

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Humphreys (Chair MH) A Main (AM) L Kurton (LK) C Scott (CS) & A Davis (AD).
In Attendance: S Smith (Clerk) and 15 members of the public.

Public Questions: Dick Stainer raised the issue of improving pedestrian safety along West Street. He suggested painting a white line along the side of the road to mark a walking path, linking the footpath alongside Timbers with the Village Hall. Cllr AD to raise this with Highways. It was also suggested that money received from the new development might be able to fund projects such as this. Dick also advised that a commemorative bench will be purchased in memory of Gary Payne who passed away recently; it was suggested that this would be funded by resident donations. Barry Roberts asked if the timings of the external light outside the Village Hall could be adjusted at night, he was advised that the lighting system was in the process of being upgraded so the issue should be resolved soon.

19/01/01 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Jane Somper sent her apologies in advance of the meeting.

19/01/02 Declarations of Interest: None. The Clerk will forward by email the ROI link to Cllr CS so that she can complete her form online.

19/01/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th of November 2021: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

19/01/04 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 17th November 2021:

a. Dog Waste Bin – Cllr AM reported that the bin (purchased by the PC) is ready to be installed at the entrance to the Gallops on Fontmell Hill. The Clerk will sign the required paperwork and submit this to Dorset Waste. The bin will initially be emptied on a two-month cycle, the charge for the collection of the waste will be paid from PC funds.

b. St Andrews View Footpath – A resident had raised with JS the difficulty of navigating the footpath for disabled people. The path is not an official footpath and is therefore outside the remit of the Parish Council.

19/11/05 Report from Dorset Councillor:

Jane Somper could not attend the meeting but provided a full report which is available on the PC website.

19/01/06 Reports from the Parish Councillors:

a. Planning – Pennyfarthing Homes Development, South Street, Fontmell Magna

Planning permission has now been granted by Dorset Council for the construction of 30 homes, including 12 affordable homes, on land at Home Farm South Street. The development by Pennyfarthing Homes, based in New Milton, will be marketed under the name “Spring Meadows.” Construction work is expected to start in late February and to last for about one year. The development will include a ‘School Drop-Off Area’ for parents to use when taking and collecting their children to school and a turning space for the school bus. This is designed to relieve the traffic congestion in West Street at school drop-off and pick-up times. A page on the Parish Council website will hold documents relating to the Spring Meadow development for residents to access http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Spring_Meadows_Development_41017.aspx.

The housing development will come with significant financial contributions to the parish, for improvements or upgrades to facilities, amenities and infrastructure around the village including the village hall, children’s’ play area and footpaths. A summary of all the contributions is available on the parish webpage. The PC approved setting up a working group, reporting to the PC, to tackle the issues that arise from the development that affect the parish community. The first of these is to suggest some names for the roads in Spring Meadows; a survey of resident’s views is under way.

If you are interested in participating in the working group, please contact the Clerk via clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk.

Planning Applications – Cllr MH confirmed that there had been 5 new applications since the last PC meeting which were assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website. The applications are - **3 Shaftesbury View**, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove – erect single storey extension and garden store. **21 Lurmer Street**, Fontmell – replace four windows and carry out external alterations. **Grove Farm**, Hannah’s Hill, Hartgrove – erect linking extension. **Pipers Mill**, Fontmell – construct all weather riding arena and fencing. **Woodbridge Cottage**, Bedchester – erect outbuilding, demolish existing. The Parish Council has given its support for all of 5 applications.

b. Highways

Pedestrian safety on the A350 – Cllr AD has had continued discussions with Dorset Highways on how to mitigate the impact of traffic volumes and speeds along the A350 and through the village and parish lanes, an ongoing concern for residents. Cllr AD has written to Laura Russ, Dorset Highways, to ascertain if they would look at a Local Transport Planning Grant (LTP) for a safety survey and money to create a footpath for pedestrians’ safety. AD is liaising with the wider A350 Community Group of villages to apply more pressure for additional road safety measures. The poor road surface conditions of Parsonage Street and Gupples Lane has been raised with Highways.

Speed Watch Peter Mole updated the meeting on his work with others to have a Speed Indicator Device (SID) installed to help reduce traffic speeds; the PC will fund a traffic survey to determine if the criteria are met for installing an SID. Peter is exploring the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit on the A350 through the village and has become the local coordinator for the “20 is Plenty” campaign; he has posters available for anyone wishing to promote the campaign.

c. Environmental Protection - No report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area for the parish which includes actions the community can take to address climate change.

d. Social Infrastructure

FMCLT & Village Shop update - Robert McCurrach reported that the funds needed to purchase the freehold of the Village Shop are now in place, solicitors have been appointed and contracts being prepared. The acquisition will include the telephone box outside the shop.

The Village Hall – The VH Committee is currently in discussion with vendors on replacing the children’s’ play equipment. Three items of the current equipment are out of use for safety reasons. Cllr CS reported that the 5G Rural Dorset project is preparing plans for connecting vulnerable people. Cllr CS also mentioned several community events being organized by the Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership; more details are on the C&C website.

e. District Liaison - Nothing to report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area.

f. Footpaths – Once the dog waste bin is installed on Fontmell Hill, Cllr AM will contact Gore Farm to ask them to widen the gap between the bollards protecting the entrance to Chalk Pit carpark. A concern was raised about the footpath from Pipers Mill to Sutton Waldron which has become badly rutted; Cllr AM will raise this with the Dorset Ranger.

g. Communications – Cllr LK reported on her work to improve communications to residents about Parish Council matters and community events, outlining a three-phase plan. A Facebook page for Fontmell Community News has been created to promote community events, to complement NextDoor, the parish website, The Gossip Tree, email lists and notice boards. All village Facebook users are encouraged to like the page. The plan will be discussed at subsequent PC meetings.

h. Governance – Cllr MH explained that 2022 will be a busy year for the Parish Council, with the Spring Meadows development, Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, Neighbourhood Plan update, etc. and emphasized the importance of having a full complement of councillors at this time. He urged new people to come forward to fill the council’s two vacancies: ideally a person enthusiastic about the environment and tackling climate change, and another person with some legal training and/or experience.

19/01/07 Finance:

a. Report from RFO: The current balance in the PC bank account is **£ £10,856.82**.

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 from the 2021/2022 budget will be used to cover the agreed SID survey.

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

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

S Smith **£371.60** (Clerk's salary & expenses December 2021)

DAPTC **£30.00** (L Kurton, Councillor training)

It was agreed bills set out in the Schedule should be paid:

The Gossip Tree **£30.00** (Sponsorship of the Christmas edition)

S Smith **£405.89** (Clerks wages & expenses January 2022)

c. Precept Plan 2022/23: The precept request for 2022/23 needs to be submitted to Dorset Council by the 31st January 2022. The RFO has prepared a Precept Plan for 2022/23. Various amendments were agreed to meet expected added cost items 2022/23. There was lengthy discussion on whether to include the full cost of a SID at approx £3,000 in the 2022/23 precept/budget. It was agreed by a majority vote to include £1,500 in the next precept and to fund the balance from other sources – fundraising, PC reserves, grants. The 2022/23 Precept has been set at **£10,768.95**. This equates to a precept increase per band D property of £2.59 on last year.

19/01/08 Correspondence: All listed on the schedule and circulated to Councillors in advance.

a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2-5th June 2022 – Lisa Le Druillenec reported a group has formed to organize some events, including a street party and church service.

19/01/09 AOB: The Parish Council joined many Fontmell residents in expressing its great sadness at the recent death of Gary Payne. Gary volunteered a lot of time to keeping the village neat and tidy, clearing leaves and litter, maintaining the verges and hedges. He was instrumental in helping Fontmell win the Best Kept Village in Dorset award three times. The PC offered its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

19/01/10 Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16th March 2022** at the Village Hall.

The Clerk confirmed that a guest speaker is booked for the March 2022 PC meeting. This will be Ashley Jones; a Regional Fraud Protect Advisor from Southwest Regional Organised Crime Unit (Police).