

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M Humphreys (Chair MH) C Scott (CS) A Davis (AD) & A Main (AM)
In Attendance: S Smith (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

AGM

1 Welcome & apologies: MH welcomed members of the public attending. Apologies were received from PC Cllr Laura Kurton and Dorset Cllr Jane Somper.

2 Election of a Chairman 2022-2023: MH stepped down after 3 years in the post of PC Chair but he will continue as a PC Councillor. Cllr Andrew Davis was elected as the new Chair of the Parish Council. The meeting was Chaired at this point forward by Cllr Davis. AD proposed a vote of thanks to MH for his past service as Chair.

3 Election of a Vice Chairman 2022-2023: Cllr Laura Kurton was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair.

4 Assignment of Councillor responsibilities: Councillors agreed to take the lead over Parish Council matters as follows:

Planning – MH

Highways – AD

Environmental Protection – Vacant

District Liaison – Vacant

Communications – LK

Social Infrastructure – CS

Footpaths – AM

Governance – AD

Details of these areas of responsibilities are available on the PC website.

END

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5 Reports from Parish Clubs, Societies, Committees, Groups: Representatives were present from many of the parishes clubs and societies to give a report on their activities over the past year: Speedwatch & 20's Plenty – Peter Mole, St Andrews Church – Barry Roberts, Garden Club – Sue East, Community Land Trust – Robert McCurrach, Archive Society – Roger Hillman, Gossip Tree – MH for Barbara Humphreys & the Village Hall (report provided post-meeting) These reports will be published on the PC website with the meeting minutes.

6 Public Open Forum: no questions or issues of concern were raised by the residents present.

7 Parish Council Annual Report 2021-22: the report is available on the PC website and was well received as a record of the PC's achievements and activities through the past year.

8 Report from Dorset Councillor: Cllr Jane Somper could not attend the meeting but provided a full report which is available on the PC website.

END

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9 Declarations of Interest: None

10 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 16th of March 2022:

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

11 Consider any matters arising from the minutes:

Dog waste bin at the top of Mill Street - AM reported that the dog poo bin is now in place at the top of Fontmell Hill. **Action:** AM will contact Gore Farm with regards to widening the gap between the concrete bollards at the entrance to Chalk Pit carpark.

Spring Meadows Development - It has been confirmed with Pennyfarthing Homes that there are no plans to install bus-stops outside the new development on South Street. Also, a litter bin has been provided for the contractors on site to use following an issue raised previously by a resident with regards to littering around the site.

12 Receive brief reports from Parish Councillors:

a) Planning:

Spring Meadows Development - Pennyfarthing Homes held a sales launch event in The Fontmell on the 12th of May 2022. Occupation of the first property in the development is expected sometime in October 2022. **Action:** MH will arrange a meeting with the village school Head with AD to discuss the use of the school drop-off area by parents.

Planning applications - MH confirmed that 5 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website:

Gupples Farm, Hartgrove - erection of agricultural storage building. The PC has objected to this application as the size and scale of the proposed building is felt not to be in keeping with the Grade II listed farmhouse.

3 Shaftesbury View, Hartgrove – erect single storey extension – PC is supporting this application.

Barn at Penn Hill Dairy, Bedchester - change of use, conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling. PC is supporting this application provided that a small dwelling is retained, and the large barn is relocated.

Grove Farm, Hannah's Hill, Hartgrove - amended plans to erect link extension with attic storey. PC is supporting this application.

Tansy's, Gupples Lane, Hartgrove - amended plans for single storey extension. PC is supporting this application.

MH is attending a Dorset Council planning briefing on the 27th of May 2022, which is expected to provide an update on the Local Plan with potential implications for Fontmell Magna. This may trigger the need to update Fontmell's Neighbourhood Plan which will require people to come forward to form a working group to undertake the update work. **Action;** MH to brief PC on outcome of briefing

b) Highways:

Speedwatch & SID - AD reported that traffic surveys have been completed at three locations in the village, and all three sites meet the threshold of installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Consequently, AD proposed that the PC should approve in principle the purchase of a SID subject to clarification over funding which was agreed. The cost estimate currently is £6,200, which is beyond the funds of the Parish Council so some fund-raising activity will be needed. If the SID is acquired the existing VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) signs on the A350 at the north and south entrances to the village would be removed. PC approved the removal of the existing VAS.

Action: AD to review SID costs with other suppliers. AD to request a review by Highways of traffic signs on the A350 through the village. Road markings on the approach to the s-bends in South Street have been refreshed. Four residents attended a recent meeting at Dorset Council on a new Speed Limit policy, and read out letters detailing issues of concern, as the policy would inhibit the adoption of a 20mph limit on some local roads. This input had some influence in councillors rejecting the policy and asking officials to redraft it. **Action:** AD to request review of signage with Highways.

The recent community survey conducted by LK produced some useful stats on road safety: from 63 household responses:

- 95% support a 20mph limit on village roads.
- 82% support a 20mph limit on the A350 through the village.
- 34% use a car to make a short trip to the village hall or shop because they feel the A350 is too dangerous to walk on without a pavement.
- 71% would support a painted pathway along West Street (from Timbers to the Village Hall).

These stats will be used to try to persuade Dorset Highways to deploy 20mph speed limits where appropriate. A request has gone to Highways to install a bell bollard at the corner of the West Lea property.

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 funds are in place to acquire the freehold of the village shop and contracts are ready to exchange. He expressed his thanks to the community for their support to this project.

Efforts will continue to determine if a network provider could increase the level of network service available in the village and wider parish. **Action:** PC to keep this under review.

e) District Liaison: No report. A new councillor is needed to cover this area.

f) Footpaths: Rights of Way consultation, diversion of footpath – A request has gone to the school to clear the path which runs alongside the school which is overgrown. Discussions are being held with Pennyfarthing Homes on re-surfacing this footpath, a condition of their planning permission. **Action:** AM to confirm outcomes.

g) Communications:

PC village survey - LK has completed a house-to-house community survey across a large chunk of the parish. This reaching out to the community was generally very well received and many people expressed their willingness to help the community with organising and running community events; a list has been provided to the Village Hall Committee. Useful information was also gathered on people's preferences for investment of the S106 contributions arising from the Spring Meadows development.

h) Governance: MH recently conducted an annual review for the Clerk to address any concerns. The PC approved an increase to the Clerk's salary to £11.73 per hour, providing an annual salary of £4,504.32

13 Finance:

Report from RFO - The Clerk reported that for the financial year ended 31/03/22 the PCs total income was **£9,750.00** and total expenditure was **£7,691.82** The bank balance at 31/03/22 was **£9,132.62**

Payments were agreed as follows -

Invoices paid since the March meeting were set out in the Schedule, as follows:

- S Smith **£437.60** (Clerk's salary & expenses April 2022)
- R Stainer **£63.48** (Middle Mill ballast)
- Vale Garden Services **£50.00** (inv 2249 War Memorial)
- DAPTC **£45.00** (Cllr Davis training)
- Dorset Council **£510.00** (traffic survey for SID)
- M Humphreys **£124.42** (Jubilee mugs) The PC has purchased 36 Queen's Platinum Jubilee mugs to give to all under-16 children in the parish as a memento.

Further payments were agreed as follows:

- S Smith **£431.96** (Clerk's salary and expenses May 2022)
- St Andrews Churchyard **£400** (maintenance grant)
- DAPTC **£267.43** (PC annual subscription)
- Vale Garden Services **£50.00** (inv 2261 War Memorial)
- Parish Online **£45.00** (mapping software licence)
- Nicola Phillips **£50.00** (PC internal audit 21/22)

The grant request from the Village Hall for **£550.00** towards playground maintenance costs needs to be discussed further as the playground is closed, **Action:** CS to discuss with Village Hall to obtain clarification. The PC's insurance policy is due for renewal at end of May with a premium quoted of £746.76 fixed for three years. Alternative quotes will be investigated. **Action;** Clerk to advise outcome of insurance renewal to PC. **Action:** AD and LK to be added as signatories for PC cheques – Clerk to arrange.

Approval of the PC Annual Return 2022-2023: The PC accounts have been approved by the internal auditor. The paperwork will be uploaded on to the PC website for residents to view. All Cllrs agreed to signing the 2021/22 Annual Return. The following pages of the Annual Return were signed by Cllr Davis and the Clerk -

- Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
- Accounting Statements 2021/22
- Certificate of Exemption 2021/22

14 Correspondence: All listed on the schedule and circulated to Councillors in advance.

15 AOB: Clare Reynolds expressed concern over the recent addition of security lights at St Andrews School. This was done without any consultation and is causing disturbance to adjoining properties and to bats. Also, seemingly this contravenes the Neighbourhood Plan Dark Skies policy. AM has written to the school Head to raise the issue but has yet to receive a response.

Action: AM to follow-up with school. The Clerk will arrange dates for the PC meetings in 2023 to see if Monday evenings would be available for meetings. **Action;** clerk to confirm dates for 2023

16 Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th July 2022 in the Village Hall**. All residents are welcome to attend, and especially anyone who is interested in potentially joining the parish council to see what we do.

Signed.....

Date.....