

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 7pm, in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Humphreys (Chair MH) L Kurton (LK) C Scott (CS) & A Davis (AD)

In Attendance: S Smith (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

Presentation on Fraud Safety – Ashley Jones from the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit gave an interesting and thought-provoking presentation on how to protect ourselves from telephone and online fraud. A booklet was provided “The Little Book of Big Scams”; some free copies are available from the Village shop.

Public Questions: A resident asked if bus stops would be provided on South Street outside the new Spring Meadows development. MH agreed to raise this with the developers, Pennyfarthing Homes.

Dick Stainer raised the issue of the poor state of the parking surface at Middle Mill. AD undertook to ask Dorset Highways if they could provide some surplus gravel or chippings to make repairs. Also, he mentioned the fallen tree along Mill Street will be removed in the next two weeks.

16/03/01 Apologies for Absence: Dorset Cllr Jane Somper & PC Cllr A Main (AM) sent their apologies in advance of the meeting.

16/03/02 Declarations of Interest: None.

16/03/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19th of January 2022: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

16/03/04 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting on 17th November 2021:

- **Dog Waste Bin** the Clerk reported that the bin (purchased by the PC) is ready to be installed at the entrance to the Gallops on Fontmell Hill. We are waiting for Dorset Waste to action our request.

- **Pedestrian Safety along West Street** This will be raised at a forthcoming meeting with Tony Burden, the recently appointed Road Safety Manager at Dorset Highways.

16/03/05 Report from Dorset Councillor:

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

16/03/06 Reports from the Parish Councillors:

a. Planning

- **Spring Meadows Development** MH attended a meeting of the Village Hall Committee to discuss how the S106 contributions towards improving the facilities around the village hall should be spent. The contributions available are:

- £60,209 for community leisure and indoor sports.

- £29,025 for provision of equipment for the children’s play area.

- £38,364 for improvements to the playground and providing an outdoor sports surface.

The Village Hall Committee will take this forward, in consultation with residents.

The residents survey of preferences for road names produced 69 responses. The top choice of Westgate could not be used as it would contravene a Dorset Council policy of using the name of living people, and the second choice Home Field would potentially cause confusion with a street name in Shaftesbury. Thus, the third and fourth choices of Sutton View and Old Crown Road were approved by Dorset Council. Details of the numbering scheme for the houses can be found on the parish website: fontmellmagnapc.co.uk.

MH attended a meeting with the head of St Andrews School Debbie Brown and Howard Jolliffe from the Southern Academy Trust. Debbie stated the school would be keen to promote the use of

the drop-off area amongst parents, to relieve some of the congestion in West Street at drop-off and collection times. The school bus would also be directed to use this facility.

Sutton Waldron PC has raised the issue of litter along the footpath adjacent to the site; MH will raise this with the Site Manager. The Parish Council plans to set up a separate working party to tackle the issues that arise from the development that will affect the parish community, such as adoption of the drop-off area, tree planting and hedgerows, bus stops, re-instatement. Volunteers are needed from amongst residents; please contact the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

- **Planning Applications** MH confirmed that 4 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website:

Gable Cottage, West Street erect a two-storey extension and summer house.

Bramblings, 78 Penn Hill, Bedchester erection of garage and demolish original.

Dragonfly Cottage, Woodbridge Lane Bedchester erect ground and first floor extension.

Tansys, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove erect single storey extension.

The PC is pleased to support these applications, as they comply with the Neighbourhood Plan.

b. Highways AD reported that traffic surveys have been completed at three locations in the village, two along the A350 and one in West Street. These will provide the quantitative evidence needed to justify the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Road markings on the approach to the s-bends in South Street will be refreshed at end March/early April. Highways will be clearing the mud on verges along Mill Street.

A planned meeting with the Dorset Highways Road Safety Officer on 25th March will discuss several potential improvements being considered:

- a lined pathway along West Street for pedestrians with signage to warn of pedestrians in the road;

- an advisory 20mph traffic sign on the approach to the s-bends in South Street;

- compulsory 20mph speed limits on the A350 and village side roads;

- camera equipment to detect a pedestrian on the A350 road between Parsonage St and Crown Hill and display a warning to drivers;

- compulsory 30mph speed limit at the Bedchester crossroads.

- **SpeedWatch** Peter Mole reported that the volunteer Speed Watch team will be surveying every 3 weeks approximately. Also, the "20's plenty" campaign is going well with 60 posters issued so far: the PC thanked Peter for his efforts.

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** Dick Stainer reported that the Community Land Trust had been approached by the Government's Communities Department to re-apply for an award under the Community Ownership Fund; a decision on any award is expected soon. Work on the contracts to acquire the shop is progressing well.

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

f. Footpaths No report, AM could not attend the meeting.

g. Communications LK reported on her work to improve communications to residents about Parish Council matters and community events. She is planning to visit every household in the Parish between late March and early April, to seek the views of residents on several topics:

- 20 mph speed limit through the village.

- S106 financial contributions to improve Village Hall amenities.

- how residents can access news, events, and information about their parish in a way that suits them.

- community spirit and getting involved with the Parish Council.

A survey form will be posted for residents not at home to express their views.

h. Governance MH again emphasised the importance of having a full complement of PC councillors at this busy time and urged new people to come forward to fill the council's two vacancies. If you are willing to contribute to the community in this way, please contact the Clerk at clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

MH reported that the Clerk will receive a 1.75% pay rise in line with national agreements, backdated to April 2021.

MH advised that he will be stepping down as Chair of the Parish Council at the forthcoming AGM in May after completing three years in the post. A new chair will be elected at the AGM.

16/03/07 Finance:

- **Report from RFO** The current balance in the PC bank account is **£9,157.62**

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.

- **Resolve to pay bills presented** 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 February 2022)

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

S Smith **£445.38** (Clerk's salary & expenses March 2022) inc laptop software renewal **£43.97**

DAPTC **£45.00** Cllr AD training

The Clerk's back dated pay rise will be paid in the April 2022 payslip.

The 2022/23 Precept has been set at **£10,769.00**

The Clerk has submitted a VAT refund claim for **£635.47** to HMRC, this has been returned due to the change of Clerks name/address. The Clerk will rectify the issue with HMRC and re submit the claim. The PC agreed to give a donation of **£50.00** to the Gary Payne memorial bench in recognition of the many years of voluntary service he provided to Fontmell village.

16/03/08 Correspondence: All listed on the schedule and circulated to Councillors in advance.

16/03/09 AOB: AD reported that he has forwarded his recent letter to Cllr Bryan (portfolio holder for highways on Dorset Council Payne) concerning safety on the A350 to neighbouring parishes to keep them informed of our campaign.

The PC supported a suggestion from LK to approach the school to design a logo for the Parish Council.

A resident has raised the issue of the poor mobile phone coverage in Fontmell, the PC agreed to investigate what options might be available.

16/03/10 Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th May 2022** at the Village Hall. Commencing at **6.30pm** the evening will also include the Parish Council's AGM and Annual Parish Meeting.