

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th June at 6.30pm, in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs L Kurton (Chair LK) Hannah Lister (Vice Chair HL) L Scott Walby (LSW) C Scott (CS) & A Main (AM)

In Attendance: Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and circa 30 members of the public.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Announced 3 parts to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence – there were none.
3. No interests declared or requests for dispensations.
4. **Draft minutes** from 16th May 2023 to be approved – LK proposed amended minutes are a true record of subjects referred to in the meeting, all councillors agreed.
5. **Appoint VC** – LK proposed Hannah Lister. No other nominations requested. All councillors approved.
6. **Future meeting dates:** 19th September and 21st November. Releasing further dates in due course for next year. All councillors agreed.
7. **Public Participation – public invited to share any statements.**
 - Michael Pitcairn – raised a query about the danger that hedges poses to traffic on Lurmer Street it makes the A350 even more narrow – HL to contact residents in this area and anyone with concerns can email fmpe.hlist@icmail.com.
 - The good news that the Fontmell Pub is reopening was announced by a member of the public, everyone agreed this was very exciting news.
8. **Update from Wessex Water** regarding closure from the 24th of July to the 4th of August
 - a) Acknowledges the road closure will cause disruption and they will aim to get it opened as quickly as possible.
 - b) Setting up from 17th July and then the road will be closed from the 24th of July until the 4th of August. It will take 12 weeks until the work is completed but road will be open before then.
 - c) Diversion will be set up from the A350 down the road to child Okeford and then up through Bedchester and down Penn Hill.
 - d) Question from member of the public about refuse collection. Residents assured that an alternative service will be set up for them with regards to refuse collection
 - e) Signs will go up in several areas locally to provide advance warning that West Street will be closed between 24th July and 4th August.
 - f) Question from member of the public – Is the sewage works crossing the 1 metre strip of land? No, it doesn't go anywhere near it and all landowners and people that use the effected driveways were engaged, and permission had been sought.

- g) Question from member of the public – Is there space in the sewer for new houses to be linked into in future. Answer was yes, it is a brand-new system connecting onto an old one.
- h) Members of the public urged to send any further questions through to Wessex Water or the Parish Council so we can answer them.

9. Planning Applications for consideration:

- a) Fernlea Cottage, Mill Street (P/HOU/2023/02593)
 - a. PC support the planning application.
- b) Penn Hil Dairy (P/FUL/2023/01303)
 - a. PC objected to the planning application for a new access. Highways opposes.
- c) St Andrews Farm Barns Dutch barn not capable of conversion – rejected.
- d) St Andrews Cottage – listed building to have a brick skin to have a cavity wall and replacement roof – PC has approved this application as it helps with energy efficiency.
- e) Expecting planning application on Springhead Farm on Mill Street - more details to follow when we know the proposals.
- f) Land North of Mill Street (P/OUT/2023/00667)
 - a. huge number of documents resubmitted. PC formulated a detailed form as to what the issues are.
 - b. LSW proposed we reject to the application – LK seconded, and all councillors agreed.
- g) Home Mead (P/FUL/2022/07503)
 - a. Half-timber property wanted to open a caravan and camping park and site 4 shepherd huts. Visually intrusive and dangerous access.
 - b. LSW proposed to reject, LK seconded, and councillors all agreed.
- h) Blandford's Farm (P/OUT/2023/02893)
 - a. Application recently submitted to Dorset Council, outline planning application and proposed access onto West Street.
 - b. Developer looking to go under the limit (9 dwellings proposed) that requires provision of affordable housing. PC are arguing it is still a significant housing development as it covers over 1 hectare.
 - c. LSK requested that parishioners contact the PC via clerk email address (clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk) with their thoughts and feelings about the development so recommendation can be formed.
 - d. Unlikely NHP review will be concluded in next couple of months so this application might be decided against the current neighbourhood plan rather than the updated one which has not yet gone to Dorset Council for review.
 - e. **Comment from member of the public:** Spring Meadows site reaches min requirement so if an extra 10 dwellings is an easy extra 10 then fine but if it poses problems then we should stick with the min requirement.
 - f. LSK responded that we are at 46 new houses if you count the additional one-off buildings too.
 - g. Member of the public raised that the proposal for the type of housing is not in accordance with the type specified in the NHP. Access to the land via West Street is not agreed by the people of Fontmell Magna.

- h. LK stressed how important a topic this is and needs a lot of attention from the PC.
- i. Mike Humphreys mentioned that there is a link to each planning application on the parish website.
- i) NHP Review update – moving slowly forwards but no further update currently.

7:30pm – 7:45pm Break in meeting for people to leave if they wished or have refreshments before the next part.

10. Matters Arising and General Updates

- a. Pub – reopening date to be announced on the 25th of June.
- b. Highways – Dorset highways are carrying out a speed survey based on us moving the SID to South Street. Survey took place during week before SID was in place and for a week while SID was in place so should have an announcement soon. 20mph limit on A350 was turned down.
- c. Report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper
 - i. update dog related public spaces order is now out.
 - ii. Poo bags can go in any bin – all bins take bagged poo!
 - iii. Household support fund opens.
 - iv. Community grants of up to 5K available

11. Consider the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the period ending 31st March 2023

- a. The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)
 - i. LSW abstaining from voting as only joined the PC after the end of the financial year.
 - ii. All other councillors voted for the document to be signed. LK and HL signed section 1
- b. The Annual Governance Statement (Section 2)
 - i. LSW abstaining from voting as only joined the PC after the end of the financial year.
 - ii. All other councillors voted for the document to be signed. LK and HL signed section 2

12. Consider the following payments made after May meeting:

- Dorset Council INC £80.78
- Welcome Pack £15.00
- HMRC May 2023 £7.60
- Village Hall £18
- A David Stationary expenses £46.42
- Insurance £753.91
- Audit £60
- Vision ICT £150.60 delayed payment from last month
- DAPTC £280.27 delayed payment from last month

All councillors approved payments made.

Members of the Public were asked to leave so that the Parish Council could discuss the confidential business of appointing a new Parish Clerk and the proposed terms of contract.

13. LK proposed we offer Ann Lee a contract of employment as clerk. All councillors agreed.

Meeting ended 8.45pm.