

# **Fontmell Magna Parish Council**

## **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.00pm**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr. Catherine Langham – District Councillor, M Wheatley – Clerk, R East – Parish Highways Representative, and 18 members of the public.

Tom Balchin Rural Engagement Officer, Dorset Police Rural Crime Team gave a presentation. The Chairmen thanked Tom Balchin and the Parish Council meeting commenced at 7.40pm.

### **Public Questions:**

A resident commented that despite the excellent work done by Robin East the traffic was still travelling very fast through the village particularly travelling south. He suggested that the village needed a speed camera to be installed. Robin East commented that he had recently had a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner Martin Underhill and asked him about enforcing the speed limits on the A350. He had also met with Brian Austin who co-ordinated the Speed Camera teams across Dorset. They were not convinced that speed advice indicators were the answer as people speeding might see this as a challenge. The answer was that there would not be any additional enforcement as there were not enough financial resources. The Village Speed Watch co-ordinator was going to meet with Chris Mullins the Community Support Officer to confirm new sites for the Speed Watch Team. The reality was that there were so many restrictions on the Speed Watch teams that they were not very effective. The Speed Watch teams had to try and log vehicles doing more than 36mph. The drivers would then be sent a letter from the police and if they did it again they would get a second letter. On the third occasion the police would visit the driver. Another resident commented that the police speed team van had been seen outside Shaftesbury recently but where it was was not effective for the A350. Robin East commented that there was only one van for the whole of Dorset. He also confirmed that he was trying to put pressure on the police to enforce the speed limits both on behalf of the Parish Council and the A350 Community Group but without the financial resource the police were not able to do very much.

There was then a question about the proposed footpath from the track from Croft Farm to St. Andrew's view. Cllr. Bellers confirmed he had spoken to the land owner who was not averse to the idea and he had contacted the Chairman of the St. Andrew's View Management Committee to obtain the Management Committee's views. There was then a discussion about the footpath from the village to St. Andrew's view. It was stated that the residents of St. Andrew's View did not want this path to become a permissive path. Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that all references to this path had been removed from the Neighbourhood Plan and the status of this path would not change. It was agreed that the residents of St. Andrew's View should write to the Clerk confirming what they wanted the Parish Council to do.

**10/09/01 Apologies for Absence.** There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Carr-Jones – County Councillor.

**10/09/02 Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. Williams declared an interest in the Noticeboard at the Bedchester crossroads.

**10/09/03 Co-option, Resignation and continuing responsibilities.** The Clerk confirmed that Annie Newbury had asked to become a member of the Parish Council. Annie Newbury introduced herself and she was unanimously co-opted on to the Parish Council. Cllr. Bellers confirmed he had circulated a training policy to the Councillors. He had received comments from Cllr. Humphreys and had amended the policy. The amended Training Policy was handed out to the Councillors and unanimously adopted.

**10/09/04 Minutes of the Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018.** The minutes were approved unanimously.

**10/09/05 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting.** There were no matters arising.

**10/09/06 County Councillor and District Councillor's reports.** Cllr. Langham read out her report a copy of which appears with these minutes. She congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan team on delivering the Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed she would be attending the cabinet meeting where the plan should be approved.

**10/09/07 To consider Development Control Matters.**

**a. Applications/other matters considered since the last meeting.** The Chairman confirmed that the following matters had been considered since the last meeting and that the Parish Council had had no objections to the same:

- i. Change of Use Barn at Gupples Lane, Hartgrove – no objection**
- ii. Penn Hill Farm erection of barn – no objection**
- iii. Magna House, Lurmer St. – no objection save for the cladding.** Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the application had been approved by NDDC.

**b. Application to be considered – Penn Hill Farm (x2).** The Chairman confirmed he had reviewed the applications and did not see any objection to the same. A resident commented that in the future the agricultural buildings could be converted to residential use and suggested that they should be tied to the house as for agricultural use. The owner from Penn Hill Farm was present and confirmed that they were solely for agricultural use. The Parish Council confirmed it had no objection to the applications

**c. Access Penn Hill – enforcement.** The Clerk confirmed she had asked NDDC whether the new accessway on Penn Hill had or required planning permission. The enforcement team had confirmed they had visited the site and everything was in order.

**d. Update on Middle Farm –** Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the application had been considered by the NDDC Planning Committee who had given some weight to the Neighbourhood Plan but despite the Neighbourhood Plan had approved the application.

**e. Update on developments Mill St. & South St –** the Clerk confirmed that NDDC had confirmed that the South St. development was likely to be decided by delegated powers as the Parish Council had supported this application. The Mill St. development however was likely to go before the Planning Committee. NDDC were therefore giving the developer every opportunity to address the various issues raised. It was anticipated that this application would go to either the November or the December Planning Committee's. The November meeting was on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and therefore before the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan which was going to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**f. Formation of Planning sub-committee –** Cllr. Bellers confirmed he was finalizing terms of reference for presentation to the Parish Council.

**10/09/08 Neighbourhood Plan – approval of the final Neighbourhood Plan for submission to NDDC for the purposes of the referendum.** Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to the Examiner. The Examiners report had suggested a number of changes to the wording which had been incorporated into the report. The Examiner was otherwise happy with the Neighbourhood Plan and the Working Group were particularly pleased that the Examiner had supported the policy regarding the east side of Fontmell Magna and had proposed wording to strengthen this policy. The Plan had also been revised to remove all references to the footpath from the village to St. Andrew's View. The Plan would be formally approved by NDDC on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and the referendum would take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Plan had taken 3 years to produce by a team of dedicated volunteers and the Working Group were happy that it reflected the views of the majority of the Parish residents and they hoped that all of the residents would turn out to vote on the Plan. The Parish Council unanimously approved the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Humphreys then commented on the fact that the developers agent for the Mill St. site had made various comments in its response to the Examiners report suggesting that the site selection process had been biased. Indeed the Examiner had commented on these suggestions of impropriety in his report. It was agreed that Cllr. Humphreys should write to the agent on behalf of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group asking the agent to withdraw these suggestions of impropriety. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft the letter for approval by Cllr. Humphreys.

**10/09/09 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 £11,322.27. Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan accounts to date had also been circulated to the Parish Council.

**10/09/010 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 Jo Witherden invoices 0221 & 0222 in the total sum of £1230.36, Vale Garden Services invoice for £50.00, TBC Print Services invoice for Neighbourhood Plan printing costs £12.02 and the PAYE bookkeepers half yearly invoice for £36.50.

**10/09/011 Other Parish Matters**

**a. Highways** - Robin East confirmed there were six major items of work still outstanding:

- The missing white side road lines on the A350 at the pinch point by Middle Farm House.
- The missing hatching on the southbound A350 at its junction with Parsonage Street.
- The replacement direction signs at the crossroads with Mill Street.
- The outstanding work on the agreed new/replacement warning signs (pedestrians in the road etc.).
- The trimming of overgrown hedges by the village gates, speed signs etc.
- The overhanging branches to the South of the Middle Farm House barn - "mind my roof" - to provide an unobstructed view of the hazard.

Robin East confirmed he had met with Andrew Brown in June, July and August and had received confirmation that the works would be done as soon as possible. The works were still outstanding and accordingly Robin East had written to Andrew Martin, Andrew Brown's boss and had received a written response to his queries from Andrew Brown within 24 hours. It had been confirmed that the white lines would be prioritised and that these had been programmed in and that Andrew Martin was keeping an eye on this. Andrew Brown had also confirmed that the hedges would be trimmed before the end of October 2018. Robin East commented that generally DCC Highways had implemented all of the proposals within the Fontmell Magna Traffic Management Scheme and it was a shame that all people could see were the parts of that scheme that had not been finished.

With regard to the A350/C13 vehicle messaging signs promoting the voluntary one-way system were going to be installed by the roundabout in Shaftesbury, by Christy's Lane and by the roundabout in Blandford within the next 2 weeks or so which might cause some disruption. This was however only a sticking plaster but together with the mitigation measures being put into place in Melbury Abbas would hopefully make the advisory one-way system more effective.

The proposed changes at Gore Clump had been held up by issues surrounding a parcel of common ground but it was now anticipated that the changes would be implemented by late 2018.

DCC had decided not to pursue Melbury Abbas for the costs of the judicial review so these would not be met by Melbury Abbas but would be met by the tax payers in Dorset. Concern was expressed at this decision by DCC

There were two major initiatives for improving the north/south route and it was hoped that funds would be made available for an economic study to be commissioned to consider the economics of a new north/south route.

The A350 Community Group were continuing to expand and the Group were in discussions with Sturminster Marshall and Spetisbury as any improvements would affect the whole of the A350 not just the villages in North Dorset. Blandford Town Council, Bryanston and Blandford St. Mary had indicated that they would support the Group and it was hoped to get Shaftesbury Town Council on board.

The white lines north of Fontmell Magna was not going to be repainted as DCC Highways claimed that the traffic was now wearing away the tarmac that had melted and obscured the white lines.

- b. Defibrillator** – Cllr. Humphreys confirmed that the school had agreed to have the defibrillator mounted on its wall. Cllr. Humphreys was looking to organise training and the residents in Bedchester who had not been able to attend the earlier training course had asked to attend this course. There was a national database of people who were trained to use defibrillators who would be called in an emergency and Cllr. Humphreys hoped people would volunteer for this.
- c. Maintenance of Bedchester Notice Board** – Cllr. Williams confirmed that the work on the notice board would start in the next couple of weeks. The Clerk confirmed all of the posters could be removed and she would produce up to date contact lists etc to be put up once the work had been completed.
- d. New Dog Waste Bin** – The Clerk confirmed that she had finally ascertained that if the Parish Council installed a new dog waste bin then the Parish Council would have to pay for it to be installed and emptied. The Chairman confirmed he would speak to the pub to ascertain where any new bin could be located and ask if the pub were willing to contribute to the installation and emptying of the bin. Cllr. Newbury asked who emptied the bin in the millennium wood as this was over flowing and needed to be emptied. The Clerk confirmed she would try and find out from the Woodland Trust.
- e. Healthy Homes Dorset** – An email had been received from Healthy Homes who provide a service to assist Dorset residents who have cold homes and need advice on managing their heating bills. It was confirmed that Cllr. Humphreys would draft something for the noticeboards and for the Gossip Tree and the Clerk confirmed she would put something up on the website.

**10/09/012 Other Matters arising from Correspondence.**

- a. ICO renewal** – The Clerk confirmed she and Councillor Humphreys had gone through the checklist on the Information Commissioners website and had concluded that whilst in the past the Parish Council had renewed its registration it did not in fact need to be registered. The data it held was held for the purpose of providing information to the Parish residents and was not used for any other purpose. The Clerk confirmed she had emailed the ICO and confirmed that the Parish Council did not need to be registered.
- b. Grant for Maintenance of Church** – The Chairman confirmed that St. Andrew’s Church had asked for a grant of £600 towards the maintenance of the Churchyard. The Clerk confirmed that no grant had been made last year and she had not been able to ascertain what grant had been made the previous year. It was agreed to give the Church a grant of £600.

**10/09/013 Dates of Next Meeting** – The next meeting was 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**10/09/014 A.O.B.** Cllr. Lister confirmed that the Village fete was due to take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Clerk confirmed she had found an application on the Dorset for You website in relation to Brach Farm which was an agricultural application and therefore the Parish Council would not be formally consulted but she would pass this on to the Chairman to consider. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support Cranborne Chase AONB in its bid to be an International Dark Sky Reserve.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48 pm.

Date

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Chairman, Fontmell Magna Parish Council