

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2020

VIA ZOOM

PUBLIC SESSION : 2 members of the public attended the meeting and 1 point was raised: Martin Lock raised the following point relating to the football field: His e-mail stated: *the matter of the amount of scrap behind the football pavilion, it's mainly old chairs, pipes, and gas bottles. There is also the old football posts, that have been but down in the hedge bank (during the summer), again these are unsightly and could be dangerous when trimming hedge etc (or children messing with). It's a trailer load that needs to go to dump ideally.* Cllr Walker has offered to look at this matter and could possible remove some of the rubbish himself.

Martin Lock also mentioned that the path leading to the football field needs some attention and it was decided that this will be looked into at a later date.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Cllr Martindale stated an interest in Acorn Farm and the Cleave Hill development

PRESENT:

Cllr Walker (Chair); Cllrs, Giles, Herniman, Lock, Martindale, Rendell and Tremayne. Ward Cllr R Lock joined the meeting late due to prior meeting commitments with TDC Also in attendance : Clerk D Edmeads.

71 (20/21) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr J Rolls and Ward Cllr M Clarke sent apologies for absence from the meeting.

72 (20/21) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on October 5th 2020 had been Circulated and were agreed to be a correct record. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Herniman and seconded by Cllr Tremayne and will be signed by Cllr Walker

73 (20/21) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

74 (20/21) CLLRS' REPORTS

a) C.Cllr Saywell gave the following report:

Coronavirus Stats – As of 2nd November DCC area of Devon now up to 5,108 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. Since the 30th October that is a weekly increase of 640 By way of comparison... in Torridge there were just 33 cases in the last 7 days from 30th Oct. West Devon 43 in the last 7 days, North Devon 75 in the last 7 days.

Our infection rates, both County wide but especially within the District of Torridge are well below the national average. BUT, even within the South West there is now a serious problem in the large urban conurbations – Bristol, Plymouth, Poole and Bournemouth, Torbay. These city problems were then spilling out into the travel to work areas and were almost certain to have gone into Tier 2 this week.

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ironically in Exeter the situation had improved as DCC, the City Council and the University successfully contained the University outbreak and stopped it from spreading into the community (other university towns and cities, particularly in the North of England please take note!). NHS Test and Trace was following up over 75% of contacts in Devon... it is noted from Government data that in Wales well over 80% of contacts were traced, above the level 'SAGE' says it has to be effective. Yet they were forced to lockdown too. In Germany their tracing system has fallen over, in fact they have fallen over in practically all European countries. Track and Trace is getting a lot of flack in the media, but the issue it would appear is less that contacts are not traced... but rather those who are asked to self isolate are not doing so.

It is hoped we will see a return to regional based restrictions in December but even if we do, we must bear in mind our regional stats could be influenced by the high infection rates in the cities.

There is no doubt that the residents of Dolton, Torrington Rural and indeed all of Devon have put in a magnificent effort to keep the virus at bay for as long as possible. Please do make sure that those who need support, be they shielding or in need, get support and please do follow the rules and guidance during this difficult time

A Statement from Director of Public Health, Dr Virginia Pearson was also read out by Cllr Saywell and this mirrored the report that he had given.

Cllr Saywell also added that he knows it will be a difficult month – but we got through the first lockdown and he knows we will get through the second.

Highways - A traffic order has gone out for the road heading past Langham – this is to take samples from the road and also thoroughly investigate the drainage in the area to make sure there are no drainage issues ahead of patching/resurfacing works. Will mean it'll take slightly longer for works to get done, but they will be done in a more thorough and 'joined up' approach than before.

The following points were sent by e-mail following the meeting:

Cycle Path Link from Tarka Trail to Torrington

- Consultation out to use the 'Rolle Rd' route to Mill St and the preferred 'link' between the Trail and the Town. You can respond here - <https://www.torringtoncommons.org/2020/10/taddiport-cycle-path-proposal-2020/>

School Transport

- It is now mandatory for pupils to wear face coverings on school transport. Previous guidance asked pupils aged 11 and over to wear face coverings unless they were exempt, however some did not. From November 2nd it will be a condition of travel.
- The County Council will operate a 'two strikes' policy. If a student is found not wearing a face covering by the school or transport operator on two occasions, and there is no record of them being exempt from using one, they will be refused travel for a period of time.
- Those travelling on Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport will not be included in this new policy, as the majority of children are in categories which exclude them from

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

wearing face coverings. However, passengers with SEN who can wear a face covering are encouraged to do so.

- b) Ward Cllr Lock sent a report that referred mainly but to the planning section and will be shown in the relating items but also stated the following:

Mr.H. Jennings has submitted a planning application for Halfpenny Land – but as yet I do not see it on the planning portal list.

Torrington Swimming pool – you may have picked up from press reports that Torrington Swimming pool and Holsworthy Leisure centre could not be opened for the foreseeable future, but the pool at Northam would be open as soon as possible. OF COURSE THIS HAS NOW CHANGED WITH THE NEW LOCKDOWN.

Ward Cllr Lock added that further monies will be available for small businesses to help during the new lockdown

75 (20/21) CLERK'S REPORT:

No report as the finance section covers this later in the meeting.

76 (20/21) Parish Paths Partnership (PROW):

There has been no update to this from John Baker. A reminder will be sent to chase this. It was reported that the Ramblers Association are looking for old maps to make sure that no rights of way have “disappeared”. When further information is received from Mr Baker we will be able to decide how to continue

77 (20/21) ALLOTMENTS

Due to the sad loss of Paul Middleton, the field that had originally been offered is no longer available. Other possibilities that were being looked into have also not been materialised. Cllr Martindale will contact all 7 villages that were interested to keep them up to date and advise of possible alternatives situated in Riddlecombe and Winkleigh. Of course Dolton Parish Council will continue to try and source a suitable site.

78 (20/21) MEMORIAL SERVICE:

At the time of the meeting there was confusing and conflicting advice regarding memorial services and if these were possible to take place due to the latest government restrictions. It was agreed that a flexible approach to a service and the roles taken by Councillors would be taken and it was further agreed that a wreath would be sourced. Cllr Walker suggested a wicker wreath could be made by Jenny Paine which was met with approval.

79 (20/21) CLEAN UP THE VILLAGE DAY:

This is now not possible due to Government guidelines but will be carried over until the next meeting when hopefully restrictions could have been lifted.

80 (20/21) FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The proposed payments were made.

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
TDC	13/10/20	Clerks salary	2032.14		1246
D Lock	27/10/20	Grass cutting	580.00		1247
M Lock	28/10/20	Caretaker	120.00		1248

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cancelled cheque		Cancelled cheque			1249
J Tremayne	16/10/20	Phone box sundries	44.91	2.86	1250
D De-Pinto	31/10/20	Home office	10.00		1251

The Payments will be checked by Cllr Walker. Cheques will signed by Cllr Giles and Cllr Lock after approval. Proposed by Cllr Herniman and seconded by Cllr Martindale

b) RECEIPTS after 15 September 2020

none	
------	--

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 15 OCTOBER 2020			
Balance at bank 15/10/20			
Current Ac sheet 201 to 15 October 2020	12,473.56		
Reserve Ac sheet 95	1,154.07		
95 Day Ac sheet 79	42,168.98		
Less un-presented cqs at 15/10/20	1,098.45	cq no	amount
		1238	20.00
Plus un-cleared credits at 15/10/20	0.00	1239	197.00
		1240	548.62
Total Balance at bank at 15/10/20	54,698.16	1241	120.00
		1242	20.57
Cash Book		1243	71.32
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/19	50,564.19	1244	39.48
Less payments to 15.10.20	28,226.99	1245	81.46
Plus receipts to 15.10.20	32,360.96		
Closing balance per cash book at 15/10/20	54,698.16		1,098.45
Variance	0.00		

d) The need to write a letter to appoint Internal Auditor:

It was agreed that this letter would be sent to Mr Malcolm Easton confirming his appointment.

e) invoice received for grass cutting of football field and request for new boiler:

An invoice for £848.00 has been received for the upkeep of the football field and also a request for financial support in relation to a new boiler from Dolton Rangers AFC.

As there is no contract agreed for these services due to the first lockdown and lack of formal discussions, this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting by which time the costs in previous years can be checked and the tenders looked at again before any agreement of payment can be made regarding the upkeep of the field or any donation towards the new boiler be made

f) Other financial matters: none

81 (20/21) PLANNING APPLICATION

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

- a) Applications to consider - : none
- b) Applications granted - 1/0701/2018/OUTM - Land North Of Aller Road, Dolton,
- 1/0743/2020/FUL - Jocey, West Lane, Dolton, Winkleigh
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters - updates for the Acorn Campsite Appeal and the Planning application for the Cleave Hill development

These points were offered in the written report received by Ward Cllr Lock and stated:

With regard to planning issues just to confirm in regard to the Acorn Farm appeal – both parties are now looking at a date early April which will be by a virtual appeal.

Cleave Hill Development – the applicants submitted a viability appraisal to TDC showing they could not provide any affordable housing. As in all cases when this happens TDC send this on to either the District Valuer or another independent valuer to scrutinise.

Awaiting these further reports.

82 (20/21) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground / Hedge. No date has yet been given by TK Play for the renovations to be completed, it is hoped that this will happen in the near future. It was agreed that quotes should be sourced for the cutting of the top of the hedge near the climbing frame, Cllr walker has offered to do this
- b) Car park:
 - i) possible request from the Village Hall to use the Car Park for an event before Christmas –unfortunately due to the latest guidelines, this will now not be possible to take place
 - ii) replacement plants – Cllr Walker made a request to purchase 12-15 plants for the car park to replace those that have not survived, Cllrs agreed to this request
- c) Football field. Following from the last meeting, email correspondence from the Devon Air Ambulance, Toby Russell (Community Landing Sites Development Officer) advised that the crew had not reported any difficulties with access but did agree that the addition of reflective markers might help when the crew are using torches at night. Cllr Martindale will look at the possibilities and costs involved of providing these.

83(20/21) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) Traffic Survey: There has still been no news of the speed survey that was supposed to be taking place on Rectory Road. Cllr Rendell will contact Darryl Jagger to request a virtual meeting to discuss this. Ward Cllr Lock mentioned that this meeting will need 2 or 3 councillors to attend which raised no objections. Other members of Dolton Parish Council would happily agree to attend this meeting once a date can be set.

- b) Telephone Box. Cllr Tremayne gave the following written report:

The exterior of the phone box is now painted and re-glazed. There are some bits of exterior tidying and touching-up which will take place when there is a reasonable weather break.

The interior has had some internal paintwork attended to. Work will be advanced at the same time as the exterior but will not be completed until the phone box is purposed.

Budget Allocated £ 2,500.00

Expenditure to date: -

Glazing Supplies £ 548.62

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sundries £ 44.90

Funds Not Yet Committed £ 1,906.48

I would like to thank Steve Martindale and Paul Rendell for their help with the work to date.

Any suggestions for the use of the telephone box will be collated and discussed at the next meeting before a decision can be reached.

- c) Public Toilet in the Square: Damages occurred during October to the sink, towel dispenser and roll holder. Martin Lock has made temporary repairs to most of the damages and the toilet is useable but a slight leak remains. Jamie Parsons has been contacted and this is now on his list.

84 (20/21) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

No meetings have been attended

85 (20/21) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Cllr Herniman asked if the scout trailer that is currently at the football field causing any problem. It was mentioned to her that if it was moved then it could provide another parking space. It was decided that for the time being the trailer cold stay where it is but offers of alternative storage was also offered if it was needed.

The next meeting of the Dolton Parish Council will take place on Monday December 7th 2020. The meeting will take place via ZOOM as social restrictions still do not allow actual meetings to take place .

Signed Date