

FITZHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February 2018 in the Tithe Barn commencing at 7.15pm.

MINUTES

Present: Katriona Smith (Chair), Ian Coombes, David Pink & Wendy Jonas

In Attendance: Jill Loader (Clerk), SCC Cllr James Hunt and 3 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: a) A resident requested the police reports are put into the Parish Magazine on a monthly basis. Currently the reports are sent to the clerk per quarter in time for the meeting. Agreed to ask PCSO if these can be sent monthly. b) Pub Closure – various emails had been sent around the village regarding the latest situation with the pub closing and being opened as a private events venue. The Cllrs had not received these emails and asked those who had to forward them. The clerk had contacted TDBC Planning asking if the pub required change of use and where it stood in relation to it being a Community Asset. No further information was known at the time of the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence: Alison Kent, TDBC Cllr Gwil Wren

2. Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: None

3. Minutes of previous meetings: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2017 & the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 7th December 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record. The Chair signed each page.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 There are still dogs loose around the village causing drivers to stop and avoid them on a regular basis. Agreed Katriona Smith would contact the PCSO and Dog Warden again.

Action: Katriona

4.2 Broadband Satellite Scheme – agreed that David Pink would investigate further the costs and application for possible use in Fitzhead village. **Action: David**

5. Highways Issues

5.1 Pony Trailer outside cottage by church has no reflective signage and is a danger at night.

Agreed to contact owner to resolve the issue. **Action: Clerk**

5.2 It had been noted the drains around Fitzhead had been cleared recently by TDBC.

6. Tithe Barn Project

6.1 David Pink updated the meeting regarding the latest with the Tithe Barn Project. Thread Architects had been appointed and were waiting for contracts to be sent for checking before signing. Grants were being applied for to help towards Architects Fees and Funds. Muriel Adams has been working hard and will attend a meeting in March to help with ensuring that grant forms are filled out correctly. A deadline of April to submit applications has been set. Once the contracts have been received these will be circulated for comment.

7. Fitzhead Website Funding – no decision reached – to be added to May meeting agenda.

8. Play Area

8.1 Weekly Inspections: Agreed it was the responsibility of the person with the play area folder to pass this onto the person carrying out the following month's inspections.

Wendy Jonas	Feb/March
Katrina Smith	April
David Pink	May
Alison Kent	June
Ian Coombes	July
Wendy Jonas	August

8.2 Mole Issue – moles were creating more damage in the play area. It was agreed to contact the Mole Man David Pink had used in the past for advice and help. It would be necessary to close the park whilst work was being carried out. **Action: Clerk**

8.3 Two signs were required: No Dogs notice and Please Close the Gate notice. **Action: Wendy**

9. Finances:

9.1 It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to pay the following invoices:

Clerk's wages £180.52, Tithe Barn £16.00, HMRC PAYE £45.20, Clerks Expenses £35.96, SALC Membership £66.76, AB Hartman (play area maintenance) Annual £450.00, Wivey Link Donation £150.00.

9.2 **Receipts received:** Lloyds Bank £1.21p bank interest – Nov – Jan, TDBC Maintenance Grant £1,670, VAT refund £969.60
Bank Balance as at 11 February 2018 £10,945.73.

9.3 Asset Register – this had been previously circulated. After discussion it was agreed to add the value of the play area equipment to the register as well as the two new swings. The value had been submitted by the Play Inspection Company following their report of £17,734.96.

9.4 Internal Controls Document – this had been circulated and after discussion regarding the asset register update, this was approved.

9.5 External Auditor Report – the clerk had received the Annual Return from the external auditor. One area raised was the new swings should have been put onto the Asset Register. The clerk argued that the PC had not paid in full or received the swings until after the new financial year had started. She would discuss this with the auditor and plan to add the swings on the fixed asset section for the year 2017/18 year.

10. Planning Update

17/18/0001 Erection of first floor extension on the north elevation at Burrow Hill Cottage, Fitzhead – no decision reached as at 14/2/18

17/17/0011 Erection of single storey extension to rear of 4 Tithe Meadow, Fitzhead – decision of conditional approval made on 15/2/18.

11. **Police Report** – the report received by PCSO Louise Fyne would be put onto the website.

12. **Taunton Deane Councillor's Report** - Gwil Wren reported that TDBC will be setting its budget next week. All the indications are that Council Tax will increase by the maximum allowable ie £4.99 for a Band D property. This should allow TDBC to set a balanced budget for 2018/19 without further cuts. The situation after next year is still grave as the Revenue Support Grant from Government is due to fall to zero in 19/20 and if there is no merger TDBC will be in significant deficit by 20/21.

78/2018

There is no news on the merger decision yet but I think TDBC is hopeful of hearing before the budget setting meeting.

TDBC is currently reorganizing to get most of its services on-line and ensure that customers get their business done first time so that costs can be substantially reduced. This will happen regardless of the merger but if the 2 Councils do merge the collective savings will be that much greater across the TDBC/WS area.

Anyone who is not tech savvy will be able to interact with a human and they are introducing a Customer Management system about which I will learn more next week.

Milverton Surgery has now closed and very limited services are on offer in the Creedwell Community Rooms (behind the flats on the right as you drive down to the surgery car park). Milverton Parish Council is still in discussion with Som Par about this and the services currently on offer. Wivey Link are also in discussions.

There was further news on broadband.

13. Somerset County Councillor's Report – James Hunt reported: The Ofsted inspection recently carried out for SCC Children's Services received a Good. SCC want to achieve an Outstanding and will be working towards this. Libraries are being reviewed and SCC wish to make a 20% saving – please complete the consultation currently available on line. SCC working on a better system with Social Care and Hospitals to get people home and out of hospitals to free up beds. Highways A303/A38 and J25 improvements still under consultation and are necessary to improve the area. By 2020 the Government will stop all funding to councils and SCC will need to obtain funds via business rates to help towards these improvements. SCC also need to build 10 new schools which are required at a cost of over £150m. Government new homes bonus will not be enough to provide the infrastructure required over the next four years. Still more challenges to come.

14. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on 31st May at 7.15. This would be the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.