

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the AGM and Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27th May 2021 at 6.00pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Humphreys (Chair), J Long (Vice Chair), A Newbury, A Main & C Scott.

In attendance: S Smith (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

AGM

27/05/01 Welcome & Apologies: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, unfortunately Jane Somper our Dorset Councillor was not able to attend.

27/05/02 Election of a Chairman 2021-2022: Cllr Humphreys was nominated by Cllr Long and that nomination was seconded by Cllr Newbury. Cllr Humphreys having confirmed he was willing to act as the Chair and there being no other nominations, he was duly elected for 2021/22. Cllr Humphreys stated that this would be his last year on the Parish Council as he would be stepping down in May 2022.

27/05/03 Election of a Vice-Chairman 2021-2022: Cllr Newbury nominated Cllr Long, and this nomination was seconded by Cllr Humphreys. There being no other nominations Cllr Long was duly elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2021/22.

27/05/04 Appointment Councillor responsibilities for 2021-2022: The Chair confirmed that as there are currently only 5 Councillors on the PC duties need to be shared. It was agreed that the following Councillors would have the following responsibilities:

Planning - planning applications, Neighbourhood Plan, Planning Working Group, planning regulations. **Cllr Humphreys**

Trees - applications for tree works, encouraging tree planting. **Cllr Long**

Highways - road maintenance, signage and potholes, traffic management, Speed Watch, strategic planning, A350CG. **Cllr Long**

Environmental Protection - flood protection, grit/salt bins, verges, litter and fly tipping, grass cutting, grounds and hedgerow maintenance, dog fouling, encouraging tree planting, Best Kept Village. **Cllr. Newbury**

Social Infrastructure - maintenance of parish council assets, Home Watch, defibrillators, broadband and mobile coverage, recreation, allotments, Village Hall liaison. **Cllr Scott (currently assisted by Cllr Newbury)**

District Liaison - Police, health & medical services (e.g., Patient Partnership Group, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, Shaftesbury Hospital), DAPTC, Dorset Unitary Council, neighbouring Parish Councils, Compton Abbas airfield. **Cllr Humphreys**

Footpaths and Rights of Way - **Cllr Main**

Governance - procedures, new councillor recruitment and induction, councillor training, Annual Parish Report, risk management, contingency planning. **Cllr Humphreys**

Parish Communications – **vacant**

The Parish Council is still actively seeking to recruit 2 more Cllrs.

27/05/05 Finance – Approval of the PC Annual Return 2020-2021: The PC accounts have been approved by the internal auditor. The paperwork will be uploaded on to the PC website for residents to view. The year started with a balance of **£7,702.05** in the bank and finished on the 31st of March 2021 with a balance of **£7,073.64**. Income in 2020/21 was **£9,209.63** and expenditure for the same year was **£9,838.04**. Spending finished close to the predicted budget. The slight over spend was due to the recruitment of a replacement Clerk and a staff laptop was purchased. All Cllrs agreed to signing the 2020/21 Annual Return. The required period of inspection will start on the 14th of June 2021. The following pages of the Annual Return were signed by Cllr Humphreys and the Clerk -

- Annual Governance Statement 2020/21
- Accounting Statements 2020/21
- Certificate of Exemption 2020/21

27/05/06 Fontmell Magna PC Risk Assessment: Cllr Humphreys had produced a PC Risk Assessment. It was agreed by all Cllrs to adopt this policy.

END

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

27/05/07 Declarations of Interest: None

27/05/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th of March 2021: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

27/05/09 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting 8th May 2021:

Speed Indicator Device A350 - A resident's suggestion to install a variable speed indicator (SID) along the A350 through the village has been researched. Highways has advised that the benefit would be marginal in reducing average traffic speeds and at over £3000 plus running costs, the overall cost is prohibitive for the PC. Members of the public raised the issue again at this meeting and the PC agreed to 'park' the issue as something that would be kept under review.

The hedge on Lurmer Street - this was eventually trimmed by a private contractor, arranged by Cllr Long and replacement trees have been planted.

27/05/10 Reports from the Parish Councillors:

a) Planning – Cllr Humphreys confirmed that there had been 5 new applications since the last PC meeting, and these had been assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website. The PC had no objection to 4 applications: Glevum House, Land at Penn Hill, 38 South Street and Bedchester House. The PC objected to 1 application: Land at Gupples Farm. The application for 54 West Street went to the Planning Committee on the 23rd of March 2021 and was approved by Dorset Council.

Cllr Humphreys gave an update on the proposed large development of 30 houses near Home Farm, South Street. The developer, Pennyfarthing Homes, is continuing its discussions with the Dorset planners with regards to ecology mitigation and the infrastructure levy S106. The Developers have agreed with Dorset Council the basic components of the S106 levy. They have also made an agreement on the Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement plan. There is also a query with regards to ownership of the proposed school drop off area. Pennyfarthing Homes has asked the PC to adopt the school drop area which includes 19 parking spaces. The PC is reluctant to do this as it will

then be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the drop off area. An agreed sum of money would be passed to the PC in return for adopting the drop off area.

The school is not interested in adopting the area either. The other outstanding issue is the adoption of the open grass spaces within the development. Again, a monetary sum will be paid for adopting the open spaces. It has been confirmed that some money to replace the current village play park has been set aside, but the actual amount is not yet known. It is not clear when planning permission will be given for the site and building work to start.

The Draft Dorset Council Local Plan states that the quoter for new housing in Fontmell Magna is 62 units over the next 15yrs; a further draft of the Local Plan is expected in the summer. The Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in November 2018 and it may need updating soon. Dorset Council does not currently maintain a 5-year housing stock, and so the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be updated every 2 years to keep it current. Due to the development of the new Dorset Local Plan and the Government's proposed reforms to the planning system, a review of the Neighbourhood plan has been put on hold.

b) Highways - The road defects along West Street have been marked out for repair, but it is not known when the work will take place. Gupples Lane is being reviewed by Highways as it is in an extremely poor state. It is due to be resurfaced and an engineer has visited and surveyed the road; hopefully, work will start this year. The side-road entrances at Gore Clump are scheduled to be re designed and re-worked with better splays and views of the oncoming traffic. Recently there was an accident outside the FM village pub. It was thought that the lack of markings on the road from Mill Street contributed to this. DC Highways are reviewing the markings.

c) Environmental Protection – Cllr Newbury reported that the Defibrillator monthly returns are completed. The 'Clean it Up' (dog waste) signs have been erected along Penn Hill but some dog signs at The Gossip Tree have oddly been removed and have been found on the floor, the cable ties have been cut. Cllr Newbury will put the signs back up. The 'Cut less, Cut later' campaign has been featured in an article in The Gossip Tree. Some signage is needed for the verges but as these are expensive Cllr Newby has decided to design her own. The annual litter picking has been on hold, Autumn was put forward as an ideal time to re start this. Prince Charles is promoting an incentive to plant a tree for the Jubilee, the PC would like to support this and take part, maybe a new tree at the Village Hall site? Cllr Scott mentioned erecting a bench at the Village Hall for walkers, it was stated that this may cause a problem with blocking the pathway.

d) Social Infrastructure - For the future Cllr Scott has volunteered to take on the Village Hall liaison role from Cllr Newbury. A new initiative the 'Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership' has been set up by the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Office. They are currently running several campaigns including protecting the dark skies in Dorset. A thank you was made to the village shop for all their work over the Pandemic and a request was made to keep supporting them and the Tea Room despite lockdown coming to an end.

e) Footpaths – Cllr Main reported that a local unofficial footpath that runs from Fontmell Magna to Sutton Waldron has been closed by the landowner and the land is up for sale. This footpath has been used for 30 years and making an application to have it re-opened was discussed. The footpath needs to have a history of constant use to make an application viable. A plea has been made to the current owners (through the land agent) to re-open the path, but this has been unsuccessful. With the path closed walkers carry on the route to a private drive over a stile currently not suitable for dogs. It was stated that Rights of Way do not need to include stiles for dogs. The owners have erected a no trespass sign. Cllr Main agreed speak to Graham Stanley, Dorset Countryside Ranger, for further clarification on the matter. The PC passed a motion unanimously stating that they

would like to see this footpath reinstated and support an action going forward to try and get the path re opened.

27/05/11 Finance - cheques to be signed: payments were agreed as follows –

- S Smith **£386.90** (Clerk's wages & expenses May)
- DAPTC **£259.14** (annual membership)
- Vale Gardens **£25.00** (war memorial tidy)
- Came & Company **£611.08** (PC annual insurance)
- S Smith **£14.39** (May Zoom subs)
- FM Village Hall **485.00** (play park grant annual grant)

The 1st instalment of the annual Precept has been received - **£4,875.00**.

It was agreed to cancel the current PC Zoom subscription.

The invoices paid since the last meeting were set out in the Schedule, as follows –

- PCC (Church) **£400.00** (annual graveyard grant)
- DAPTC **£35.00** (new Cllr training Cllr Scott)
- Hawes Arborists **£954.00** (tree work on A350 by Fontmell pub)
- S Smith **£430.00** (Clerks wages & expenses March)
- Vision ICT **£156.00** (Website hosting 2021/22)
- Vale Gardens **£25.00** (war memorial tidy)
- S Smith **£384.72** (Clerks wages & expenses April)

27/05/12 Correspondence: All listed on the schedule.

27/05/13 AOB: Nothing raised.

Date of Next Meeting: The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.00pm.

END

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**27/05/14 Reports from Parish Clubs, Societies, Committees, Groups etc:
The reports were read out in the following order –**

- Village Hall
- Friendship Garden
- The Gossip Tree
- Speed Watch
- PCC The Church
- Community Land Trust

All the above reports are available to view on the PC website.

27/05/15 Public Open Forum: A member of the public thanked the PC for all its hard work over the past year.

27/05/16 Parish Council Annual Report: the report is available on the PC website for viewing.

27/05/17 Report from Dorset Councillor: the report is available on the PC website for viewing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm