

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at St Andrews Primary School, Fontmell Magna at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr H Horstead (Chairman), Cllrs R East, M de la Perrelle, M Humphreys, L Williams.

In attendance: 8 members of the public

Public Questions:

Air Ambulance – a general request has been made to villages to identify a site suitable for a night-time helicopter landing. Robert McCurrach and Robin East will take this forward.

08/05/01 Apologies for Absence. Cllr G Roberts, Cllr C Langham, District Councillor, Cllr G Carr-Jones, County Councillor .

08/05/02 Declarations of Interest. None.

08/05/03 Minutes of the Meeting on 13th March and the Extraordinary Meeting on 27th April 2017. These were approved without amendment. **Nem Con**

08/05/04 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings.

Bedchester Telephone Box: The appointed contractor has requested the Parish Council to find an alternative; Cllr East will pursue this and try to identify some volunteers to help with the work.

A350/C13: Consultations on the planned improvements to the A350 and C13 roads by DCC Highways have been postponed due to the General Election.

08/05/05 Vacancy on the Parish Council. No request from 10 electors has been received for an election to be held. Consequently the Parish Council will now seek people who may be willing to serve for co-option.

08/05/06 County Councillor's report. A report for April 2017 had been received and was noted. The County Councillor's report will be placed on the Parish website.

Since the local elections in May, Cllr Croney has been elected for the Hambledon Division and Cllr Graham Carr-Jones has been elected for the Beacon & Stalbridge Division.

08/05/07 District Councillor's report. A report for April 2017 was received and noted, which mentioned that a decision on the local government re-organisation in Dorset is on hold. The report will be placed on the Parish website.

08/05/08 Development Control Matters. There were no pending applications to discuss.

08/05/09 Financial Report from the RFO.

The acting RFO presented the financial reports for the year ending 31st March 2017.

The Acting RFO reported that the PC started the year with a healthy £11,380 in the bank account. The Precept for 2016/17 was set at £2050, which funded expenditure of

£1499.73. General expenditure includes insurance costs, administration and maintenance works.

The Parish Council is responsible for developing and making a Neighbourhood Plan. Costs of £6,211.30 were incurred, funded by grants from Groundworks UK and a small grant from the Village Hall. A shortfall of £184.30 was met from parish funds.

The Parish Council made grants to the Village Hall play area and the Parish Church totalling £2,000 and also spent just over £2,500 on maintenance to the War Memorial and to provide a new Village notice board by the Post Office.

The Parish Council ended the year with a bank balance of £8,901, split £3,040 in the current account and £5,361 in the deposit account. After allowing for cheques not cashed of £861 the available funds at the year-end 31st March were £8,040.

Some of the expenditure incurred included amounts of VAT which can be recovered. Post year end the Parish received a tax rebate of £474 for the financial year 2016/17.

Parish assets at year-end stood at £58,192. The change from the previous year reflected the new notice board in the village and the write-off of a very old computer held by the Clerk.

Financial regulations will be reviewed at the July 2017 meeting.

08/05/010 Approval of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18.

The draft Annual Governance Statement was reviewed question by question and approved. **Nem Con**

The Accounting Statement for 2016/17 was reviewed and approved. **Nem Con**

08/05/011 Bills Presented.

Payment of bills was approved as follows:

- Vale Garden Services £40, for grass cutting
- Came & Company £691.15, for insurance cover
- Groundwork UK £5.60, to refund VAT recovered

Quotations had been received for removal of a dead cherry tree by the War Memorial and removing dead wood from an adjacent tree. The lowest estimate of £265 was approved. A replacement tree will need to be planted. **Nem Con**

08/05/012 Changes to Standing Orders to approve Efficiency. This item will be deferred to the September meeting in order to learn from a review of Standing Orders under way in other parishes.

08/05/013 Other Parish Matters

a. Highways.

Cllr East reported that it is evident that DCC Highways are intent on delegating non-essential highway works to parishes. DCC will continue to undertake works that are safety orientated. Parishes are being encouraged to collaborate in order to achieve the most cost-effective contracts.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been issued for resurfacing work on the A350. This means the road will be closed from the Royal Chase roundabout to the north end of Fontmell Magna for the period 22-28th May from 09:00-16:30. A diversion will be signposted from the Durweston bridge with a notice explaining that the road to Fontmell Magna remains open.

Cllr East reported that meetings are being held in the coming week with DCC Highways and the A350/C13 Community Group. Also the village sign at Bedchester has been lost; a replacement is being discussed with DCC.

b. Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Humphreys reported on current activities.

An Options Consultation on Housing and Environment was held in March, with an exhibition in the Village Hall and an online presentation. Some 71 responses were received from residents.

A further Options Consultation is underway on Social Infrastructure, covering amenities, facilities, highways and transport, sewage and drainage. A focus group was held in the Village Tea Rooms and the consultation continues online until 19th May.

Drafting of the Plan document is under way. The working group are hoping to have a first draft Plan available in July but this is dependent on receiving further grant funding.

Cllr Humphreys reported that the projected cost of the project had risen to £17,600. The cost increase has arisen from the need to conduct special studies in relation to potential housing development sites, covering ecology, landscape, heritage and flood prevention. Additional support will be needed from consultants to perform these studies.

Cllr East reported that a complaint from a resident had been received in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, over the exclusion of a potential housing development site in 2016. Cllr Humphreys explained that the site owner had been contacted about the site at the time but had failed to respond.

c. Dorset Best Kept Village 2018. It was reported that John Crompton of The Fontmell pub is leading some initiatives in order to enter this competition in 2018. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Mr Crompton.

08/05/014 Other Matters arising from Correspondence. A schedule of correspondence received, planning applications and tree work applications was provided to councillors.

a. Community Defibrillator. It was noted that the cost of buying a defibrillator has reduced so should be considered further, together with other costs. This would be followed up by the new Clerk in the Autumn.

b. Items for the Gossip Tree. A report on this parish council meeting will be sufficient.

c. Melbury Abbas & Cann PC. It was noted this parish will have a speaker on finger sign posts at its meeting on 7th June.

d. Parish e-mail. A note has been received from Tony Gibb at DAPTC questioning the use by Fontmell of its current email facility. Cllr East will discuss this with Marianne Wheatley.

08/05/015 Future Meeting Dates. Meetings for the year ahead will be held as follows:

10th July 2017, at 7.30pm

11th September 2017, at 7.30pm

13th November 2017, at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27 pm.

Date

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Chairman, Fontmell Magna Parish Council