



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

FEBRUARY

2023

Issue 347

Wessex Water will be replacing a water main that is prone to bursting in Fontmell Magna with new, more modern, pipes to ensure improved water quality and a more reliable supply.

This work is due to start on Monday 27 February and be completed by Friday 31 March and I wanted to advise the parish council about the nature of the scheme and how we are informing the local community about its impact.

This work will be carried out using techniques where small excavations are made to minimise inconvenience.

Church Street will be closed to through traffic between the junction with North Street and the steps up to the pedestrian access to St Andrew's Church throughout March. Access will be maintained for residents and our team will be working with local people with regard to any specific access requirements during that time.

A compound will be sited on land to the north west of the church, off Church Close, and we will place signs advising users of a nearby footpath that the area will be being used for site access during the course of the scheme. For security reasons, we will install an alarm system at our construction compound. If the alarm goes off when the site is unoccupied, or if you have any further questions about our work, please call 0345 600 4 600 or visit wessexwater.co.uk/contact-us

Two-way traffic lights will be in place on a section of North Street for a short period during March to allow us to make a new connection to the existing water main. Advanced warning signs will be placed nearer the time to advise on the exact dates for this phase of the scheme.

Water supplies can continue to be used as normal. Should supplies be interrupted for more than one hour we will give residents' at least 48 hours' notice beforehand of when this will be.

Wessex Water

Notices – February 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February

1st 0900 Benefice Service at Iwerne Minster
8th 0930 Holy Communion
15th 0930 Sung Communion
22nd 0900 Morning Worship
29th 1000 Benefice Service at Shroton

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 21st March 2023 in the village hall at 1900.
Tea and coffee will be served from 6.20pm

Parish clerk: Sam Smith
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07710 395359

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm
Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm
Sun 9.00am - 11.00am
Enquiries: 811201

Cafe 9-4 Monday to Friday and 9-12 Saturday
garden cafe from May - October

A2 licence for home-cooked meals, all day
breakfast, jackets toasties etc

The Tea Room Crafters

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm
in the Tea Room.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk: Saturday February 18th, 10 for 10.15am, starting from car park at top of the hill on the Okeford Fitzpaine/Turnworth road - grid ref: 813094. Saxon Inn, Child Okeford, after for lunch. Leaders: Monique & John Goodliffe (01747 442970)

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Fontmell Films



Our film for Wednesday 8th February 2023 is 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris'. Based on the novella by Paul Gallico, Mrs Harris (Lesley Manville), a widowed charlady in post-war London, falls madly on love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own. It's a lovely feel-good story and the clothes are to die for.



Tickets are £6.50 in advance from Fontmell Magna Post Office or £7.00 on the door. Cash only please.

The door and bar is open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm.

For more information please call Libby Gendall on 01747 811551

We look forward to seeing you then.

The Moviola Committee

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Returns in 2023

Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or
garden.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna & District Society

1st Friday of the month, October to May from 7.30pm.
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282
Email: susanannekeen@gmail.com

Fontmell Films

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

Archive Society

3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall
4.00 to 5.30pm. Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

See page 3 for details of next meeting

Enquiries: Sue Chippington 811520
sue.chippington@outlook.com

Fontmell Magna Art Club

Meetings weekly on Tuesdays between 2-4pm.
Enquiries: Sandra Jelbart 812468

Carpet Bowls Club

Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 811814

Dru Yoga

Friday mornings at 0930 and 1100
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281
Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk

Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 1000-1100.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci
Gillett 07940 961221 stablebodies@gmail.com

Pilates with Sam Whitford— Monday mornings term-
time

*Mondays 10.30 to 11.30am. Contact Sam Whitford
07740 906515 email: s.whitford@btinternet.com*

Taekwon-do

Friday 5.30 to 6.30—suitable for adults and children
from 6 years. Enquiries:
Sam Donohoo 07388 342625 or
sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk

Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –
murchie25@btinternet.com Adults £1 per hour,
Children/Students 50p per hour

Aerobics

Thursday 1000-1100 Gentle/Low impact aerobics with
Abby
Enquiries; Abby Down 01747 850867 07901 597129
zumbawithabby@gmail.com

To book the Hall, please contact :

**Sian Highnam on 811028 or email
bookings.fmvh@mail.com**

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Saturday 17th December 2022—East Knoyle
Walk

Our Christmas walk began and ended at the
Fox and Hounds pub in East Knoyle. It was a
circular walk, to West Knoyle (6) and back,
approximately 4 miles, since we omitted the
extra mile or so, around East Knoyle (1).

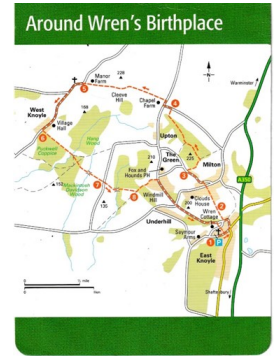
It was a lovely walk with plenty of variety –
setting off up the road from The Green and
through woods and fields, with a break at the
church in West Knoyle, where this photo was
taken.



The photo shows Clare's daughter and two
grandchildren, and her dogs, Archie and Molly. Helen
had also brought Diana's dog Smudge.

On our return, we were joined by a few extra people
for lunch at the Fox and Hounds, which everyone
seemed to enjoy.

Clare Martin



SNOWDROPS AT SPRINGHEAD



Visit our first open gardens of the
year. As well as having the chance to
wander around the formal and informal
lakeside gardens and enjoy the beautiful
drifts of snowdrops, you will also be able
to see some of the named snowdrop
varieties held at Springhead.

The gardens will be open from **Monday
6th until Sunday 12th February** from 11am to 3pm.

In addition, the gardens will be open on **Saturday 18th February** from
1 pm until 4.30 pm as part of Shaftesbury's annual snowdrop
celebrations. These times are of course weather dependent.

Light Refreshments will be available throughout the day on **Saturday
11th and Sunday 12th** provided by, and in aid of, St Andrew's Primary
School, Fontmell Magna.

Entry to the gardens will be free but donations would be appreciated.

Dogs on leads are welcome and there is assisted wheelchair access.

For more information email info@springheadtrust.org.uk or call us on
01747 811853.

The Gossip Tree would like to welcome the following people to the village:

The first people have moved into Spring Meadows. They are ; Sandy
and Rob Milne, who have moved from Manston to No 1 Old Crown
Rd. and

Sylvia Evans and Roy Latham with Wilma their dachshund who have
moved from Okeford Fitzpaine to No 5 Sutton View

Sarah Chamberlain who has moved from Ibberton to 29 Orchard
Close

Emily Burmeister and James Forward with their children Sydney aged
2 and Jasper 9 months have moved from Stour Row to to Canons
Garth, Parsonage St.

Councillor's Chronicles No.12 – Being a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council has a large presence in the Gossip Tree thanks to some very active and effective councillors. Being a councillor is voluntary but a role which can have a significant impact on the wellbeing, vibrancy and sustainability of a parish. In Fontmell Magna we are fortunate to have five friendly councillors who come from different walks of life, working together in the interests of the community and its environment. The Clerk, who is not a council member, is professionally trained and the only person involved who receives a (small) salary.



We asked councillors the question how do you view your role and what keeps you motivated?

One answer was about making a difference for the people who live in Fontmell Magna parish. "I found I could tap into the wealth of kindness and expertise in all sorts of areas". A practical example of this is the Community Emergency Response Plan which originated in recognising its importance, aided by the knowledge and commitment of members of the Village Hall Committee together with the involvement of two sterling volunteers who identified what was needed and created a plan to deliver it. Another councillor cited the need for efficient and up to date network and broadband services which prompted them to become active at council level. Most people will be aware of the significant effort that has gone into trying to make the A350 more pedestrian-friendly and pursued by the council members with gusto.

The inherent qualities of this area and the need for community preservation were reasons several councillors gave for their interest in and commitment to the parish. For those who were new to Fontmell Magna parish their involvement began with a friendly welcome and the welcome pack they received shortly after moving in, already making them feel valued by the community.

In an altogether different aspect of parish council work one councillor described how they had recently "settled in this beautiful area full of friendly people" and that becoming a member of the council enabled them to become more connected and to help care for the place we live in. For them taking part in the government funded scheme, Chalk and Chase, which aims to conserve and enhance the local Area of Outstanding Beauty that is the Cranborne Chase, was both an opportunity to learn and to meet people.

There are aspects of parish council work that require what another councillor describes as being passionate about people and relationships. "I love community and I believe community is one of the most important foundations of relationships. People will always be different from one another no matter if they live next door to each other or across the world so I believe it is important to foster the support and friendship that can be had in all sorts of different ways from people living close by. As a Parish Councillor it gives me the opportunity to get to know my community, make friends and be part of something really positive and enjoyable, striving to make a difference. Being on the Parish Council means I get to listen to others, what they want and feel and help them achieve what is good for all. It makes me very happy and it is a pleasure to be part of a network of people with so many skills and that offers so many opportunities".



Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Councillors know their contribution is often valued. As the chair said "The positive comments and feedback we receive shows that we are making a difference and help to make the time and effort of being a councillor very worthwhile."

If you feel you might like to join the parish council (we have two vacancies at present) please contact Laura on 01747 812449 for an initial chat or send a message to laurakurton.council@gmail.com. Alternatively, come along to a parish council meeting to meet us in person; a really great place and time to have a chat about getting involved and understanding what help is needed.

FONTMELL MAGNA & DISTRICT

GARDEN CLUB

The next two talks on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club Programme are;

Thursday 16th February - Companion Planting - a talk by Mike Burks from Castle Gardens, Sherborne

Thursday 16th March - UK Castle Gardens - a talk by Richard Harvey

The talks will be held at FM Village Hall at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome for a £2 charge.

Refreshments are available.

For further details, or enquiries about joining the Garden Club, (only £10 membership for the year!) please contact Sue Chippington 811520

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Dorset <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/dorset> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Dorset (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Fontmell Community Support Hubs at Fontmell Magna Village Hall

on these Wednesdays:

January: 18th & 25th

February: 8th & 22nd

March: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

April: 5th

Timings:

- 12 noon to 2pm: The Community Lunch Warm Hub
- 1.30pm to 3.30pm: Advice and Activities
- 3pm to 4.30pm: Teatime Hub with supervised activities for Children
- 12noon to 5pm: Hot drinks, cake and free wi-fi

All are welcome and it's FREE

For further information please see the Parish Council website or visit our Facebook page @villagehallfontmellmagna. Funded by Dorset Council's Culture & Community Project Grant.

The Community Lunches and Teatime Warm Hubs began on Wednesday 18th January at Fontmell Magna Village Hall. It was lovely to see some familiar faces at lunch and some newcomers too. A big thank you must go to our volunteers and cooks as everyone agreed that lunch was delicious and we have received so many compliments about how warm and welcoming our hub lunches and teas are.

We now have a regular time slot for our Citizens Advice Bureau adviser. Steve will be at the Warm Hub from 1.30 to 3.30pm and can give advice on all matters including fuel poverty issues.

So, if you've not dropped in yet for lunch, tea or a cuppa and a chat please pop these dates in your diary. We are running just 2 hubs in February on the 8th and the 22nd.

The after school food for children was popular and word is spreading. There are supervised activities for the children too.

We are also offering a takeaway service so if you know of anyone who might like a meal dropped off please call in on a warm hub day and collect a meal for them, or let us know in advance and we will arrange delivery.

We have food bank boxes at the hall, if you'd like to know how to get hold of one please either pop in at the hall on a hub day or email Sue Keen: susanannekeen@gmail.com

Finally, we do offer a collect and return service so if you don't have access to transport and need help getting to the hub please ring Sian or Lisa and we will arrange for one of our drivers to pick you up.

More details and contact information on the Parish Council website: http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Fontmell_Community_Support_Hub_44073.aspx or call Lisa on 07962 138 039 or Siân on 07774 647 060

St Andrew's Church invites you to

Breakfast@9

Sunday 5th Feb at 9.00

in Fontmell Village Hall, to say a special

THANKYOU & FAREWELL to

Rosie & Barry Roberts

Everyone is invited to come along & enjoy

Bacon paninis

Hot blueberry pancakes

toast & spreads

cereals

croissants

fresh fruit and juice

coffee & tea – all you can drink

while having a chat in good company

Followed by a

'Thought for the Day' from Revd. David John

No previous church experience necessary!

There is no charge but donations towards costs are appreciated
Children must be accompanied by adults

RIDE AND STRIDE 2022—ST ANDREWS

It is with grateful thanks that as the Parish Organiser I can record with the help of over 150 parishioners and friends far and wide that we raised a marvellous sum of over £2200 + gift aid for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust of which 50% comes back to us to assist in maintaining the fabric of our fine Church.

That level of support raised us from the Bronze medal position in 2021 to a marvellous Silver medal out of 160 churches through out of county of Dorset.

The R&S was completed by three of us namely Barry Roberts our soon to be departing ex Church Warden, his noble successor Robert Wellen and myself, David of Bedchester. With our stalwart Barry of a decade leaving for eastern climes we will need some help this coming September. Please contact at your leisure to join in the effort.

Thanks to all you opened the church and offered sustenance to others who visited our Church on the day. Special thank you to Gerry Bone, our former Parish Organiser for his gathering funds from neighbours and his bowling chums.

Many thanks to all,

David Fangen

01747 811176

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 17th January 2023 in the Village Hall

Full meeting minutes and associated papers are available on the Parish Council website:

http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Meetings_Minutes_and_Agendas_29213.aspx

Present: Cllrs Andrew Davis (Chair AD) Michael Humphreys (MH) Christine Scott (CS) Andy Main (AM) & Laura Kurton (LK) plus Sam Smith (Clerk), Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and 19 members of the public.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting on a very cold evening.

Public Questions: The Chairman of Melbury Abbas PC David Webber attended the meeting. MAPC are seeking to introduce a 40mph speed limit by Guys Marsh Prison and through Kit Hill. David requested FMPC support as part of the road runs through our parish. It was agreed in principle, and it was suggested that a site visit would be helpful with Cllr Somper & the MA Chairman in attendance.

A resident of West Lea in The Knapp spoke of how the road was currently covered in black ice and they stated the need for a grit bin. Andrew will discuss with Dorset Highways.

Apologies for Absence: All present.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the Meetings held on the 6th December 2022: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising from the December 2022 Minutes: Nothing to note

Report from The Clerk:

a. Issues actioned since the last meeting All items on the agenda.

b. Finance update - the current balance in the PC bank account is **£3,036.43** and the PC savings account **£4,802.71**

c. Resolve to pay bills presented

The invoices paid since the last meeting are as follows:

Landworks - £50.00 War Memorial tidy

Clerks' wages Jan 2023 plus expenses - £541.21

Morelock Signs SID Devise - £3,048.00

J Gilbert, hedge cutting - £215.00

d. Precept for FY 2023/24 - A precept planning document had been circulated to all PC Cllrs prior to meeting. Council Tax payments from the new residents at Spring Meadows will not be counted towards Fontmell Magna's precept until Financial Year 2024/25. The Precept will need to be raised from the 2022/23 amount due to inflation and increased costs. A Precept of **£11,848.19** for 2023/24 was proposed. An increase on the current year of **£1,079.19**. This will equate to a band D property paying an increase of **£2.36** per property per year. All Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to go ahead and request this amount from Dorset Council (DC).

Report from Dorset Councillor:

Jane Somper's written report will be available on the PC website shortly. Jane highlighted the following points:

Council tax flexibility - the government is giving local authorities in England additional flexibility in setting council tax by increasing the referendum limit for increases in council tax by up to 3% per year from April 2023. In addition, local authorities with social care responsibilities will be able to increase the adult social care precept by up to 2% per year. The plans for adult social care reform – with a lifetime cap on social care costs – are now delayed for two years. A further £1bn nationally was pledged as grant funding for social care next year, with £1.7bn the following year.

Highways - Cllr Somper encouraged all residents to use the Highways online reporting system via the Dorset Council website for all highway issues eg: pot holes, fallen trees, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, etc.

Reports from the Parish Councillors

Planning:

a. Planning Applications

Since the last meeting in December, the PC has received 6 applications:

P/PABA/2022/07871 Bedchester and Hurdles Farm, Common Lane, Fontmell Magna. Erect agricultural storage building, form hard-standing and access track. This was not a planning application but to determine if prior approval is required.

Neighbouring residents have agreed with the applicant to move the barn 5m to the north. With this condition the PC is supporting this application.

Planning: a. Planning Applications (cont)

P/FUL/2022/07195 Land known as Margaret's Yard, South Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PD Erect single dwelling (demolish existing storage building)

Based on the submission documents the PC is objecting to this application as it conflicts with two policies in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- FM7 Conservation Area – a 2/3 storey house with a high roof line is not in keeping with the general character of houses within the conservation area and the surrounding properties which are 1.5 storey.

- FM16 Housing Types – this policy states that new open market housing should predominately be of 1, 2 and some 3-bed properties. The proposed 5-bed dwelling does not contribute to the need for smaller units within the Conservation Area. The PC met with the applicant who understood our concerns and undertook to review the design with the architect.

P/HOU/2023/00080 Mulberry, West Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PF Erection of greenhouse, summer room, shed and flue for wood burner. The PC supports this application.

P/TRC/2022/08068 Lynchets, Mill Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NU Various tree works. The PC supports this application.

P/FUL/2022/07693 Home Mead Cottage, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NS Erect no.1 new dwelling. This application is currently being assessed by the NP Monitoring Group (NPMG).

P/FUL/2022/07053 Home Mead Cottage, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0NS Retention of change of use from agricultural to a flexible commercial use to operate a small holiday camping park & siting of 4 x shepherd huts. An application for this development was made in November 2020, opposed by the PC and refused by Dorset Council. The Parish Council will object to this new application as it conflicts with 4 policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, and in particular policy FM10 concerning safe pedestrian access to village facilities.

Two founder members of the NPMG have stood down – Barry Roberts as Chairman and Robert McCurrach as Secretary. Mike has agreed to take on the Secretary role on a temporary basis until new recruits have been found.

Barry and Rosie Roberts will soon be moving away from Fontmell and they will be sorely missed. The PC is particularly grateful to Barry who served as a key member of the project team that produced the Neighbourhood Plan over 2015-18. Alongside this work Barry researched and wrote the Conservation Area Appraisal, because whilst Fontmell has held the status of a Conservation Area since May 1977 there was no document to substantiate why: so Barry wrote one. It's a very good read, available on the parish website, and brilliantly explains what makes Fontmell Magna a special place. Since 2018 when the Neighbourhood Plan became part of the Dorset Local Plan, Barry has worked tirelessly as a member of the NP Monitoring Group to ensure planning applications adhere to its policies and in that way to keep Fontmell a special place to live.

b. NP Review Group Start-up activities for the project will be getting under way shortly, including an inaugural meeting of the Review Group, arranged for 24th January 2023; appointment of a Chair and Secretary for the project; application for an initial grant; handover of relevant documents; arranging a communications event and scoping meeting for residents.

The Review Group is still looking for new members, please contact the Clerk if you feel you can help. The process will take 12/18 months; most of the expense will be covered by Government grants.

c. Section 106 grant money A total of £360,000 is to be paid directly to Dorset Council from the developer of Spring Meadows. A third of this money will go to educational needs. The first home was occupied in Spring Meadows on 20th December 2022 which triggered payment of 50% of the S106 Levy monies to Dorset Council. The remaining 50% is payable before the 12th house is occupied. DC has confirmed it will not release any funds until 100% of the payments have been received from Pennyfarthing Homes.

d. Site 22 Blandford Farm -no update and no contact from developers.

Communications: Laura gave a short presentation with the slide projector.

a. Parish Website for All - A move towards a village Facebook page is proposed that could be used by all partners. A new website is being considered to be shared by the Parish Council and other community groups with the costs shared. Laura is talking to website providers to ascertain costs for developing the new site, and how it will be updated and supported. Providing costs are in line with the 2023/24 budget, the plans will be shared with the relevant parties involved and if everyone is in support then put into action.

b. Community Transport - Laura is looking into ideas and schemes.

Laura will connect other PCs and groups that have implemented a similar transport service. Through the development of the emergency response plan we have collated a list of people who could offer transport assistance in the event of an emergency. Our efforts continue to identify who may be in need of a more 'regular/everyday' service and how we may be able to implement such a service within Fontmell. There is much more work and research that needs to be done here before we can launch anything without any flaws.

c. Community Support Hub - The Community Support Hub has been organised and launched by members of Village Hall Committee and the Church Committee. It aims to provide support, advice and a warm place to eat, drink and chat with friends and neighbours. It is available for absolutely everyone, no matter their situation, and although the Parish Council are unable to offer financial support to this amazing project it is something very much supported by the councillors as residents. Dates are: 18th and 25th January; 8th and 22nd February; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March; 5th April 2023; open 12-5pm. The Chairman acknowledged and thanked Lisa Le Druillene for all her hard work within the community.

Highways:

a. Speed Indicator Device (SID) - A SID unit has been ordered and is waiting for Highways to complete the installation of the posts at the three sites.

b. 20mph Speed Limit - The PC has submitted an application to DC in for a 20mph speed limit through the village and along the A350. The application is being reviewed by Dorset Highways and has advised that we are unlikely to hear anything before the end of March 2023.

DC requested further evidence of near-misses and accidents and thanks to the Community Speed Watch team members, we were able to do this; 9 separate incidents have been recorded over a two-three year period. If you do have a near-miss or minor accident on any parish road, please let Peter Mole or Andrew know so we can log it on the Highway's web site.

c. Community Speed Watch - Peter Mole reported that a recent CSW session on the A350 showed an increase in speeding. The road layout has been widened between Sutton Waldron and Fontmell to facilitate access to the new Spring Meadows development. This has resulted in noticeably higher speeds and a worrying reduction in visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. The CSW team have reported a 30% increase in vehicles travelling at 35-mph or more, within the 30mph zone in South Street. We have made this new safety concern known to Dorset Highways.

Environmental Protection:

a. Defibrillator - The feasibility of a second defibrillator for the village was discussed, maybe sited in the telephone box at the shop? The cost would be approx £1,500 for 4 years; funding would need to be found. The idea was discussed with the residents present. It was thought that a refresh of First Aid/CPR training might be more beneficial at the present time. Christine will research First Aid training.

b. Plan for Litter Pick – A successful village litter pick took place in November 2022. A Spring pick is being planned, Christine will arrange a date in March 2023.

Social Infrastructure:

a. FMCLT & Village Shop Update – The repairs and improvements to the building are nearing completion.

b. Fontmell Pub - The pub is currently closed and the pub business is in liquidation. It was agreed by all PC Cllrs to submit an application to DC to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value. There's a need to establish the level of support and interest of residents within the Parish to continue to have a pub to serve the community, which could be measured through a survey and/or community 'future of the pub' meeting. Laura to look into an online survey for residents to complete.

c. Doctors Surgery - The Blackmore Vale Partnership cannot recruit the staff needed to re-open the surgery. They have suggested that it could be used for other services as the surgery cannot be sold due to covenants on the building. The PC has been invited to make suggestions as to how the surgery could be used for the benefit of the community. The Village Hall Committee, the PC Cllrs and Cllr Somper are due to meet the surgery Practice Manager in February to discuss the matter further.

d. Village Hall Deed Swap - Solicitors have been appointed. The documents need to be collated first to minimise our legal costs. Andrew will meet with Dick Stainer to arrange this.

Community Reach:

a. Emergency response Plan - A booklet has been produced with help from the Village Hall Committee and has been circulated to all residents. An electronic copy can be obtained from the PC website.

A meeting is in the process of being organised with Elle Wilson who will be coordinating an emergency response test plan. This will take us to the final stage of completing the plan. DC have commended our emergency plan and acknowledged the amount of work put into it.

It was agreed that emergency coverage would be put in place again for the ambulance strike at the end of January 2023.

b. Mobile Coverage - Further contact has been made with EE about how the mobile network coverage in Fontmell Village centre could be improved but with no progress to date.

Footpaths:

With regards to the planning application for a new build property on Margaret's Yard, next to Home Farm and adjacent to footpath N63/6 from West Street to the A350, a potential condition could be applied widening of the existing footpath: a 'fenced in' footpath must be at least 2.5 meters wide. As this footpath separates the Margaret's Yard site and the Penny Farthing development, it might be that both should contribute a small strip to enable the path to be widened; Mike to approach Pennyfarthing Homes.

As yet there's no progress with replacement dog waste bins at Middle Mill, and behind the school on footpath N63/7. Nothing new to report on the Council's plea to re-establish access to the track between footpath N63/11 and West Street at Marshmoor Lodge – the track's owner is apparently still in dispute with some of the users.

The style has still not been replaced at the junction of footpath N63/9 and Mill Street. Residents stated that this style is needed as it prevents dogs off the lead running on to the road.

Governance:

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council for Councillors.

There are several opportunities for new people to come forward to help with Parish Council activities:

- someone to lead on Environmental Protection matters for the parish council;
- someone to lead on Community Reach matters for the parish council;
- someone to lead on Planning matters for the parish council, as Mike is stepping down in May;
- Emergency Response activities – those who can offer their skills in the event of an emergency/crisis;
- joining the project team for the Neighbourhood Plan review;
- joining the Neighbourhood Plan monitoring group, looking at planning applications.

Any help would be most welcome; please contact Laura on 01747 812449 for further information.

Matters arising from Councillors:

Coronation celebrations in May 2023, to be discussed at next PC meeting in March 2023.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **21st March 2023** at the Village Hall. Commencing at 6.20pm for tea / coffee and the formal meeting starting at 7.00pm.

Shroton Oil Scheme

There's never been a better time to benefit from group savings and hopefully save some money at the same time. The scheme is open to people from villages in the area and could potentially save you money through group buying.

Same litre rate for any domestic order between 500 and 2300 litres, and we place an order every month leaving you to choose when and how much.

Call or email Mike Scott for more information - 07815 617937

shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

Compost Corner

It's time to prune your roses but do so with extreme care, and I don't mean how professionally you snip away and how impressive the end result, but keeping yourself safe. An acquaintance of mine recently did a bit of rose pruning without wearing protective gloves, inevitability a thorn bedded itself into his hand and before long his hand was extremely painful. It started to swell up alarmingly, the infection started tracking up his arm and he felt very unwell; antibiotics were prescribed but didn't help. Eventually, he was sent to A & E where he was admitted immediately and put on an antibiotic drip. A week later, he is much better, but all that misery could have been avoided if for those few brief moments, he'd just protected his hands. I know Monty Don doesn't bother with gloves nor many other tv celebrity gardeners but I think common sense should prevail - wear gloves, get to work on those roses and stay out of hospital!

Alison Main



Village weather for December 2022

Very cold and mainly dry for the first half of the month followed by wet, windy and mild weather from 18th December.

13 rain days, 1 gale 21 ground frost, 14 air frost, no hail or thunder

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 26.3mm on 20th)	131.3mm	88.9mm
Sunshine	37.0 hours Avg 1.2	Avg 0.9 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 13.2C on 20th)	7.5°C	10.2°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -8.4°C on 16th)	0.3°C	4.4°C

This February issue of The Gossip Tree was edited by: **Graham Eames.**

We apologise in advance if we have made any errors or omissions

Please would regular contributors for the March issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: ***blueletterbox@btinternet.com*** for further information.

Submissions for the March issue by Friday 17th February please.

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.

*If you would always like to receive The Gossip Tree by email, please let us know at ***fmgossiptree@gmail.com****