

**MINUTES OF THE OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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:** 21 members of the public

**WELCOME & APOLOGIES:** Cllr Rowe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS:** None

**2. MINUTES:** Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record. Proposed: RC  
Seconded: SC

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

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Andrew Vickers attended the meeting accompanied by the landowner of the adjoining field to the recreation ground. Andrew made a presentation on behalf of the Village Wildflower Group (see 5.4) Their proposal is to encourage the growth of wildflowers on a small section of the recreation ground. This would be for 1 season (summer) and in a limited area. The WFG would like to monitor and study the flowers that grow. (see 5.5) The route of the footpath sited to the back of Shillingstone Fields (from Rideouts) was discussed, the true footpath is the ditch, but this is very overgrown and would need a lot of work to bring it back into use.

**4. UPDATES ON OPEN ITEMS:**

**Neighbourhood Planning:** We cannot make progress with this matter until we have a better idea of the direction that the new 'National Planning Policy Framework' will take. Dorset Council also need to complete their own 'Local Plan'. RR to speak to DC for progress/timescales.

**Darknoll Lane:** The lane is now much improved, but the bottom section still needs to be completed. There was an issue with the location of gas mains pipe, this has now been located. SF to chase DC Highways for a return visit to complete the works. Some spoils from the work have been left on a resident's land which DC Highways also need to deal with.

**Little/Mill Lane Crossing:** PC Cllrs have visited the site, the work completed is satisfactory and this matter is now closed.

**Horse warning signs:** The Clerk/RR will contact Rolly Skeats at DC Highways to chase. The signs are ready, we are just waiting for them to be erected around the village. There has been a recent near miss with a horse and vehicle.

**Blocked Drains/Flooding/Highways issues in Village:** We have been informed that the area (Lower Street) 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. DC Highways have been chased numerous times to fix a date. Grit bins in the area were discussed, if the drainage is not fixed soon there will be ice in winter from flooding. Do we need an extra bin for the area? It was agreed to wait for the drainage works to be completed first to see if problem is solved. SF suggested adding this area to the PC risk assessment document.

**Resurfacing of Village Hall Car Park** 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. Residents have recently tidied the village hall car park, and it looks lovely. Thank you.

**New Play Area Working Party/Bowey** Phase 1 of the park is now open. There is still an area to be turfed which cannot be completed until September. Splintering from the old climbing frame has been highlighted in the recent safety inspection, this needs to be sorted. The play park safety signage is now in place. Before we can start Phase 2 more houses need to be occupied at Shillingstone Fields.

## 11 - MINUTES 2024

**Coronation:** A contractor completed the work on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. The plaque is now set into the wall. All agreed an excellent job had been done. Item now closed.

**Plot of land Castle Lane:** The PC is currently in the process of purchasing this land on behalf of the village. The funding for this will come from S106 monies. 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 Council to talk the plans over. Residents' views will be sought shortly. The proposed footpath could also link to the recreation ground. DC have confirmed that the S106 money will be with the PC shortly. Once purchased we could hold a village open day to enable interested residents to visit the land.

**Noticeboards:** The manufacturers have agreed to replace the Cross noticeboard free of charge as the paint covering is still under guarantee. The replacement board has arrived and we are just waiting for it to be erected by SC.

**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.

**VJ Day:** Information has been circulated to PC Cllrs with regards to VE Day, should we light the beacon? SC will take this on and set about recruiting some volunteers etc.

**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 Skate Park Chris Hall:** Chris gave a short presentation regarding his idea for a small skate park in the village. The cost estimated at £20,000 (a couple of small ramps) upwards (a large skate park). The area to the side of the recreation ground was suggested as a possible site. Chris was asked to gather more information along with researching possible funding sources. Chris will be invited to join the CIG, form a sub grp and come back to PC with a proposal.

**5.2 The village shop:** Sharne (shop owner) attended the meeting and talked of the current situation at the village shop. The business is no longer sustainable for the current owners so the 4-bed property & shop are now for sale (freehold) Sharne asked if forming a community shop would be possible. Sharne is also looking at a possible change of use to allow the option of selling the property as one whole house. Sharne was asking for more community engagement with regards to the village running a community shop. Sharne would be open to the idea of running a community shop of behalf of the village. It was suggested that the way forward would be to hold a public meeting with residents to gauge interest? Along with a questionnaire. RC & CR agreed to investigate/research other community shops in the area for ideas.

**5.3 PC Cllr vacancies:** We currently have a PC Cllr vacancy on the Parish Council. It was agreed to advertise the role in the next edition of the Fippenny News, online and on noticeboards.

**5.4 Village Wildflower Group:** The PC agreed to the group's proposal. Proposed: SF Seconded: RC. Any Ragwort will be controlled & removed asap. The area will be roped off to prevent mowing.

**5.5 Village footpath issues:** A resident has submitted to the PC a proposed plan for the footpath N48/55 north of Shillingstone Fields to be re-routed. The ditch is the official footpath put currently walkers walk adjacent to the ditch and sometimes the route is impeded due to livestock on the unofficial path. The Pitt Rivers Estate own the land with the ditch/footpath. Clearing the ditch or rerouting the footpath would cost considerable funds which the PC does not have. Using S106 money was suggested but it is not clear if there is provision for this type of work. RR will contact DC to clarify the situation with unallocated S106 money. The other footpath at the back of the Shillingstone Fields development still needs to be re-opened & improved. Jeremy Gartside is meeting again with Graham Stanley from DC Council soon to discuss this matter. The other issue of re-routing the footpath 46 by Darknoll Farm is currently waiting for Dorset Council to move forward.

## 12 - MINUTES 2024

**6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** P/PABA/2024/04013 Garlands Farm DT11 0RT - erect agricultural steel portal framed storage building (for info only)

**6.1 Planning Decisions & other planning matters:** Appeal (by applicant) against refusal by Dorset Council - erect 19 dwellings, form amenity space, create vehicular access and 43 No. parking spaces at Pleydells Farm, DT11 0RN. The applicant attended the meeting.  
P/TRT/2024/04974 The Old Rectory, Greenhayes DT11 0RE – remove tree, Tulip.

### 7. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT:

#### Payments to be authorised -

**£439.07** S Smith (Clerks wages & expenses July)

**£510.60** S Smith (Clerks wages & expenses August)

**£23,334.18** Sutcliffe Play (play park - balance from PC savings)

**£53.80** HMRC (Clerks PAYE)

**£312** Parish Mag Printers (Fippenny News)

**£75.69** DC Machinery (strimmer service)

**£254.10** Fireline Ltd (pavilion fire inspection)

**£250** R Matthews (coronation stone)

**358.87** Fippenny Garage (mower service)

**603.07** NFU (mower insurance)

**£500** Farnfields (land searches, Castle Lane plot)

**£62.81** British Gas (Pavilion)

**£293.36** SSE (Pavilion)

**£69.16** SSE (Bus shelter)

**£20,000** transfer PC funds from NatWest account to Lloyds PC account

**£420** Dorset Sign Company (£210 x 2 play park signage)

**Receipts:** Pavilion - **£30** cash kids parties, **£100** VMCC motorcycles. VCG **£50** from circus event.

**7.1 PCs new bank account with internet access:** We now eventually have a new bank account with online access. Agreed to keep the NatWest account for now for S106 monies. The new Lloyds account will be used for the precept and the PCs day to day transactions.

### 8. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

**Village Hall Management Committee** RC reported that **£221.10** was made at the recent jumble sale.

**£250** was received from the VCG circus. **£340** received from the Friends of Okeford reunion.

**Rights of Way/Footpaths Officer** RR clarify if any S106 left for ROW issues

**Recreation Ground/Pavilion:** A door needs fixing, SC to sort.

**Village Community Group (VCG):** SF reported that the Circus on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 made a profit. A donation of £50 to the PC was given. Another online auction will start mid September. The Mud Pie Cafe needs more volunteers. The AGM will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

**PCC:** No news

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm to be held in The Pavilion, Castle Lane** There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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

Chairman presiding.....Date: .....