

# **Fontmell Magna Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.00pm**

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**Present:** Cllrs. M Humphreys (Chair), A Newbury and J Long

**In attendance:** Jane Somper – Dorset Councillor, M Wheatley – Clerk and 16 members of the public.

At the commencement of the meeting there was a presentation by the Dorset National Park team followed by a Q&A session. The PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the Parish Council website [www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk](http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

The National Park Team were asked about improvements to the transport system given that the A350 was an inappropriate road for the general community and for transport down to the ports. The National Park team confirmed that this would be one of the benefits of having a National Park. In this regard the South Down National Park had received funding of £10million to assist the community and the National Park would have to work with the Dorset Council to have an appropriate transport network.

The whole of the Jurassic coast might not be included in the National Park as the East Devon Council were less interested in the National park but the intention would be to form working relationships between the Dorset National Park, the East Devon AONB, Cranborne Chase AONB and the Jurassic Coast Trust. The Dorset Councillors wanted to concentrate on Dorset. Cranborne Chase would remain an AONB as quite a lot of the AONB was not in Dorset. It was hoped that eventually the AONB would link into the New Forest.

The National Park would not be subject to central government housing targets and could set its own targets based on local need. There were currently 3 areas under consideration to become National Parks. It was a matter for Natural England to determine whether any of these should become a National Park and it could determine that one or all three could become a National Park. The National Park would work alongside the National Trust and the Dorset Wildlife Trust. As a planning authority it would work with the landowners to establish future plans.

At present the Government were reviewing the Glover Review 2019 and were looking to see what could be done without legislation. The New Forest took 3 to 4 years to establish. At present the boundary would follow the line of the AONB however Sturminster Newton had voted to be included as had Portland. Sherborne were currently considering whether they also want to be included.

With regard to planning, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) applies when calculating housing need. At present the number of houses that are required to be built in rural Dorset is 78,000 soon to be 90,000 for the planning period 2016 to 2036. It is anticipated that if the National Park is established this will reduce to 50,000. It is anticipated that the new Dorset Local Plan will be completed in 2023/24. If the National Park has not been established by then but has been approved hopefully Dorset Council will take this into account.

The National Park Team then asked for the Parish Council's support. The local MPs had not committed their support as yet and were sitting on the fence. If anyone wishes to support the proposal or requires any further information they could visit the National Park website [www.dorsetnationalpark.com](http://www.dorsetnationalpark.com). There was then a short break and 8 members of the public left.

### **Public Questions:**

The Chairman confirmed that the National Park, the impact of the Corona virus and the A350 were due to be discussed later on in the agenda.

**09/03/01 Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.

**09/03/02 Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. Newbury declared an interest in the tree works application for The Banks, Fontmell Magna.

**09/03/03 Co-options.** The Chair reiterated that there was still only 3 councillors and confirmed that no-one had come forward since the last meeting. The Council could not continue for long as they were as if one of the members became ill or had other calls on their time the Parish Council would

cease to function. A Village of the size of Fontmell Magna should have an active Parish Council. The Chair again encouraged residents to consider joining the Parish Council.

**09/03/04 Minutes of the Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.** The draft minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

**09/03/05 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

**a. VE day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had given the organizers of the VE day celebration a grant of £150.00. The Chair said he had attended the last public meeting and assuming it went ahead it looked as if it was going to be a substantial event. There would be an announcement in the Gossip Tree and flyers had been produced which would be circulated with the Gossip Tree. Cllr. Newbury had obtained the appropriate consent for the road closure. For the time being there was nothing further the Parish Council could help with. There had recently been a 1940's fashion event in the Village Hall and people were being encouraged to dress in 1940's style. The Chair thanked Cllr. Newbury for organizing the road closure.

**b. Website** – The Chair confirmed that Vision ICT Ltd were working to produce a new website which would be compliant with the new accessibility requirements. There had been 2 cycles of review so far. The new site would not be as flexible as the old site as it needed to be useable from laptops, mobiles and tablets. For example the Parish Council could not use tables as it did on the old site as these were not supported on tablets. The cost would be in the region of £1000 which had been budgeted for in next year's budget.

**c. Repair to gate to War Memorial** – Cllr. Newbury confirmed that she had inspected the gate and had been unable to identify any problems with the same. It was suggested that there should be a stop to prevent the gate swinging outwards. Cllr. Newbury confirmed that this would only happen if the gate was not closed properly and the latch was working fine.

**d. BT telephone box at Fontmell Magna including potential use** – The Clerk had obtained two quotes for testing the box. It was agreed that the Parish Council would proceed with the cheapest of these quotes. The Chair confirmed he had read the contract for acquisition of the telephone box and had no comments. With regard to the use of the telephone box the Chair confirmed it would not be used as a book exchange as there was already a book exchange in the shop. It was agreed that an article would be put in the Gossip Tree asking for suggestions once the acquisition had been completed.

**Action: Clerk to instruct electrician to check the box.**

**e. Local Electricity Bill** – Cllr. Newbury confirmed she had not as yet looked at this but would do so.

**Action: Cllr. Newbury to report.**

**09/03/06 Dorset Councillor report.** The Dorset Councillor reported as per the written report attached hereto.

**09/03/07 Reports from the Parish Councillors**

**a. Planning** – Cllr. Humphreys had circulated a report to the Parish Council which is attached hereto. He confirmed that the NPMG had reported on eight planning applications. The decisions made by the Parish Council were as per the Schedule which can be seen on the website. The Parish Council had objected to 2 of the applications namely the application by Springhead Farm for a discharge of conditions and the proposed development on Penn Hill.

The Chair confirmed he was still continuing to correspond with Pennyfarthing Homes and that the application had still to be approved. The latest issue was that the Natural Environment Team from North Dorset wanted a bat corridor along the eastern side of the site which PennyFarthing Homes were reviewing and might result in a change to the layout of the site. Cllr. Long commented that this just meant that the developers needed to plant a hedge rather than erect a fence. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had been asked to meet with the developers.

Cllr. Somper confirmed she would contact planning and ask them why it had taken already taken nearly 2 years to progress this application and to try and get the application moved along.

The Chair confirmed he had attended various seminars including on the Climate Emergency, the Local Plan. At present it looked like Dorset Council would need to build 1800 new homes per year. If Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole could not fulfil their quota then Dorset Council might need to accommodate some of this quota. It was anticipated that Fontmell Magna would receive a quota once the Local Plan was finalised. The Neighbourhood Plan only has a currency of 2 years as there was not a five year housing land supply in North Dorset and would therefore expire in November this year. The Parish Council were looking to update the Neighbourhood Plan but would wait and see what the Dorset Council produced by way of housing allocation.

**b. Trees** – Various applications for tree works had been circulated. No comments regarding any of these proposed works had been received.

**c. Highways** – Cllr. Long had circulated a report to the Parish Council which is attached hereto. He confirmed that the layby at the top of Mill St., had been filled in and the DWT carpark had been cleared and concrete blocks placed at the entrance to prevent vans from entering the carpark. Highways had cleared the gullies on Mill St. to Springhead and along West St. from the Bedchester crossroads. It was confirmed that whilst the drains may have been cleared from the Bedchester crossroads they seemed to have filled up with silt again.

The drains on West View had also been cleared but there was a length of West View that had no drain and when there was heavy rain the road fills with water. Highways had confirmed the only way to resolve this would be to re-surface the road or put in a drain but this was a matter of having the funds to do this.

Cllr. Long confirmed he had also had various correspondence regarding the flooding by Pipers Mill. The problem was that the bridge and surrounding area were at a low point and all of the water drains into this point. There are 3 drains that drain into the brook but these do not have the capacity to deal with the recent heavy rain. The only way to deal with this would be to put in a new drain and again this was a question of the costs. Highways did however recognize that this was a project that needed doing.

Access on Mill St. – Cllr. Long confirmed that he had had long discussions with various organisations but as there was no immediate threat at present no action was going to be taken.

A350 Community Group – Cllr. Long advised that the Community Group had confirmed that Fontmell Magna had promised them a grant of £100. It was agreed that the grant was supposed to be for a specific project when the Parish Council were asked to contribute and not simply for a general pool. It was agreed that the Parish Council would wait to be asked for a grant.

It had been noticed that there were an increasing number of HGV's going south on the A350 despite the non-mandatory one way scheme. It was believed that this was because the hill at Spreadeagles was too steep. One of the problems was that there was no sign at the roundabout in Shaftesbury showing the route to Melbury Abbas.

The speedwatch confirmed that they had recently had support from the PCSO who had attended with a camera to join the speedwatch at St. Andrew's View and The Mead.

**d. Environmental Protection** – Cllr. Newbury had circulated a report which is attached hereto and which she read out to the meeting.

**e. Social Infrastructure** – Please see Cllr. Newbury's report attached.

**f. District Liaison** – The Chair confirmed that save for the workshop referred to above he had not been to any other meetings. The Compton Abbas airfield meeting was the following day: he was unable to attend and asked whether anyone else would like to go.

**g. Footpaths** – Cllr. Long confirmed that there would be no signpost for the White Hart link by Piper's Mill as one of the residents had objected..

**h. Governance** – Please see the Chair's report.

**09/03/08 To consider report from the RFO.** The Clerk confirmed she had circulated the Income & Expenses to date and the available balance was currently £8860.49.

**09/03/09 To resolve to pay Bills presented.** The invoices and standing orders paid since the last meeting were set out in the Schedule. The Parish Council had also given a grant of £150.00 to the VE day celebration. It was agreed that the bills as set out in the schedule should be paid:

- Grant to Fontmell Magna Directory - £30.00
- Vision ICT – £582.00
- Parish Online – £36.00

**09/03/010 Other Matters arising from recent correspondence**

**a. White Hart Link Fingerpost** – Please see paragraph 09/03/07 g above and Cllr. Long’s report.

**b. Best Kept Village** – it was agreed that the Parish Council had insufficient capacity to pursue this for this year.

A resident then raised the issue of the coronavirus and confirmed there were various actions that could be taken including for example setting up a buddy system. It was noted that there was a lot of information already in circulation. It was agreed that the Parish Council would circulate the list of precautions provided by the resident but that again the Parish Council had insufficient capacity to take the lead in anything else.

**09/03/011 Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Monday 11th May 2020. The next meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting was an opportunity for the clubs and societies within the village to report on their activities. Cllr. Somper confirmed she was unable to attend this meeting and offered her apologies for absence.

**09/03/012 A.O.B.**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Date

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Chair, Fontmell Magna Parish Council