

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 4 January 2024 at the Tithe Barn, Fitzhead commencing at 7.15pm.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Chris Summers (Chair), Cllr. Alison Kent, Cllr. Ian Coombes (from 7.17pm), Cllr. Wendy Jonas, Cllr Martin Irish, Andrea Johnson (Clerk), two members of the public.

Public Speaking Time: A members of the public expressed concerns about recent flooding in Fitzhead. Parish Councillors explained that responsibility lay with Somerset Council, not the Parish Council. The Highways Team at Somerset Council were aware of the issues and a site meeting had been held. Any issues with effluent should be reported to the Environment Agency. Councillors also confirmed that they had no responsibility for the Fitzhead Inn.

Cllr Coombes joined the meeting during this discussion.

24/048 To note apologies for absence and approve reason, where appropriate
Cllr. Gwil Davies and Cllr Dave Mansell (Somerset Council) gave their apologies.

24/049 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.
None

24/050 Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Jonas, seconded Cllr Kent.

24/051 Finance.

24/051.1 It was noted that the ICO Data Protection fee of £40 had been taken by direct debit on 13 December 2023. The Microsoft subscription had been charged to a credit card belonging to a previous Clerk and needed to be refunded. **Action:** the Clerk to investigate alternative methods of payment for the 2025 subscription.

24/051.2 It was unanimously **resolved** to pay the following payments totaling £227.65:

	Details	Amount
Gallaghers Insurance	Addition of pumphouse	£48.57
Mrs. Jill Loader	Refund of Microsoft subscription	£79.99
Play Inspection Ltd	Play area inspection	£99.00

24/051.3 The draft budget for 2024/2025 was reviewed. At the meeting held on 15 November 2023 it was resolved to include sums in respect of hedge cutting and ditch clearance, and to replace the Maintenance Grant if it was withdrawn. Following that meeting the Chairman had attended a Local Community Network meeting held in December 2023, which had focused on the financial difficulties being experienced by Somerset Council. Although Somerset Council was still to provide an indication of current costs for taking on, or contributing to, the cost of hedge cutting and ditch clearance services, following a proposal by Cllr Summers, seconded by Cllr Kent it was unanimously **resolved** to budget £1295 to cover the cost of the lost grant as well as £2,000 towards the cost of hedge cutting in the hope that the Parish Council I be able to provide those services when more information is known. If this was not possible, any savings could be reflected in a lower precept for 205/26.

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24/051.4 Following a proposal by Cllr Jonas, seconded by Cllr Irish, it was unanimously **resolved** to authorise the Clerk to claim a precept of £13,738 from Somerset Council.

24/052 **Planning**

Planning application 17/23/0006, for the erection of detached garage, with store above, erection of first floor extension to the front, storm porch to the side and single storey extension to the rear of Burrow Hill Farm Cottage, Wiveliscombe Road, Fitzhead was discussed. Following a proposal by Cllr Jonas, seconded by Cllr Coombes, it was unanimously **resolved** to support the application, but noting concerns about the gradient and longevity of the site entrance.

24/053 **Matters for information only**

It was noted that the Tithe Meadow sign had been ordered by Somerset Council.

24/054 **Next quarterly meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 28 February 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.17 pm.