

# FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 21 August 2024 at the Tithe Barn, Fitzhead commencing at 7.15 pm.

## MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr. Chris Summers (Chair), Cllr. Alison Kent, Cllr. Ian Coombes, & Cllr. Martin Irish

**In Attendance:** Andrea Johnson (Clerk) & Cllr. Dave Mansell (Somerset Council) and 1 member of the public

**Absent:** Cllr W Jonas and Cllr. Gwil Wren (Somerset Council).

**Public Speaking Time:** No members of the public were present at this time; one member of the public joined the meeting during 24/0017.5.

**24/0014 To note apologies for absence and approve reason, where appropriate**  
Cllr. Jonas and Cllr Wren (Somerset Council) gave their apologies.

**24/0015 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.**  
None

**24/016 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May2024 were unanimously **approved** and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**24/0017 Matters Arising**

24/0017.1 It was noted that nothing had been received from the contractor approached about the repointing of the Pumphouse and repair of the roof. **Action:** Cllr Summers to follow up.

24/0017.2 Cllr Irish is to trim back the overhanging branches near to the Monkey bars. **Action:** Cllr Irish

24/0017.3 The Clerk shared the proposed design for a sign for the gate of the children's Play Area. It was unanimously **resolved** to order the sign in A4 at a cost of £15 plus VAT. **Action:** Clerk to order.

24/0017.4 Darren's Den has confirmed they will be building up the ground under the slide in the children's Play Area.

24/0017.5 The Councillors considered a request to donate towards the costs of the village newsletter. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the PCC and to the Tithe Barn Management Committee suggesting that each should donate £25 to the cost of the village newsletter, with the Councillors also **resolving** to donate £25. **Action:** Clerk to write.

**24/0018 Tithe Barn Management Committee**

The Councillors noted the Chairman's Report, Minutes and accounts from the Annual General meeting of the Tithe Barn Management Committee. Cllr Coombes outlined future planned improvements and events. It was noted that new members had joined the Tithe Barn Management Committee.

**24/0019 Play Area and Pump House**

There were no matters to note from the weekly inspection reports in May and June. No inspections took place in July or August. Cllr Summers will resume the inspections in September.

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### 24/0020 Highway matters

Concerns were expressed about the volume and frequency of road closures to allow for the installation of poles.

Cllr Summers and Cllr Mansell (Somerset Council) were due to meet with a representative from Somerset Council Highways team to discuss local issues and Cllr Summers would provide an update following the meeting. **Action:** Cllr Summers to provide.

Cllr Summers was thanked for cutting the hedges in the village.

### 24/0021 Local Government and Policing

24/0021.1 Cllr. Mansell (Somerset Council) provided an update on the Slinky bus. Further details are to be provided to the Clerk for inclusion in the village newsletter. **Action:** Clerk to arrange.

Somerset Council's budget challenges continue with an organisational restructuring underway.

24/0020.2 Cllr Summers reported on the most recent LCN meeting. An Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot is due to be launched in September.

24/0020.3 The Police Report for April on the Parish Council website was noted. The Clerk had invited the PCSO to attend the Parish Council meeting and would continue to do so. It was noted that the new PCSO is not as visible as her predecessor.

### 24/0021 Finance.

24/0021.1 The Bank Reconciliation Statement at 10 August 2024 was noted, including the receipt of interest of £15.21.

24/021.2 Expenditure against budget at 10 August 2024 was noted.

24/0021.3 It was unanimously **resolved**, to pay the following payments:

Tithe Barn - hire	May meeting	£20.00
Clerk Salary	May – June 2024	£657.40
Clerk Expenses	May – June 2024	£10.41
HMRC	PAYE	£0.20
R Branfield	Ground Maintenance	£816.00
SALC	Annual membership	£76.28

### 24/0022 Accessibility requirements for the website

The changes to website accessibility which come into effect in October 2024 were noted, together with the cost of an annual licence. It was unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk should seek quotes for transferring the website to a new compliant host. **Action:** Clerk to seek quotes for next meeting.

### 24/0023 Financial Regulations

The updated Financial Regulations were noted, and it was unanimously **resolved** to adopt them.

### 24/0024 Matters for information only

It was noted that the new operatives for the Somerset Council waste and recycling service were leaving the back of the collection vehicle open when moving around the village because of which waste was blowing back out of the vehicle and onto the roads. Cllr Mansell will report the issue to Somerset Council, and if it continues to occur Cllr Kent will provide Cllr Mansell with further details.

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**Action:** Cllr Kent to monitor the situation.

**24/0025    Next quarterly meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 27 November 2024 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.38 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record by Cllr. Summers.....

Dated 27 November 2024.

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