

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2020

IN DOLTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION :

The only comment in the public session was an enquiry to the progress of the speed sign. This is on course and hopefully the pole will be in place within days of this meeting

PRESENT:

Cllr Walker (Chair); Cllrs Giles, Haynes, Herniman, Lock, Rolls and Tremayne. and Ward Cllr M Clarke.

Also in attendance : Clerk D Edmeads.

In addition, there were 4 members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

137 (19/20) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Martindale and Rendell, C.Cllr A Saywell, Ward Cllr R Lock sent their apologies for absences from the meeting.

138 (19/20) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February had been circulated. They were agreed by all to be correct and signed as a true record.

139 (19/20) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting to be reviewed

140 (19/20) FIRST RESPONDERS

Following the comprehensive report from previous meeting, no further information was given

141 (19/20) CLLRS' REPORTS

- a) Ward Cllr R Lock sent a report which covered the following:

Finance - Increase in Council tax – this has now been confirmed at full council that Band D properties in Torridge will pay an additional £5.00 per annum (3.06% rise) making a yearly payment of £168.66. 68% of properties within Torridge fall within Bands A, B and C and will pay less than the £5 per annum increase. With regard to the minutes of meeting 3rd Feb. min. no 126a) community resource budget is incorrect. Should read the Community Resource Committee had recommended rise of £5 in council tax

b) Unfortunately there will be no New Homes Bonus grants for the next financial year – from which Dolton Parish were awarded £30,000 for the car park. This will be revisited in 21/22 when future Government funding will be known.

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Planning -App no 1/0899/19 Cleave Hill 6 dwellings – today spoken to the planning officer – he is still awaiting the viability assessment as to the provision of an affordable house which the applicants say they cannot afford to do. Any such viability appraisal will be sent to the independent District Valuer for assessment.

Extension of time for decision has been extended to 31 st March 2020

App no 1/0701/2018OUT 34 houses north of Aller Road – have once again spoken to the planning officer today with regard to Section 106 agreement The delay in signing this agreement is in connection with ownership of land (where the old play area was) there is no contention as to the sums being secured and their phasing. Again once this agreement is signed, outline permission can be granted and then the reserved matters will have to be submitted

Climate Emergency declaration - Torridge have organised a meeting at Caddsdawn Business Park on SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 10am to 4pm - experts from a variety of fields will be on hand to discuss any question etc. Should be a useful meeting. Open to all town and parish councils. Ideas can be pooled and shared.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Barnstaple Police Station

It has been announced today that following an inspection by Health & Safety Executive engineers on the roof of the police station that whilst the report suggests no imminent health and safety risk it does advise that further deterioration is possible and there are no viable repair options. As a result of which as a precautionary measure the current police station will be moved to a temporary location by June 2020 All of the local services provided at Barnstaple police station including public enquiry office, response, custody capability and space for officers and staff will still be available.

AND FINALLY – Jenny Wallace Head of Paid Service at Torridge is finishing her local government career after 46 years – 32 years of these at Torridge District Council Jenny joined Torridge as a senior accountant from North Devon Council in 1988 and following several promotions became permanent Head of Paid Services in 2013. She leaves on 7 th April. The Council's Strategic Manger (Resources) Steve Hearse will temporarily take over the reins of the Council whilst the formal process of finding a Chief Executive is quickly instigated.

- b) Ward Cllr M Clarke added to Ward Cllr Locks report to say that in addition to the Climate Emergency meeting for town and Parish Councils, others are being held in local areas that are open to the public. Among these are the open meeting that is to be held at the Dolton Village Hall on March 14th. Other meeting information can be found on the Devon County Council website.

Disability Grants – these are working successfully and the response time and processing of applications are dealt with quickly. Another entry is be placed in the Dolton Diary to heighted the awareness of local residents to this service and its long term positive affect.

Carbon Reduction – It was suggested to Cllr Clarke that it should be included in planning regulations for New Builds that steps are taken to include measures such as solar panels. It was also requested that he raise this point at his next meeting

- c) C.Cllr Saywell sent this report:

Coronavirus update - DCC are closely monitoring the situation in Devon and the Council's public health, social care, education and emergency planning teams are in

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daily contact with Public Health England, education and social care settings and issuing advice to our own staff as the situation changes.

two residents from the South Devon area have been confirmed as having contracted Coronavirus (COVID-19) whilst in Northern Italy.

We understand from Public Health England (PHE) that close contacts to these residents will be given health advice about symptoms and emergency contact details to use if they become unwell in the 14 days after contact. If you or your Parishioners have not been contacted by PHE, you do not need to take any action at this time.

PHE also advise that if anyone has recently been to one of the [affected areas](#) and is feeling unwell, they should phone the NHS 111 helpline for further advice straight away rather than go to the doctor or a hospital.

The Plough - As you will have seen, The Plough Arts Centre is in some financial difficulty. It is essential that we keep this key facility going – it is more than just a local arts centre, it will be key to the health and wellbeing agenda in the coming decade and I regard it as an asset for Devon, let alone Torrington Rural.

Cllr Saywell is working with The Plough and DCC to see whether the Council can support their Crowdfunder initiative... hopeful we can but will involve some technical changes (the project has to become 'all or nothing' for it to be supported by DCC).

In the meantime if you want to donate please visit the link here -

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/power-the-plough>

DCC Budget - Main event last month has been approving the Budget for the next financial year, which went to Full Council last Thursday. I believe I gave Cllrs the draft figures at the last meeting so I don't propose to repeat them but no major changes were made to the Budget between then and its approval. There will be more funding for Adult Care and Health, Children's Services and Highways. The extra funding for Highways will also, I am told, start to see the capacity of the teams increased so more staff will be recruited to help manage the extra funding and workloads.

Council tax – DCC's share of the precept will go up by 3.99% - with 2% specifically for Adult Social Care. I would rather we did not increase the council tax but with the growth in demand for our services to Adults and Childrens – along with Highways – without increasing the precept we won't be able to fund the services adequately.

Potholes - There is a new feature on the 'Report It' website, when a pothole is reported it goes out to the Pothole Inspector to look at. If it meets the safety defect criteria it will then have a 'roadworks' sign placed on it which you can see on the website along with an estimated repair time.

There is a massive backlog at the moment so it is taking time for repairs to come through. Extra gangs have been put out on pothole repairs though recent inclement weather conditions will not have helped

Reminder that the link to report potholes, blocked drains, fallen trees, etc. is here -

<http://devon.cc/report-it>

142 (19/20) CLERK'S REPORT:

There was nothing to report

143 (19/20) CORRESPONDENCE:

The list of correspondence received was reviewed:

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Ref	Date	Correspondent	Content	Action
12/1	04/02/2020	plantscape	Solar Christmas trees	Information
12/2	18/02/2020	TDC	Climate emergency workshops	information
12/3	19/02/2020	Devon communities	DCT membership	information
12/4	21/02/2020	CPRE Devon	Best churchyard competition	information
12/5	24/02/2020	Marian Phillips	Carbon footprint documentary	information
12/6	25/02/2020	Active places	Active places data platform	information
12/7	27/02/2020	Sports&play consulting	Playground and sports facilities	information
12/8	28/02/2020	Fabrications north east	Remembrance bench	information
12/9	28/02/2020	glasdon	Bins/ seating	information
12/10	28/02/2020	Glasdon	Village gateways	information
12/11	28/02/2020	Glasdon	Focus on local councils	information
12/12	28/02/2020	broxap	Litter and recycling bins	information

144 (19/20) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The proposed payments were scrutinised and approved for payment.

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
Mr M Lock	27/02/2020	Caretaking January 2020	120		1204
Mr D Lock	27/02/2020	Grasscutting	255		1205
D&D Village Hall	29/02/2020	Hall Hire	8		1206
Diane De-Pinto	29/02/2020	Home Office	10		1207
			393.00		

The Payments were checked by Cllr Haynes Cheques were signed by Cllr Giles and Cllr Lock.

b) Bank Reconciliation. The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation to 15th February 2020.

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 14 FEBRUARY 2020			
Balance at bank 14/02/20			
Current Ac sheet 193 to 14 February 2020	7,260.46		
Reserve Ac sheet 87	1,153.28		
95 Day Ac sheet 71	41,997.89		
Less un-presented cqs at 14/02/20	20.99	cq no	amount
		1203	20.99
Plus un-cleared credits at 14/02/20	0.00		
Total Balance at bank at 14/02/20	50,390.64		20.99
Cash Book			
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/19	50,564.19		
Less payments to 14.2.20	16,782.63		

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Plus receipts to 14.2.20	16,609.08		
Closing balance per cash book at 14/2/20	50,390.64		
Variance	0.00		

- c) Other matters. Tenders have been received for caretaking and grasscutting and were to be discussed in PART II directly after the public meeting

145 (19/20) TPLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: 1/1194/2019/FUL,- Watergate, West Lane. No objections were noted
- b) Appeal Information: there were none
- c) Applications granted - 1/1071/2019/FUL - Down Farm, 1/1072/2019/LBC – Down Farm
- d) Applications withdrawn: there were none
- e) Applications refused – there were none
- f) Any other planning matters. there were none

146 (19/20) DPC final representation on Acorn Farm APP/W1145/X/18/3217092

All final papers from Dolton Parish Council along with others submitted by Cllrs, Haynes, Walker and Martindale. A big thanks was given to Julie Genge for her time and help. No date is actually confirmed for the public appeal yet.

147 (19/20) TDC request for members interests

All members interests have been submitted to Torridge District Council, there are none outstanding.

148 (19/20) VE Day celebrations May 8th :

Ideas were invited for celebrations of how to mark the event but nothing was suggested, maybe a request in the Dolton Diary will generate some interest.

149 (19/20) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross. There is a broken Gate spring that will need to be fixed.
- b) Telephone Box. Glaziers are causing delays at the moment a working party will need to be arranged when the weather improves to glaze and repaint.
- c) The pavilion working group met on Saturday 29 February. There was broad agreement on a possible solution to the pavilion ownership issue, and enthusiasm to move the whole project forward now that the site is being used again, by Dolton Walking Football and Winkleigh FC's U16's and sometimes senior team. Dolton & Winkleigh Scout Troop will use it in the summer, but much more so if the facilities are refurbished. More detail should be available for the April DPC meeting.

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150(19/20) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) Parish Path Partnership – PROW Members of the public have showed an interest in walking the local paths and public rights of way to make sure they are maintained correctly and safe. Further information will be gathered from TDC to be sure all relevant information is available to us and to be sure all public rights of way are listed
- b) Verges. Cllr Martindale was absent from this meeting so no update was available from him. It is understood that the planting continues as planned

151 (19/20) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Nothing was reported

152 (19/20) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

The first responders have received the funds for the 2 defributors and will have these soon. As soon as they are received Western Power and BT will be contacted to arrange their installation.

Signed **Date**