**Fontmell Magna Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**

**Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7pm, in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs A Davis (Chair AD) L Kurton (Vice Chair LK) M Humphreys (MH)

Hannah Lister (HL) C Scott (CS) & A Main (AM)

**In Attendance:** S Smith (Clerk) Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and 35 members of the public.

**1. Welcome & apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Co-opt new PC Councillor:** Laura Scott Walby was co-opted onto the Parish Council by a unanimous vote. Laura will take the lead on planning matters taking over from Mike Humphreys. Laura joined the PC Cllrs at the table for the rest of the meeting. The Clerk gave Laura a copy of the PC Code of Conduct. Laura signed her 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and handed this back to the Clerk.

**3. Public Questions:** A resident highlighted that a revised & amended planning application for Middle Farm Barn in Lurmer Street has recently been submitted to DC planning. MH advised that the NP Planning Monitoring Group are looking at this and will report back shortly.

**4. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st March 2023:** The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

**6. Matters Arising from the March 2023 Minutes:**

**6.1 Update of school drop off** - HL updated the meeting on the school’s adoption of the school drop-off area in the Spring Meadows development. Negotiations are continuing with Pennyfarthing Homes over suitable lighting and security for parents and children who would use the facility. The are school are concerned with the logistics & staffing with regards to supervising the bused children at drop off & pick up. The drop-off area is expected to be completed by June 2023.
**Action: HL to liaise with the school so a pragmatic solution can be found.**

**7. Report from The Clerk:**

**7.1 Finance update & resolve to pay bills presented** -

The end of year 2022/23 balance in the PC bank account is **£6,483.28.**

**The invoices paid since the last meeting are as follows:**

Clerk's wages April 2023 inc expenses **£450.35**

HMRC April 2023 **£7.60**

Avalon Print **£82.00** NP copies

DAPTC annual membership 23/24 **£280.27**

SID posts **£1,216.80**

Dorset Planning Consultant **£3,452.28** NP Review related work - paid from grant received

Village Hall hire **£36** for March and **£22.50** April PC meeting

Barbara Robbins green waste bin 23/24 **£65.00**

Vision ICT **£150.60** website and email services 23/24

Landworxs **£50** grass maintenance for War Memorial

Mill Street dog waste bin **£80.78** 23/24

Blackmore Vale ad for new Clerk **£289.84**

**7.2** **Year end accounts & audit** **–** The Clerk advised that the financial year-end accounts are currently being prepared. The Clerk also raised the need to clarify the contract with Landworxs for grounds maintenance. **Action: Sam to ask Landworxs to confirm current contract details on grass cutting**

**7.3** **VAT refund** - has been received for **£1,307.88** into the PC bank account.

**8. Planning:**

**8.1 Planning applications received** - Since the last meeting the Parish Council has received 4 new planning applications. Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Groups (NPMG) reports on each of these applications can be found on the parish website.

* **P/PAAC/2023/01596 - Green Farm Margaret Marsh Shaftesbury SP7 0AZ**

**Change of use & conversion of agricultural buildings to 2 no. dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) PC to Support** Neighbourhood Plan Policy FM16, Housing Type - as one of the two proposed units is a 4-bedroom dwelling, the application does not fully comply with this policy.

* **P/HOU/2023/01648 and P/LBC/2023/01649 - Blackberry Farm, Hannahs Hill, Fontmell Magna SP7 0AT Internal changes to property. PC to Support**

Two minor observations regarding an internal door and the position of a soil pipe.

* **P/FUL/2023/01218 - Compton Abbas Airfield Erect 2 No. workshop buildings PC to Support**

It’s been confirmed Cranborne Chase AONB are aware of this development. JS advised no date is scheduled at present for the road improvement works at nearby Gore Clump.

* **P/FUL/2023/01303 - Penn Hill Diary Barn, Bedchester, SP7 0JY Erect 1 No. dwelling and barn (demolish existing barns) PC to Object**

There have been three planning applications affecting this site since 2019, the latest involving demolishing a large barn built in 2017 and an adjacent shack. Several residents raised concerns about this application, as it would require demolishing the barn that is in use and erecting a two-storey 2-bed dwelling with a much a larger footprint than the modest design for a house which was granted prior approval in April 2022. If approval were granted for this larger dwelling it could set a precedent for future new dwellings being constructed in open countryside, outside the parish settlement boundary, with the consequential loss of agricultural land and harm to the landscape.

Councillors voted by majority 5:2 to object to this application. The PC’s previous comment on this application would be withdrawn from the Dorset Planning website and its objections recorded.
**Action; L S-W to draft a letter of objection to DC for PC members to confirm.**

**AD to write to applicant to explain why the change in the original PC’s decision was made.**

**8.2 NP Review Group** - Rosie Anne-Yates reported on the activities of the NP Review Group. Dick Stainer has produced an analysis of housing stock which shows that Fontmell Magna has much higher proportion of 4+ bed homes (37.7%) than in Dorset generally (24%). Hence NP policies need to encourage development of more 1-, 2- and 3-bed homes, and affordable homes. The Review Group are also discussing the implications for Mill Street and West Street on any new developments. AD is in contact with Wessex Water over sewage system capacity to support developments on Sites 20 and 22. Proposed draft changes to the Neighbourhood Plan should be available in early June with the intention of a Parish brief.

**8.5** **Chair & secretary to the NPMG** -Laura Scott Walby has joined the group as the Parish Council representative and link. A fresh appeal was made for new people to come forward to take the roles of Chair and Secretary of the group to replace Mike who is standing down; without people in these roles the group will cease to function.

**Site 22 Blandford Farm -** Intelligent Land has suggested holding a public consultation event on its plans for developing this site, which proposes 9 large custom/self-build dwellings. However, the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group is in the process of updating the policy on this site, given the complications over access that have arisen. The previous owner of the Spring Meadows land (Site 20), Vernon Christopher, has retained a 1m wide strip of land around Site 20 along its north and east boundaries, a part of which would have to be acquired to create an access road into Site 22. The NP Monitoring Group will meet on 24th April to discuss options for developing Site 22 and report to the Parish Council.

**9. Report from Dorset Councillor:** Jane Somper’s written report will be available on the PC website. She highlighted the following points: **Electric Vehicle Charging Points -** Dorset Council aim to provide access to charging points within a 10-minute drive for most residents within 10 years. Dorset Council has ‘ambitious plans’ to expand the charge points into villages and rural locations across the local authority network. The plans, which will play a key part in preparing the county for the government’s 2050 net-zero target, will see as many as 200 electric vehicle charge points installed in communities across the Dorset Council area over the next three years.

JS also mentioned a communications event in Iwerne Minster that took place on 20th April involving Dorset Police, DC fostering services, DC customer services, Cranborne Chase AONB, Wessex Internet and many more. **Planning** Dorset Council is inviting landowners to submit parcels of land for various forms of development, including housing and employment.

**10. Highways:**

**10.1 Speeding on the A350** -Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The new SID unit is now operational. It will be moved at monthly intervals between three entrance sites to the village – South Street, North Street and West Street. Community Speed Watch - Peter Mole reported increasing incidences of speeding along South Street where the road has been widened to access to Spring Meadows, with obvious risks to pedestrians and other road users. Peter and HL will be meeting Dorset Highways this week to discuss what can be done to tackle this.

**11. Social Infrastructure:**

**11.1** **Fontmell Inn –** Cllr Davis has obtained some further information from Dorset Council with regards to the pub following a Freedom of information request. The PCs application for the ACV has been turned down by DC. The PC has been informed that the property will go on to the market for sale as a pub. A copy of then Fof I obtained from DC will be posted on the PC web site.

**11.2** **Defibrillator** - A second defibrillator for the village has been made possible by a generous donation of £1,500 from a resident. The FMCLT has generously given permission to use the telephone box by the shop. The PC would need to meet the costs of installation and maintenance which is £405 in year one, then £100pa thereafter. MH asked where would the £405 come from as this would not be an allocated PC budgeted expense. A resident suggested that the £405 could be raised by way of donations, maybe at the upcoming Coronation event? It was agreed that the PC would proceed with the new defibrillator once sufficient finds had been received from the S106 grant OR that the parish had manage to rase the £405 by donations
**Action: CS agreed to write to the donator thanking them for the donation & including the PCs bank details for transfer of the monies.**

**11.3** **Defibrillator training** - A training course will be arranged, a 2-hour session for 50 people at a cost of £175. Attendees will be invited to make a voluntary donation.
**Action CS to plan date for the training session and book date with VH**

**11.4** **Emergency response** - coverage was provided by parish councillors during the recent ambulance strikes. A scheme is being explored for linking the mobile phones of responders to a single number. The V.E.T.S. scheme would also cover the village defibrillators costing £45 in year 1 then £100pa thereafter**. Agreed the PC would proceed with the VETS system.
Action: LS to confirm with the volunteers on the Parish list that they are happy for their contact numbers to be put onto the VETS system.
CS to action the VETS by arranging for Clerk to pay for the £45.**

**11.5 S106 grant allocation** - The S106 monies from the Spring Meadows development will benefit from an uplift for inflation. Grant money not expected until June / July. Rosie Anne gave an update on the various projects to improve facilities in the Village Hall, including refurbishing the kitchen, integrated audio system, soundproofing, tennis court upgrade, etc. The new playground equipment planned for installation in September. AD stated that DC had confirmed that the footpath monies could be re allocated towards funding the recently purchased village SID. The new bench at Middle Mill will also be funded by the Section 106 monies.

**12. Community Reach:**

**12.1 Kings Coronation celebrations –** HL gave details of the celebration planned for Monday 8th May in conjunction with Springhead. Events will run from 12.00-5.00pm, including a community BYO lunch and activities for children. Bunting will be going up on 1st May. A resident mentioned that Bedchester are organising a separate event for their residents.

**12.2 Village shop -** Dick Stainer reported that a new lease has been signed, giving the current tenants a lower rent, and establishing a saleable business**.**

**13. Communications:**

**13.1** **Mobile network survey** - Further contact has been made with EE about how the mobile network coverage in Fontmell Village centre could be improved. LK reported that an online survey is out exploring resident’s wishes regarding a 4G mast in the village. Please contact Laura to receive the survey link.

**14. Footpaths:** The footpath N63/6 along the east side of Spring Meadows will be widened and re-surfaced. The footpath N63/7 from West Street to Home Farm is to be widened, at least to the rear of the school; the hedge has already been cut back to accommodate this. The stile at the junction of footpath N63/9 and Mill Street has been restored and the rail lowered to make it easier to traverse. A general waste bin has been installed at Middle Mill. A planning application to remove a diseased tree at 36 South Street will be supported.
**Action: AM to chase DC for timescale to complete the footpath upgrading as this needs to be completed before start on new School year (drop-off area planned completion is July)**

**15. Governance:**

**15.1** **AGM next meeting** **-** AD advised that these statutory meetings will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in the Village Hall. Leaders of parish clubs and societies are invited to submit short reports on their activities and achievements through the past year.

**15.2** **Clerk to council –** Sam Smith is stepping down as Clerk/RFO at the end of April 2023. AD expressed a vote of thanks to Sam for her excellent support over the past two years. Recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO is under way.

**15.3** **Presentation -** MH is stepping down after serving 8 years as a councillor, including 3 years as chairman. Mike played a leading role in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and has been the lead on planning matters for the parish council throughout his tenure. Andrew expressed a vote of thanks for his service to the parish and presented a generous gift.

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **16th May 2023** at the Village Hall. **Commencing at 6.30pm for tea / coffee and main meeting at 7.00PM**.

Signed…………………………………………………… Date………………………………..

**Cllr. Andrew Davis Chair, Fontmell Magna Parish Council**