

# **Fontmell Magna Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 7pm, in the Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs M Humphreys (Chair), J Long (Vice Chair), A Newbury, C Scott, L Kurton and A Davis.

**In Attendance:** S Smith (Clerk) Jane Somper (part) and 10 members of the public.

**Public Questions:** No issues raised.

**22/09/01 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr A Main sent his apologies in advance of the meeting.

**22/09/02 Declarations of Interest:** None

**22/09/03 Co option of Councillors & Assigning of their Roles:** All Cllrs agreed to co-opt Laura Kurton (Bedchester) & Andrew Davis (Parsonage Street) on to the Parish Council, both introduced themselves with a small presentation to residents. Laura has agreed to take on the role of Parish Council communications. She has already started posting information on 'Next Door'. In the future she hopes to start up a FM village/PC Facebook page. Laura will also be co ordinating the village contacts mailing list, sending out information that residents might find interesting/useful. Laura expressed a desire to see more social events for the community and offered to help organise these. Andrew will take on a planning role, initially assisting Mike with a view to taking over the lead in the future.

**22/09/04 Minutes of the Meetings held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

### **22/09/05 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

**a. Frequency of PC Meetings:** The PC now has a full complement of councillors; therefore, it was agreed to move the meetings back to bimonthly. These will be held in January, March, May (AGM & Annual Parish Meeting), July, September and November.

**b. Neighbourhood Plan update:** A revised draft copy of the Dorset Council Local Plan will be published and circulated in the New Year. The initial consultation received a very large number of responses, c. 60,000. It is still planned to publish the final DLP in 2023. Central Government had been proposing a radicle review of the current planning system, but this has now been shelved for the short term. An update of our own Neighbourhood Plan has been put on on hold until we have further information on the DLP and the Government's plan for future housing, etc. The update will probably need to commence in 2022 and volunteers from the community will be needed to help with this. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be updated every 2 years to keep it current.

**22/09/06 Report from Dorset Councillor:** Cllr Somper sent a report in advance by email to Cllrs. There is currently a consultation taking place with regards to 'Dorset Rights of Way' and Cllr Main has been asked to respond to this. The PC has not received any further news with regards to the proposed dualling of the A350. Cllr Somper explained that this was a national process that could take years to come to fruition. A recently issued Traffic Order detailing the closure of the road to Ashmore and Fontmell Hill was incorrectly

dated. Wessex Water are currently being consulted for the correct dates and concerns with access will need to be addressed. The Traffic Order will be re issued soon.

### **22/09/07 Reports from the Parish Councillors:**

**a. Planning** – Cllr Humphreys gave an update on the proposed large development of 30 houses near Home Farm, South Street - Pennyfarthing Homes. Cllr Humphreys has written twice to the DC Planning Officer for a progress report but has received no reply to date. Since the last PC meeting a Biodiversity Report of the site has been completed and approved by Dorset Council Natural Environment. Cllr Somper stated that there had been a recent change of Planning Officer and the replacement was currently preparing a written report, estimated to be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Cllr Humphreys raised the issue of the Section 106 being finalized and questioned the distribution of the monies. The PC will need to speak to the Planning Officer for clarification on this matter.

Cllr Humphreys reported that there had been 9 new applications since the last PC meeting in May, 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 8 applications.

The PC objected to 1 application: Grove Farm, Hannah's Hill P/HOU/2021/02429. This is for a connecting extension from the main building to a current outbuilding. The extension will be clad in cedar. This was not thought to be in keeping with the setting and not compliant with policy 9 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Chelwood House – the property is apparently being used as a base for commercial car trading; DC Enforcement are currently investigating the matter and we will need to await their findings.

Village Hall - The Village Hall is planning to install a small shipping container (10ft) long to store equipment such as gazebos and tables. It would be placed on the west side and clad in wood. Dorset Council has been approached to clarify if planning permission is needed.

**b. Highways** - Recently there have been two car accidents outside the FM village pub. It was thought that the lack of markings on the road (not speed) of cars from Mill Street contributed to this. DC Highways are reviewing the markings to see what can be done.

A number of parish roads have recently been re-dressed.

The wall opposite Parsonage Street at the house Westlea has been hit again by a lorry and badly damaged, the owner of house is understandably not happy. The problem is the width of the road when two trucks meet on the bend, there is insufficient room to pass. There is an idea to have raised kerbs installed but the road is too narrow to install these. Traffic lights have been suggested in the past, but this would be expensive so has been dismissed. The current one-way system for lorries is a voluntary system, an information sign flashes at Shaftesbury Tesco stating directions. For various reasons this is often ignored by lorry drivers. The PC has investigated the possible purchase of a Speed Indicator Device for the A350, but first indications are that the associated costs would be prohibitive. Peter Mole, the Speedwatch co-ordinator has sent letter to the PC requesting the funds to allow an initial road survey to take place at a cost of approx £300. This survey would clarify whether a SID is suitable and where it would be located. It was agreed that a survey should take place, but this should not be taken as an agreement to the purchasing of a SID.

**c. Environmental Protection** – Cllr Newbury reported that the defibrillator monthly returns are completed. The acquisition of an additional village dog waste bin at the top of Fontmell Hill is in progress; a schedule for emptying needs to be arranged. The dog waste bin at the Mill Stream is overflowing, this has been reported numerous times to Dorset Waste Partnership by the Clerk and residents.

**d. Social Infrastructure** – the Village Hall is up and running again with a full calendar of events, etc. The Village Hall Committee recently received some extra Covid 'bounce back' funding from the Government. 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 on their website. The local Village walks have been uploaded on to the site.

Village Shop update: Robert McCurrach reported that over £200,000 has been raised by the FMCLT through donations from residents. The group has also applied for a grant from the Government's Community Ownership Fund. Our MP Simon Hoare is supporting this, and the group are waiting to see if their bid is successful. There will be another public meeting soon to update parish residents.

**e. District Liaison** – DAPTC is currently running Code of Conduct training; the Clerk will re-issue the dates to Cllrs to allow those who have yet to attend to book a place.

**f. Footpaths** – No report as Cllr Main was absent from the meeting.

**g. Governance** – The 'Register of Interest' forms for councillors are going digital. The Clerk will circulate the link to Cllrs as soon as it goes live. The digital forms will then be added to the PC website. Cllr Humphreys suggested that our two new Cllrs might like to take the DAPTC's new Councillor's training course.

### **22/09/08 Finance:**

**a. Report from RFO:** The current balance in the PC bank account is **£7,865.67**. So far, spending is in line with our 2022/23 budget. Money was set aside in the current budget to update the Neighbourhood Plan, which will now be deferred to 2022/23. Approx £300 will be used to cover the agreed SID survey; VAT can be claimed back on this expense.

**b. Cheques to be signed:** payments were agreed as follows:

S Smith **£394.82** (Clerk's wages & expenses Sept)

DAPTC **£30.00** (Code of Conduct training)

PCC (Church) **£400.00** (annual graveyard grant)

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

S Smith **£371.60** (Clerks wages & expenses June)

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S Smith **£371.60** (Clerks wages August)

Vale Gardens **£25.00** (inv 2186 War Memorial tidy)

DM Payroll Services Ltd **£44.50** (PAYE Clerk)

Village Hall **£9.00** (hire July)

Vale Gardens **£50.00** (inv 2174 War Memorial tidy)

Vale Gardens **£50.00** (inv 2166 War Memorial tidy)

Village Hall **£18.00** (hire May)

**c. Precept Plan 2022/23:** The precept request for 2022/23 needs to be submitted to Dorset Council in January 2022. The 2022/233 Precept/Budget is to be discussed further at our November meeting, but in the meantime the Chairman asked Cllrs to start thinking of proposed items of expenditure for 2022/23.

**22/09/09 Correspondence:** All listed on the schedule.

**22/09/10 AOB:** Regrettably, Cllr Newbury has decided to resign from the PC due to other personal commitments; the next PC meeting will be her last.

Some of our village roads signs have become covered by overgrowth; it is the responsibility of the landowner to trim this back. This is particularly a problem along the lane to Bedchester. It was agreed that Cllr Newbury might be able to trim some of the overgrowth back herself.

**22/09/11 Date of Next Meeting:** The next PC meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at the Village Hall. The Clerk will invite a guest speaker from the Police to the meeting to speak on Fraud Protection; an earlier start time will be advised if needed.