**MINUTES**

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

**Tuesday 18 March 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 21 January 2025 were unanimously approved with amendments to some wording regarding the flooding at Piper’s Mill which have been noted. |
|  | **Green Energy Talk – Vince Adams and Keith Wheaton Green came to speak briefly about green energy and how it may be of interest to the parishioners of Fontmell Magna. They mentioned about solar panels, wind turbines and hydro power. There were questions from some parishioners on various things such as planning permission on listed building. Contact details for Vince and Keith are available from** [**clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk**](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk) **if anyone would like to investigate further.** |
| **4** | **Actions and matters arising from previous minutes:** |
| 4.1 | **Sale of Surgery:**  The surgery is to be sold by auction on 10 April 2025. Further updates at the next meeting. |
| 4.2 | **Defibrillator Update**:  The old phone box is now being refurbished by Andy Powell who is kindly preparing it for repainting. Once the weather improves it will be repainted. Cllr Scott asked for volunteers to help put some slabs down in front of it because it is currently quite muddy. There will be a brief opening ceremony and a plaque acknowledging those that funded the phone box. |
| 4.3 |  |
| 4.4 | **New Councillors**:  Cllr Kurton has announced that she will be stepping down after 4 years on the council. In her time she has been Chair, Vice Chair and Communications councillor. Cllr Kurton was thanked by everyone for all her hard work over the years.  Cllr Lister said that we are two councillors short and asked for volunteers to come forward if they are interested in becoming parish councillors. We have had one person come forward who is interested in doing the communications which is great but we still need one more. If anyone wants further information on this, they can approach Cllr Lister or the Clerk for further information, |
| 4.5 | **Collyer’s Brook**  Cllr Scott said that there may be a requirement for a permit before carrying out any repairs to the wall, but she is checking this. The PC have ring fenced some money to pay for this if required, though fundraising is going ahead. |
| 4.6 | **20MPH**  The submission which Peter Mole, John Adlam and the rest of the RSG have been working so hard on for the last 6-7 months is now complete and with the council. Cllr Lister and John Adlam went to meet John Andrew who is the Head of Highways at Dorset Council recently and found him to be very enthusiastic about the proposal from Fontmell. Cllr Lister thanked everyone for their help with this and we will hope to have more news soon on the outcome. |
| 4.7 | **Manhole Covers:**  Cllr Drew said that he had heard from Wessex Water that they would be sealing 5 manhole covers over Easter. They are also adopting the sewage system from Pennyfarthing Homes. They have also done the camera work as promised and not found anything untoward other than a couple of minor works.  A parishioner mentioned another problem with an overflowing drain on Crown Hill which smells bad. Cllr Drew will investigate further.  The noisy manhole cover is resolved. |
| **5** | **Reports** |
| 5.1 | **County and District Councillor report:**  Cllr Somper – see separate report |
| 5.2 | Police matters: None  Not applicable |
| **6** | **Planning** |
| 6.1 | **Neighbourhood Plan**  Dick Stainer explained that this is now completed and has been adopted, however he urged caution because Dorset Council will be writing a plan which should be completed by Winter 2027. Additionally, there will be a new National Planning policy. Our NP is only valid until 2031 so it needs to be looked at again at the latest in 2029. Someone will need to do this. There was a thank you to Dick and his colleagues for getting this through all the processes. It’s a big and detailed job which takes up a lot of time. |
| 6.2 | **Planning applications in process at last meeting**: Cllr Drew – presented his report – see separate document |
| **7** | **Finance** |
| 7.1 | **Finance Report:**  Clerk – see separate document |
| 8 | **Council Matters** |
| 8.1 | **Update on Footpaths:**  Gill Darwall – nothing major to report. The mud is not quite as bad although the Sunken Lane at the end of Parsonage Street is still a problem. Gill has finally walked all the footpaths in the parish which go right out to Margaret’s Marsh. One is very overgrown and unnavigable, and she will investigate further. Dan Bolton who runs the smallholding on the path down to Piper’s Mill kindly adjusted the gate as the wood was swollen. However, Gill notes that walkers still stubbornly don’t shut the gates leaving animals to roam freely. |
| 8.2 | **Mobile Phone Signal:**  Cllr Kurton has sent out a survey and is urging parishioners to complete this so that the PC can gauge interest in the need for something to help with the mobile phone signal. This will be brought back to the next meeting with the results of the survey. |
| 8.4 | **VE Day Celebrations:**  The PC are unable to organise anything but are happy to support other events |
|  | **Any other business:** There is a litterpick this coming Saturday 22 March please speak to Councillor Scott for further information. |
| 9.0 | **Date of Next Meeting:**  **Tuesday May 20 2025 – 6.30pm Village Hall to include the AGM** |

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.