

Fovant Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7pm Tuesday 7th March 2023

At Fovant Village Hall, Tisbury Road, Fovant

07.03.01

Those present:

Parish Councillors T. Phillips (Chairman), D. Horne (vice Chairman), W.Hobbs, A. Havard, M. Wallis, A. Cousley.

Also in attendance: T. Culver-James, Clerk. Wiltshire Councillor N. Najjar (until 7.47), Mrs. C. Brown (Wiltshire Council Residential Development Project Manager) (until 7.32), One member of the public (until 7.55).

Apologies received from Cllr. S. Barr.

A local resident made known his intention regarding a forthcoming Planning Application. This not being on the Agenda as part of the formal business, and the Application yet to be made, it does not form part of these Minutes. His comments were however noted.

07.03.02

Declarations of Interest

None made.

07.03.03

Chairman's Introduction

TP welcomed attendees. Owing to time commitments, both Cllr. Najjar and Mrs. Brown made submissions at this point. The exchanges in these matters are noted appropriately in the Minutes below. However, TP mentioned the briefing by Dr Kinlin to explain the use of Defibrillator equipment, to take place on 23rd March. He said that neighbouring villages had successfully used a Southwest Ambulance paramedic trainer for first aid awareness raising sessions, at about £100 per session – much less than the quotes our Council had found two years ago but did not take up due to lack of interest. TP proposed that at Dr Kinlin's session he should announce that the Council will shortly organise more detailed sessions, possibly coordinating dates with training in Swallowcliffe so as to attract residents from both villages. The meeting encouraged this plan.

07.03.04

Resolution of minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 10th January and 1st February, with the accompanying financial statement were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

07.03.05

Report from Wiltshire Councillor

It was noted that the WC budget had been passed, the rise in Council Tax designed to protect services. NN said that there remained some funding for this financial year for Area Board small grants, £8,000 recently paid toward play areas in Broad Chalke. AH indicated interest in applying on behalf of FVH, NN suggesting the SWAB applying in May for the June meeting. TP referred to the ongoing collection and analysis of SID data. NN replied that the Area Board meeting on the 15th March would be weighted toward this and speeding matters, and that he expected representation from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. In connection, MW mentioned local concerns about the lack of public knowledge about the recent update of the Highway Code, particularly the new clauses about pedestrian safety distances where are no pavements. MW said he proposed a Highways Code Awareness Raising week in Fovant in the summer, and he invited NN to be involved. NN alerted the meeting to a scheme to highlight youth employment in south Wiltshire to be held in the second week of May.

07.03.06

Planning Matters

PL/2023/00494 Fovant House, Church Lane, Fovant. Installation of 34 solar panels. Consultation deadline 16/03/2023. Clerk to indicate unanimous support for this application

07.03.07

Financial Matters

- a. Dates regarding FY22/23 accounts and AGAR noted.
- b. Clerk to engage internal auditor, costs suggested in the region of £250.00
- c. Income and expenditure January/February presented.

Other matters

- a. Christine Brown (Wiltshire Council Estate and Development Team) gave a detailed précis of the issues regarding Clays Orchard. She highlighted the priority of WC to the needs and wishes of residents of sheltered housing. Clays Orchard is one of the developments in the County needing to be reviewed. Built in 1951, it has 18 one bed flats and the two bed bungalow. Mrs Brown summarised the three options for sustainability in the medium/long term. Light refurbishment is regarded as unfeasible, partly because of the impracticality of installing lifts in all three blocks at this site. The other options are a major refurbishment, or a full redevelopment of the site. Either of these may incur upheaval for the residents, but no actions will incur financial costs to them. A high proportion of current residents have come from the locality: 17% are from Fovant, 42% from within 1-5 miles and 33% from more than 10 miles away. Mrs Brown emphasised the importance of community engagement in considering the options. She asked for a focus group in the Council to work with her; Councillors Horne, Wallis and Havard volunteered. Clerk to provide contact details to Mrs. Brown.
- b. MW has provided precise locations of new litter bin placement. Clerk to obtain a quote from idVerde for weekly emptying.

- c. Funding for warm spaces in the Village Hall to be suspended due apparently to lack of uptake. Funding support to the hire of The Waterside for Dr Kinlin's weekly 'drop in' sessions to be suspended, as future sessions will take place in the Surgery. Location of Dr Kinlin's monthly focus meetings still undecided.
- d. Only one complaint being received about a recent incident of parking on both sides of High St. near the shop that blocked the road for several minutes, it was agreed that FPC would actively monitor this situation for recurrence. Clerk to write to complainant. Additionally, AC referred to a particular issue of problem parking on Sling Orchard. Agreed that he forward registration details to Clerk, who can send them to the Police.
- e. TP and DH will attend the next Area Board (15 March) to continue to push for recognition of the SID data by the police, after a promising response from the CPT Inspector in Warminster. Continuing participation in Area Board meetings, taking place in the evening and open to the public, provides an important opportunity to raise concerns about traffic issues and other matters with Wiltshire Council and Police officers.
- f. MW proposed a Highway Code awareness week in Fovant. This was met favourably by all councillors. The event to involve the school in designing information posters, the selected entry to be displayed temporarily in specific, legal and safe locations. MW noted he had recently been struck (it was assumed glancingly) by a Wilts and Dorset bus. Clerk to write to the bus company asking their drivers to note the new Highway Code, and the upcoming local campaign. Advisory letters also to be sent to local commercial concerns with a high level of local traffic.
- g. MW highlighted the very welcome and efficient services of the Parish Steward. The LHFIG meeting of 22 February had clarified the different mechanisms for requesting drain/gulley clearance and other road work.
- h. This matter dealt with in 07.03.03. Opportunities for further First Aid instruction funded by FPC will be canvassed with residents.
- i. No requests for funding for Coronation events have been received.
- j. Funding approved (TP/DH-unanimous) for upkeep of Church grounds in the sum of £500. Clerk confirmed in budget and within the Council's legal remit.
- k. Noted that FPC will convene and Chair the Annual Parish Meeting as usual, the date to be confirmed shortly. Written reports from local groups will be welcomed and published in the meeting report, and individuals representing these groups as well as other electors will be invited to make statements. The AGM of the Parish Council, followed by the first Ordinary meeting of FPC will be on Tuesday 2nd May.
- l. Another item of business was raised, about the prohibitive cost of colour printing of even a few pages each month about parish events. MW offered to put together a two-page monthly précis of local events (20 copies at the cost of £7.00/month) based on information from the Fovant Village Website. These copies could be made available in buildings used by the community, e.g. the Village Hall and Waterside. Agreed as worth exploring (TP/MW-unanimous)

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm