

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 7pm, in the Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: S Smith (Clerk) Dorset Cllr Jane Somper (part) and 22 members of the public.

Presentation on '20's Plenty for Us' Unfortunately, Dilys Garside was taken ill, so Peter Mole stepped in at very short notice to give a summary of the presentation. Notes from the presentation can be found on the PC Website. A summary of the presentation follows: The recent Parish Council survey of residents showed overwhelming support for a 20mph speed limit on roads and lanes in the village and along the A350. There is much concern over pedestrians having to mix with flowing traffic where there are no pavements. 20mph limits are being adopted for built-up areas in major cities, towns and villages across the UK. Through various meetings and discussions with Dorset Council Highways there seems to be a strong reluctance to adopt this safety measure on Dorset's roads, despite the strong evidence of reduced accidents and lives saved, and benefits to the environment.

A resident asked if other parishes are similarly campaigning for a 20mph limit and whether a co-ordinated approach would have more impact.

Thanks were expressed to Peter for his campaigning in this area and to Jane Somper for her strong support.

Public Questions: A resident asked if the recent application to divert Footpath 6 applied to the footpath running across the Spring Meadows site to Sutton Waldron, which it does.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** PC Cllrs A Main (AM) & Kurton (LK) sent their apologies in advance of the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.

3. **Minutes of the Meetings held on the 18th of May 2022:** The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the May 2022 Minutes:**

Gore Farm In his written report Andy advised that the bollard gap has now been widened at the entrance to Chalk-Pit car park on Fontmell Hill; a note of thanks will be sent to Gore Farm. **Action: AM to send note.**

Re surfacing footpath "Snicket" Footpath, Pennyfarthing Homes (PFH) and Dorset Council Rangers have agreed on the extent of re-surfacing work on the footpath linking the Spring Meadows site, the school and West Street. An all-weather surface will be laid on the section between the site and the school's rear entrance. The lower section of the path will be left untouched.

Village Hall funding request A grant request of £550 (play park) was made earlier this year by the VH Committee to the PC. The PC is seeking further clarification on the intended use of the money. **Action: CS to seek clarification from Village Hall Committee.**

School Security Lights The lights are now activated by proximity sensors, reducing any potential nuisance. AD thanked the school for its co-operation

5. Report from The Clerk:

PC meeting dates for 2023 are being planned so that hopefully JS can attend more of our meetings. The village hall is unavailable on Mondays. **Action: The Clerk to investigate availability on Tuesdays in 2023.** AD & LK are in the process of completing the bank forms so that they can be added as account signatories on the PC bank account **Action: AD to take completed forms to the bank**

The contractor that maintains the War Memorial has emigrated. The work has been handed over to another company. The cost remains the same, the maintenance work will be monitored for the next couple of months to ensure that the new contractor is suitable. The PCs annual insurance is now in place. This has been renewed on is a 1-year contract to enable us to shop around in 2023.

6. Report from Dorset Councillor:

Jane's written report will be available on the PC Website. She highlighted the following points: changes to Adult Services, plans to make it easier to access to health services in rural areas, domestic waste collection issues are being experienced in some parishes - residents are asked to report these, the PC was asked to be alert to people needing support to meet the cost of living, a new single point of contact has been created for people with housing needs, security will be tightened for future Dorset Council meetings after a meeting in April 2022 was disrupted by climate emergency protestors.

Reports from the Parish Councillors:

7. Planning -

Planning Applications MH confirmed that 3 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website:

>Spring Meadows, South Street addition of an electricity sub-station adjacent to the pumping station.

>Hurdles Farm, West Street install a 6kW PV system comprising 17 ground mounted solar panels.

>Orchard Corner, Parsons Lane, Hartgrove certificate of lawfulness to continue using the land to station a mobile home. The PC is supporting all three applications; details of the applications can be found on the PC website.

>Spring Meadows Development PFH have advised that the school drop-off area should be ready to hand-over in April/May 2023. The school's Academy Trust has stated it does not wish to adopt the area but affirmed its commitment to encouraging parents to use the new facility. Other possible owners of the drop-off area are the Parish Council or Salisbury Diocese. PFH have offered to host a site visit for residents interested in looking around the site; anyone interested please contact MH. Dorset Council has advised that projects drawing down funds from S106 contributions will need to be supported by the Parish Council.

>Neighbourhood Plan A development company, Intelligent Land, has made contact again about the development of Site 22, Blandford's Farm. This is an allocated site in the NP covered by policy FM20. The landowner has retained Intelligent Land to bring forward ideas on how the site might be developed. Consideration needs to be given to the number of homes and their sizes; the types of homes and mix of self/custom build and affordable dwellings; conversion of the barn for employment use; vehicular access via Spring Meadows or via West Street. Intelligent Land will prepare examples schemes of development to discuss with the

Parish Council and residents. A resident mentioned that building work has started on the Middle Farm site off Collyer's Rise, which has planning permission for a barn conversion, two new homes and a large garage structure.

>Planning Policy Mike and Andrew attended a Dorset Council planning briefing on 27th May 2022. The second draft Local Plan is now expected in the Spring 2023. Dorset Planning team has indicated that the housing allocation for Fontmell is unlikely to be much different to the figure of 62 mentioned in the 1st draft. Also, they expect the existing site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan plus normal in-filling will be sufficient to meet Fontmell's local housing needs.

8. Highways -

Advisory Signs for 20mph Limit Several meetings have been held with Dorset Highways to try to gain agreement to have 20mph speed limit advisory signs on the blind "S" bends along the A350. Highways have insisted that first the existing traffic signs through the village should be reviewed, to avoid clutter and confusion. When this is done Highways will look again at the Fontmell's request.

>Dorset Speed Limit Policy A draft policy has been rejected by Dorset Councillors after strong representations by Fontmell councillors and residents, and other parties, attending a recent council meeting. The policy did not take sufficient account of the growing demand and national trend towards adopting a 20mph speed limit in built-up areas. A recent survey showed strong support amongst Fontmell residents for a 20mph limit on roads and lanes through the village, including along the A350. A revised Dorset Council policy is expected in October. The Parish Council voted and agreed to adopt ***a formal policy on speed limits for Fontmell Magna of 20mph on village roads and along the A350 through the village and to request Dorset Highways to change the required regulations so this policy can be implemented.***

>Speed Indicator Device (SID) The PC wants to proceed with purchasing and installing a SID at positions in the village along the A350. The PC has a budget shortfall of £2500 to meet this cost so would welcome any fundraising suggestions.

>Visibility of Road Signs Residents are politely reminded they have a responsibility to ensure all road signs on their property boundaries are kept clear of any overhanging trees and bushes, so they are clearly visible.

9. 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.

10. Social Infrastructure -

FMCLT & Village Shop update Dick Stainer reported that contracts were exchanged on 27th June, with completion expected on 29th July 2022. Robin East commented on the 3½ years of effort, particularly the fundraising campaign led by Pen Hadow and the incredible support from residents. A new community lease is being prepared to ensure the future of the shop and a new tenant is being sought. Andrew expressed the sincere thanks of the Parish Council to the Directors and team of the FMCLT for all their hard work in reaching this important outcome, benefiting the whole parish community.

11. Community Reach -

A new Councillor is needed to cover this important area. Andrew attended a Resilience & Severe Weather training session from DAPTC. A volunteer is needed to compile a list of contacts as part of resilience planning for Fontmell Magna, if interested please contact the Clerk

12. Footpaths – AM could not attend the meeting. Graham Stanley, DC Ranger, will have some funding made available by PFH to improve local footpaths; ideas welcome, please contact Andy.

13. Communications -

Although Laura could not be present, Andrew acknowledged the tremendous work she does outside the PC meetings. Laura is updating the Parish Directory and will continue the house-to-house survey started in April. The school has been invited to design a logo for the Parish Council. The PC agreed to provide £60 in sponsorship of The Gossip Tree newsletter. **Action: Clerk to organise payment.**

14. Governance -

All Cllrs present completed their 'Acceptance of Office' forms for the Clerks records.

15. Finance:

Report from RFO - The current balance in the PC bank account is **£4,929.27** & the PC savings account **£6,011.60**

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 **£377.16** (Clerk's June salary & expenses 2022)

HMRC **£18.80** (Tax, Clerks wages)

Dorset Waste Partnership **£59.84** (2022/23 empty bin at Mill Street)

Vale Garden Services **£100.00** (inv 2274 & 2286)

DAPTC **£25.00** (Cllr Davis training)

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

S Smith **£409.46** (Clerk's July salary & expenses)

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

It was noted the X3 bus service on Saturdays from Blandford to Shaftesbury has now been withdrawn. Dorset Council has advised that the Community Governance review is in its final recommendation stage. South Street will be closed to traffic overnight on the 16th of August 2022.

17. Matters arising from Councillors: None

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 21st September 2022** at the Village Hall. Commencing at **7pm.**

Signed.....

Date.....