**MINUTES**

**of the Fontmell Magna Parish Council Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 6.30pm**

**Fontmell Magna Village Hall**

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| **1** | **Apologies for Absence**  None sent – all councillors attended |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest and dispensations**  None declared |
| **3** | **Minutes of the previous meeting**  The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 November 2024 were unanimously approved |
| **4** | **Actions and matters arising from previous minutes:** |
| 4.1 | **Sale of Surgery:**  Cllr Long explained that there is some paperwork that is not completed that is preventing the surgery from going to auction. This gives the Parish Council the opportunity to apply for a lottery grant to take over the ownership of the property and run it as a community asset. This process is underway. It takes 16 weeks for a grant application to be processed . It is possible to get 100% funding. |
| 4.2 | **Defibrillator Update**:  Cllr Scott is carrying out the monthly checks and asked for help with the refurbishment of the phone box. It needs repainting and there are some issues with the hinges and the door stop which need looking at. If anyone knows of anyone who can help with this, please let the councillors know. |
| 4.3 | **Neighbourhood Plan**  Completed |
| 4.4 | **New Councillors**:  Cllr Lister – asked for volunteers to come forward if they are interested in becoming parish councillors. |
| 4.5 | **Colliers Brook:**  Cllr Lister invited Barbara Robbins to update the councillors and public on this. There are now 3 quotes in and one is less than the others. Barbara is happy with this quote. The preferred supplier is JW Building and Landscaping ad they have quoted £3143.68 but this includes VAT which the council can claim back so the total on that basis would be £2619.73. Barbara Robbins is also going to try and arrange some fundraising in the form of perhaps “buy a stone” or something similar which could also help with the costs and involve the community a bit more. Help will be needed with wheelbarrowing. This can’t be done until June/July when the water is at the lowest levels. Discussions with VE Day celebrations too. |
| 4.6 | **Road Safety Group and 20MPH:**  Cllr Lister is due to have a meeting with John Andrews who is the head of the council to talk about a draft proposal. She will also be meeting with Jane Somper to get her input ahead of the meeting with John Andrews. Peter Mole will make the proposal document available to parishioners when it is ready. The temporary 20mph limit is still with Jane Somper in relation to the Dinah’s Hollow closure. Given the volume of traffic using the C13 including all the freight lorries that are sent that way, the impact on traffic volumes on the A350 during the Dinah’s Hollow Closure is going to be significant, and Cllr Lister will be bringing this up with John Andrews as well. |
| 4.7 | **Manhole Covers:**  Cllr Drew reported on the smelly manhole cover which is near Fontmell Under Fives. Wessex Water will be taking on responsibility for this and will be using cameras to assess the situation all the way through the system to check for problems. They plan to change the 3 manholes near the U5’s to sealed covers to try and help with odours. There have been no recent mentions of problems with odours so it’s possible the situation has improved. Wessex Water will have responsibility for what was previously Pennyfarthing’s responsibility and hopefully the issues will resolve.  The noisy manhole cover is on the A350 just before the bend. It was originally reported to Dorset Council in 2022. They said it wasn’t theirs and issued a Section 81 saying that it was a BT problem. Cllr Bailey has made some phone calls and BT are due to check this imminently and he has given the details of who he spoke to to Cllr Lister and Gay Mole so that they can chase if necessary. |
| **5** | **Reports** |
| 5.1 | **County and District Councillor report:**  Cllr Somper – see separate report |
| 5.2 | Police matters:  Not applicable |
| **6** | **Planning** |
| 6.1 | **Neighbourhood Plan:**  This is nearly concluded and with Dorset Council.  As an aside Cllr Lister said she had attended a meeting with MP Simon Hoare a few weeks ago and he has spoken a lot about planning. His advice was to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place and that Dorset Council should also have their plan in place. His other advice was not to say “no” to everything but to be open minded. There is likely to be little room for compromise. As a parish we need to decide what is really important and what we can live with. |
| 6.2 | **Planning applications in process at last meeting**: Cllr Drew – presented his report – see separate document |
| 6.3 | **Planning applications submitted since last meeting:**  Cllr Drew – see separate document. Of note there was some discussion about St Andrew’s Farm. Cllr Drew explained what he planned to say to DC and this was proposed and seconded and agreed.  There was some discussion about Penn Hill Farm. Rosie-Anne Yates, who owns Penn Hill Farm was at the meeting and explained that there had been quite a lot of confusion about roofing materials which go back to 2018/2019 when council paperwork appears to have gone missing. They are trying to get the paperwork in order but DC keep getting details wrong to they keep having to repeat the process. This is work in progress and we may see further applications for variations come through as a consequence. |
| **7** | **Finance** |
| 7.1 | **Finance Report:**  Clerk – see separate document |
| 8 | **Council Matters** |
| 8.1 | **Update on Footpaths:**  Gill Darwall – see separate document |
| 8.2 | **Shaftesbury Lido:**  Cllr Lister explained that we have been approached as a council to help with the refurbishment costs of the Shaftesbury Lido. It was decided to send out a survey to all parishioners to ask them for their views on this before a decision is made as to whether to send a contribution towards this refurbishment. A survey will go out soon regarding this and it will be discussed again at the next meeting. |
| 8.2 | **Mobile Phone Signal:**  Cllr Lister – explained that a parishioner had expressed concerns about the poor signal when there is a power cut which makes some people in the village unable to call for help should they need it. In 2027 analogue goes digital which will provide further challenges whilst the mobile signal in the village is so poor. It was agreed that the councillors would send out a survey regarding this. |
| 8.3 | **Pipers Mill Flood:**  Cllr Scott – this flooding has been sorted for now. There are still a few jobs to be done regarding this but the big puddle outside Amelia Berriman’s house is no longer there. |
| 8.4 | **VE Day Celebrations:**  Cllr Lister – this will take place on 8 May 2025. This is a Thursday. The councillors will ask Fontmell Friends if they have any plans and the PC will support any activities going on but are unable organise an event, due to the work commitments of the councillors. Cllr Lister will try and get the pub involved. The suggestions nationally are for candlelit procession, lighting of beacons and fish and chip supper. If anyone has any ideas or wants to help then they should let the PC know. |
|  | **Any other business:**  Discussions regarding hydropower will take place at the next meeting.  There will be a litterpick in March – Cllr Scott arranging |
| 9.0 | **Date of Next Meeting:**  **Tuesday March 18 2025 – 6.30pm Village Hall** |

All members of the Council are requested to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out hereunder and are reminded that the council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder,

*by* Health and Safety and Human Rights.