

# Fontmell Magna Parish Council

## **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.30pm**

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**Present:** Cllr H Horstead (Chairman), Cllrs C Bellers, H Lister, M Humphreys and L Williams.

**In attendance:** M Wheatley – Clerk, Robin East – Parish Council Highways Representative, Cllr. Graham Carr-Jones – County Councillor, Cllr Catherine Langham – District Councillor, and 21 members of the public.

### **Public Questions:**

A resident asked whether it was being proposed that the path from West St to St Andrews View was, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, going to be re-designated as a public footpath and whether this had been discussed with the owner. It was confirmed that all changes to any of the footpaths would be subject to consultation.

Another resident referred to the change of use to a Forest School recently considered by the Parish Council. The resident confirmed that the AONB had requested that various conditions be attached to any permission and commented that he thought the Parish Council had not scrutinized this application sufficiently because it had been made by the National Trust. The conditions requested were for example that no one was entitled to stay overnight or to drive down the footpath. He queried what the Parish Council's response would be if a different Landowner wished to create a Forest School on the downs. The Chairman commented that it was an unusual application and it would be interesting to see what if any conditions would be attached to any permission. Cllr. Williams commented that he had had no objection to the application as he assumed that the National Trust knew what they were doing.

The Clerk was asked whether she had any news regarding the proposed developments within the village and when these were likely to be decided. The Clerk confirmed she had no further news.

Another resident then referred to a letter that had recently appeared in the BVM concerning the housing bank. The Parish Council acknowledged the importance of this letter.

There was then a discussion with the District Councillor regarding the timing of any appeal regarding the refusal of planning permission and the approval of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan would only apply if it had been approved. The District and County Councillor confirmed that the position with regard to the 5 year land supply was not likely to be resolved in the near future. The County Councillor also confirmed that there was a backlog on appeals and this would give the Parish Council extra time to get the Neighbourhood Plan adopted.

Robin East confirmed that the white lines by Middle Farm were missing but he had been assured that they would be done in the next 4 weeks.

**09/07/01 Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.

**09/07/02 Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Humphreys declared an interest in the application for a change of use of the Barn in Gupples Lane as this was next to his property. He did not have a pecuniary interest in the application. Cllr. Williams declared an interest in the application by The White Cottage and in the repairs to the Noticeboard. Assuming permission was granted for the extension to The White Cottage his company would be doing the work.

**09/07/03 Co-option, Resignation and continuing responsibilities.** The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Roberts had resigned and she and the Parish Council thanked him for his contribution during his time as a member of the Parish Council. The relevant notices had been put up and there had been no call for an election accordingly the Council could now co-opt another member. There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council and the Clerk had not heard from anyone regarding filling the vacancies. Cllr Bellers confirmed he would put together a training programme for new councillors to be discussed at the next meeting. He hoped this might

encourage people to stay on the Council. He was not proposing that this would be mandatory. The County Councillor confirmed that Marnhull Parish Council were planning to provide some planning training for their Councillors and for a small consideration would be happy for Councillors from other Parish Councils to attend. The Clerk confirmed she would contact the Marnhull Parish Council Clerk and find out the details.

**09/07/04 Minutes of the Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.** The minutes were approved subject to one typo, which was amended, and the Chairman signed them.

**09/07/05 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting.** Cllr Bellers confirmed he had spoken to the landowner regarding the proposal for a footpath from the end of the lane to Croft Farm to St. Andrew's View and he had been very encouraging. Cllr Bellers confirmed his next step would be to speak to the management committee of St. Andrew's View.

**09/07/06 County Councillor and District Councillor's reports.** Cllr Carr-Jones had circulated monthly reports which the Clerk had forward to the Parish Council. The Boundary Commission had sent out various communications regarding the Boundary Review proposals for the Unitary Authority wards. The Shadow Council had recently had its first meeting when 142 of 172 current councillors present. It was hoped that there would only be another one or two meetings like this. The Police and Crime Commissioner had confirmed that there were on going discussions between Dorset, Somerset and Devon Police Forces with regard to a proposed merger. If the merger were to go ahead this would give rise to savings, which would allow for Dorset to have 30 to 35 new officers. With regard to the proposed ward changes the Parish Boundaries would not change but the proposal was to change the boundaries for the Beacon ward. The number of Councillors would be reduced by 2/3rds and there would be approximately 3750 people per ward.

Cllr Langham confirmed that she did not have much to add to Cllr Carr-Jones report but confirmed that if the proposed merger of the Police Forces went ahead this would mean that there would only be one Police and Crime commissioner instead of three.

**09/07/07 To consider Development Control Matters To consider development control matters:**

**a. Applications/other matters considered since the last Meeting.** The Clerk confirmed that since the previous meeting the following applications had been considered by the Parish Council and the Parish Council had had no objection to the same:

- i. Little Orchard Bedchester - erection of garage
- ii. The White Cottage Fontmell – erect extension
- iii. Change of use Lower Hartgrove Farm
- iv. Change of use Forest School

The proposed listing of the buildings at Middle Farm as buildings of interested had also been considered. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had prepared a response which had been adopted by the Parish Council and submitted to NDDC. The response recommended that the stables should be listed as of interest, the cottage should not and confirmed that the setting had already been noted in the Conservation Area Appraisal.

**b. Applications to be considered** The Chairman confirmed he would review the application for a Change of Use Barn at Gupples Lane, Hartgrove

**c. Request for Public Contributions list to be identified.** A draft list had been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and had been circulated to the members of the Parish Council. Cllr Humphreys confirmed that there were currently 15 items on the list and there were two other items that might be added. Cllr. Bellers confirmed he had spoken to the Chairman of Sutton Waldron Parish Council and had been directed to their Parish Plan which referred to a cycleway being built from Shroton through to Fontmell Magna. Sutton Waldron's interest at this time would be to put a cycleway along the A350 from Sutton Waldron through to Fontmell. There was then a discussion regarding the benefits to Fontmell Magna of such a footpath and it was decided that the benefit to Fontmell was less than the benefit to Sutton Waldron and that any available funds should be used for the benefit of Fontmell Magna and therefore this should not be included on the list of contributions. Cllr Bellers then asked whether improvements to the footpath from Mill Middle through to Compton Abbas could be included in the list as at present

the footpath from Fontmell ended up on the A350. It was agreed that the list would be amended to include this footpath. Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the list was a list of the things that the village would like and the Case Officer would take items from the list and using his/her judgment could make the provision of an item by the developer a condition of the planning permission. Ultimately whether a contribution was made to a specific item was in the gift of the planner. The list was just a "wish" list and if the provision of for example of a footpath becomes a condition of the planning permission then there would have to be consultations with the landowners. Subject to the amendment referred to above the Parish Council approved the list. A revised list would be circulated for final approval prior to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 so that the Clerk could submit this by the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**d. Formation of planning sub-committee.** Cllr Bellers asked whether a planning committee should be formed to consider any planning matters and then report back to the Parish Council. The planning committee should include a member or members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group who were familiar with the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bellers proposed the resolution and this was seconded by Cllr. Humphreys. Cllr Williams commented that he did not see the need for a planning committee as the Parish Council was working well as it was and he did not see the need for another tier. It was agreed by a majority of 3 to 2 that a Planning Committee would be formed. Cllr. Humphreys asked for it to be minuted that the Chairman had voted against this proposal and when asked had declined to explain his reasons for opposing the formation of a planning committee. Cllr. Williams commented that what the Councillors who had voted for this proposal seemed to be saying was that the members of the Parish Council were not able to interpret the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Bellers confirmed that the committee would not be taking away any powers from the Parish Council, as the committee would report to the Parish Council who would then make any decision. It was agreed that the constitution of the planning committee would be decided at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**09/07/08 To consider report from the RFO** – The Clerk confirmed that the latest financial reports had been circulated to the Parish Council and that the current balance was £13032.32. She confirmed that she had also circulated the spend against budget and to date there was an overspend on the website costs of £36.00. Cllr Humphreys confirmed this was in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan email. The Clerk also confirmed that the grant of £200.00 for the Bedchester Defibrillator had not been budgeted for and would come out of reserves.

**09/07/09 To resolve to pay Bills presented.** The Clerk had circulated a schedule showing the invoices and standing orders which had been paid since the last meeting. The Parish Council agreed to pay Vale Garden Services invoice in the sum of £25.00 and the Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd's Invoices in the sum of £235.56, which would come out of the Neighbourhood Plan grant. A resident asked whether Vale Gardens Services were responsible for cutting the verge in West St. It was confirmed that Vale Garden Services were paid to maintain the War Memorial.

**09/07/010 Other Parish Matters**

**a. Highways** - Robin East confirmed that most of the work on the A350 had now been done. There were various items that still needed to be done and he hoped these would be done in the next 4 weeks. The Melbury Abbas judicial review appeal had been resolved and an agreement with regard to the costs had been made which meant Melbury Abbas would not be responsible for them. Robin East had met with Melbury Abbas for a third time with a view to getting them to engage with the A350 Group to improve the north/south route for the benefit of all of the communities however Melbury Abbas had once again refused to engage with the A350 Group. The A350 Group had started a dialogue with Blandford and Shaftesbury Town Councils and Blandford St. Mary has now joined the Group. The A350 Group was also intending to speak with Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall. The District Councillor confirmed she had met with the Chairman of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and they are bidding for funds to commission a report into a north/south route. The A350 Group were liaising with DCC regarding the Major Road Network report. Something needed to happen soon as the one-way system on the A350/C13 was only a sticking plaster. Robin East confirmed that Highways had forgotten to include Mill St. and Tower Hill in the TRO so these were subject to the National Speed Limit but hopefully this would be sorted in the near future. The new road signs would be completed within 2 months. The white lines on the road between Fontmell Magna and Compton Abbas, which

had disappeared because the tarmac had melted, would be repainted in the next couple of weeks. The Chairman thanked Robin East for his continued efforts on behalf of the Parish.

- b. Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the consultation period had now expired. There were 17 consultation documents which could be seen on the Dorset for You website. Half of the responses were from the two major developers who were effectively backing up their individual positions. The next stage would be the examination by the examiner. David Kaiserman had been appointed as the Examiner and his report should be ready by the end of September 2018. The referendum would be in October and would take about 6 weeks so hopefully the Neighbourhood Plan would be adopted by mid November 2018.
- c. Defibrillator** – Cllr. Humphreys confirmed he had spoken to the Pub who were happy to have the defibrillator in principle and had suggested it could be installed on a wall by the bus shelter where there was a power supply. Cllr. Humphreys had also spoken to the school who were also happy to have the defibrillator on a wall at the top of the car park. The school were going to speak with their office in Shaftesbury and he was waiting to hear back from them. The Bedchester residents were going to be organising some defibrillator training. The Clerk confirmed she would ask when the training was going to take place.
- d. Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board** – The Clerk confirmed she had been trying to get another quote for the repairs to the noticeboard but had not been able to do so. It was agreed that the quote from Perry & Sons should be accepted and that the Clerk should instruct them to proceed.
- e. New Dog Waste Bin.** The Clerk confirmed she had been speaking to DWP and NDDC in an effort to try and find out if a new bin was installed whether DWP would empty it. She was waiting for a call back from DWP however based on Sutton Waldron's recent experience she anticipated that the answer was that the Parish Council would have to pay for the new bin and pay for it to be emptied. She would continue to follow this up.

**09/07/011 Other Matters arising from Correspondence.** It was agreed that the Parish Council did not have any comments to make on the new ward arrangements put forward for consultation by the Boundary Commission. Cllr Lister confirmed she had collected the complimentary tickets for the Steam Fair and had given them to the school. She was not sure the school would use them all and she would revert back to the Parish Council in the event that there were any spare tickets.

**09/07/012 Dates of Next Meeting** – the next meeting was on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Rural Crime Team would be attending to give a talk and the meeting would therefore start at 7pm. Cllr Langham confirmed that she would have to leave the meeting early to attend the meeting in Ashmore.

**09/07/013 A.O.B.** Cllr. Williams asked about the new gate that had been installed on the footpath near Penn Hill Farm. Cllr Bellers confirmed he would follow this up but anticipated this would not be a problem provided the gate was unlocked.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52 pm.

Date

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Chairman, Fontmell Magna Parish Council