPEN ITEMS:

Neighbourhood Planning: No update. We are currently waiting for the new Government to be announced after the General Election on Thursday & for Dorset Council to move forward with their own 'Local Plan'. We cannot make progress until we have a better idea of the direction that the new 'National Planning Policy Framework' will take.

Darknoll Lane: The Clerk has chased DC Highways. Work on the lane started on the 15th May 2024, there was a pause and then work re started on the 17th of June 2024. **RC** to take a walk along the lane and report progress back to the PC.

Little/Mill Lane Crossing: Wessex Internet have agreed for remedial works to be carried out in late Spring. The Clerk has chased Wessex Internet by email and is awaiting a reply.

Horse warning signs: Amanda is currently off sick. The **Clerk** will contact Rolly Skeats to chase.

Blocked Drains/Flooding/Highways issues in Village: We have 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 month. The overgrowing verge covering the ditch has now been strimmed back. With a clear view we can now see that the ditch looks very deep. The ditch looks clear with water flowing freely. Clearing it could involve a lot of work, which might not even solve the flooding issues. More will be known once DC Highways have completed their works to install a drainage scheme.

Resurfacing of Village Hall Car Park: **SF & RC** have obtained some further quotes from 2 contractors. The cost coming in between £17,000 - £21,000. How are we going to fund this work? Before going any further we need clarity over whether S106 money will cover this. **RR** to chase DC for an answer.

New Play Area Working Party/Bowey: Jeremy Hunt is still managing the play park refurbishment although he is no longer a serving PC Cllr. Phase 1 of the park is now open. There are some ongoing issues with the surfaces. A meeting is planned for Thursday evening with the contractor, volunteers & the PC. Should we pay the full invoice if work is still outstanding? it was agreed not to pay the balance until we are satisfied with the completed works. There is still an area to be turfed which cannot be completed until September. The Clerk circulated a draft proof for some safety signage, a small amendment was made to the text with regards to dogs. An owl box is to be sited in the wildlife area. The area around the T Cup and grassy mound might have to be cut/maintained in the future by a paid contractor as the extra grass is too much work for volunteers. If this is agreed a works schedule will need to be put together. Splintering from the old climbing frame has been highlighted in the recent safety inspection – a solution to be discussed further at Thursday's site visit.

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Fippenny News: The hosting has now moved, the website now has more storage space and is running smoothly.

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 site's future has not been forthcoming.

Coronation: SF has arranged for a contractor to start the work on 9th July 2024. The plaque will be set into the wall at a cost of £250.

Noticeboards: The manufacturers have agreed to replace the Cross noticeboard free of charge as the paint covering is still under guarantee. We are just waiting for the replacement to arrive.

Tree survey: We need to apply to DC to prune some of the trees by the Village Hall as they are in the village Conservation Area. The Clerk has submitted a tree application, but it has been returned as further information is required for the application to be considered, species of trees marked, planned cuts etc **SC** will provide the Clerk with this information.

Rose Cottage: Dorset Council is working with the persons liable for the condition of Rose Cottage. Dorset Council are aware. No further information.

Poor Lands Trust: The field is currently not registered with Land Registry by the PC or PLT. **RR** has passed the relevant documents on to the solicitors, who will register the land on our behalf.

5. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

5.1 Plot of land Castle Lane: The PC had made a bid to purchase this land on behalf of the village and their offer was accepted by the sellers. The funding for this will come from S106 monies. Dorset Council has asked **RR** to provide some more information prior to them releasing the funding. The plan is to put a footpath through the land, joining up the other existing footpaths and therefore keeping walkers safely off the road. **RR** has met with Graham Stanley at Dorset Countryside to talk the plans over. Residents' views will be sought shortly. The proposed footpath could also link to the recreation ground. It was agreed that **RR** will act on PCs behalf with regards to the purchase of the land.

5.2 A resident's request to move a footpath: SC & RC had met the owners of land & discussed, viewed and walked the proposed move. An application will need to be submitted to DC first, before the PCs views are sought. The PC will be a consultee only in the matter.

5.3 PC Cllr vacancies: We currently have 1 Cllr vacancy on the PC. As we have no meeting in August it was agreed to revisit this at the September PC meeting. maybe with an ad in the Fippenny News.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: P/FUL/2024/03199 Mill Farm, Shillingstone Lane – change of use of barn & land from agricultural to equestrian. **No objection from all Cllrs.**

6.1 Planning Decisions: None

7. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT:

Payments to be authorised -

£427.60 S Smith (Clerks wages & expenses July)

£66,665.82 (S106 monies) Sutcliffe Play. The total invoice to pay is £90,000 (balance from PC savings) Agreed by all to pay the balance after Thursdays meeting and only if satisfied with the work completed.

£120 DAPTC (new PC Cllrs training)

£131 HMRC (Clerks PAYE)

£742.49 (Fuel)

£264 Parish Mag Printers (Fippenny News)

£36 S Corben (extra keys cut)

£24.00 Water2Business DD

£94.81 British Gas (Pavilion)

Receipts: £66,665.82 Dorset Council S106 monies

The Clerk still has no online access to the PC bank accounts. The Clerk has now received some bank statements in the post.

7.1 PC end of year audit/financial accounts: A copy of the completed internal audit report has been forwarded to all PC Cllrs. The following sections of the Annual Return were agreed and signed by the Chair **RR** and the **Clerk** - Approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 Section 1. Approval of the Accounting Statements 2023/2024 Section 2. The Clerk will now forward the required paperwork

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to BDO LLP and publish the documents, including the 'Notice of Public Rights' on the PC website. The 'Conflict of Interest' form was signed by the Chair **RR** & the **Clerk**.

7.2 Opening a new PC account: All Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should start the process with Lloyds Bank to open a new PC bank account to include online access. The signatories going forward are to be **RR, SS, CR & RC**.

8. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

Village Hall Management Committee – **RC** reported that the next meeting is planned for the 22nd July 2024.

Rights of Way/Footpaths Officer Jeremy Gartside reported that the Shillingstone Fields site footpath has now been out of action for approx 2 years. This path needs to be re-opened asap, but the developer has built a house very close to the existing path. The PC strimmer is in Jeremy's possession & it is currently being serviced, invoice to follow.

Recreation Ground/Pavilion: **SC** circulated copy keys to Cllrs

Neighbourhood Watch: no updates

Village Community Group (VCG): **SF** reported that a recent auction made £1,040. Ten groups shared the takings. The Circus visits the village on the 18th August 2024, posters are going up. Tickets can be purchased from the village shop. The VCG AGM will be held on the 29th Sept 2024.

PCC: Some residents have raised some noise issues with regards to the phone mast. PCC to respond.

Highways: nothing further to report.

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

10. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:

Okeford Fitzpaine Council resolved to note the date of the next meeting as **Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in The Pavilion, Castle Lane Note: no meeting in August.** There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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

Chairman presiding.....Date: