

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Council Meeting held on 18th November 2021 in the Tithe Barn
commencing at 7.15pm.**

MINUTES

Present: Ian Coombes (Chairman), Alison Kent, Chris Summers, Wendy Jonas & Martin Irish

In Attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk), Dave Mansell (SW&T Cllr), 1 member of the public

Public Speaking Time: Two issues of wildlife crime were reported by a member of the public. These had been reported to the Police back in October. The issue of mud on the road along Hills Cottages was raised. This had been reported to highways, landowners and the renters who had caused part of the issue. Water and mud from the recent rainfall had also run onto the road which had added to the issue.

1. Apologies for Absence:

2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: None

3. Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th August 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes: a) Point 10.5 - Bank Mandate – to confirm, Katriona Smith had been removed and Chris Summers had been added to the bank mandate. b) Speeding through the village – PCSO Louise Fyne was carrying out more assessments and would report her findings in due course. c) Post Code Map of Village – the map was beautifully drawn showing the post code areas. It was agreed to get road names added. Thanks went to Heather Catchpole for her artwork. **Action: Clerk**

5. Sue Bellamy Bench

5.1 The Clerk had received the license from Road Records approving the position of the seat. This was signed following the unanimous vote the PC would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the seat. Funds totaling £350 would be transferred to the PC bank account so the new seat could be purchased. **Action: Clerk**

6. New Walk Footpath -update

6.1 Chris Summers had cleared New Walk which was looking much better and wider. No Cobbles had been found under the mud. Chris was thanked for his efforts as a huge amount of mud and leaves had been removed.

7. Tithe Barn Refurbishment Project – update

7.1 The next meeting between the PC & TBMC was being held on 9th December where actions agreed with the TBMC would be discussed. The review of which heating system should be installed was progressing along with the actions the architect had been asked to do.

7.2 Lease Extension – no response from the Under Secretary of the Diocese had been received to date on the extension of the lease in-spite of emails being sent. It was agreed to escalate to a higher authority for a response. **Action: Ian**

8. Finances

- 8.1 It was proposed, second and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices: Clerks Salary £230.22, Clerk's Expenses £12.90, HMRC PAYE £57.60, Community Heartbeat Defibrillator Support (2 years) £252.00, FPCC burial grounds maintenance £470.00, FCC grounds maintenance £825.00. Data Protection Fee £40 due DD 13/12/21, Microsoft Office Subscription due 14/12/21 £79.99 to be refunded to Clerk. Ian Jonas £27.54 – Perspex for play area notice board.
- 8.2 Receipts received - £0.06p bank interest, SW&T Maintenance Grant £1670.00, SALC Grant for Tithe Barn Start Up £1200.00.
- 8.3 Bank balance as at 28/09/21: Current a/c £3,898.26 Deposit a/c £6,530.29. Plus unrepresented receipts £2,870.06 Total £13,298.61.
- 8.4 A Levitate Invoice was due to be paid covering the production of working drawings for windows for the Tithe Barn Project. Ian Coombes had finally resolved the issue with the bank account and would transfer monies to the PC account so this could be paid. £1,296.00
- 8.5 The Tithe Barn Start Up money would go towards the upkeep and running costs of the hall.
- 8.6 The draft precept for 22/23 had been previously circulated. After discussion it was agreed to set this at £4,500. Clerk to email approved precept to SW&T by mid-January.
- 8.7 A budget vs precept sheet was circulated to the Councillors for review.

9. Highways Issues

- 9.1 Highways had not contacted Alison Kent to walk around the village to discuss the issues. Clerk would contact Highways again. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.2 The hedges around the village, and in particular at road junctions were overgrown and a safety hazard. It was agreed to put a letter in the village newsletter and parish magazine asking land owners to cut these back and improve visibility. This would be reviewed at the next meeting. The recognised deadline to cut all hedges was by 1st March.

10. Noticeboard Repairs

- 10.1 The play area noticeboard had been repaired. A piece of cork board was being fitted so notices could be pinned.
- 10.2 Noticeboard by Pub. It was agreed to remove this as it was falling apart and was wet inside with the spare noticeboard that had been removed for the defibrillator. **Action: Ian**
- 10.3 The pump house noticeboard was due to be refurbished too.

11. Play Area

- 11.1 Weekly Inspections - the new inspection sheet was working well. There were no issues to report. The main gate would need replacing next year.
- 11.2 The main play area inspection was due to be carried out in December.
- 11.3 The new play equipment was delayed due to the metal feet not being in stock and the installer having Covid and now suffering from Long Covid. He would contact the clerk once the metal feet had been delivered and a start date.

12. Planning –

- 12.1 Knights Farm planning application – no decision had been reached to date.
- 12.2 17/21/0011/T – To fell one Leyland Cypress Tree at Crosslands was approved.
- 12.3 17/21/010/T - Management work to one Walnut Tree at 4 Tithe Meadow was approved.
- 12.4 17/21/008 – Conversion of outbuilding to studio at Fitzhead Court – conditional approval had been made on 6th October 21.

13. Somerset West & Taunton Councilor's Report – Cllr Dave Mansell

The Secretary of State had approved the One Somerset proposal which was a single unitary council. The draft structural changes proposals had been issued with the new council name being 'Somerset Council'. The county council would be a continued authority through the changes and all district staff would be transferred in by April 2023.

The Election date was still not known, along with the number of Councillors to be elected and when the Boundary Review would take place. The Government Minister would be making this decision at the end of November of these various points.

Another issue was not all the areas of Somerset had Parish Councils, Taunton being one. This was having to be addressed too.

The County Council was currently having a Bus Services Consultation as the Government wanted to improve all bus services. Somerset had put in a bid for £162m under plans to improve the core network, hourly services, the mobility and slinky bus services.

Highways had been given funding to improve roads and cycle routes.

Waste Collections had improved now a large number of drivers had been recruited. The Blue Bags service was also underway which appeared to be working well with just a few small issues of missed collections.

14. Police Report – The monthly Police Report was on the website.

15. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 17th February 2022 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm