

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2020

VIA ZOOM

PUBLIC SESSION : 7 members of the public attended the meeting and 2 points were raised:

Simon Paine spoke regarding the proposed Solar Park that should be put forward to the Planning department of TDC in January. Whilst he noted that the Solar Park would be in the Ashreigney Parish, it is close to some properties in Dolton parish. Simon stated that he supported the project in principle, but as Grid capacity for Dolton is limited, he requested that the Parish confirm that the project would not adversely impact Doltons grid and in addition the parish should push for increased capacity to ensure that Local people can fully utilise energy generated by the project. Failure to address the Grid capacity would seriously hinder Doltons ability to transition away from fossil fuels and have a detrimental impact on the village's future.

Colin Jones further added to this point that there are concerns of energy in the village, especially looking ahead to the prospect of electric cars etc. and suggests that we think ahead to projects similar to this, including the possibility of solar panels on the village roof.

The 2nd point was raised by Pym Gander. This was regarding the Atkins house and adjoining land that has recently come onto the market. The question raised was whether or not the land had planning permission for 2 or 3 houses to built on it. It is clear that on the Village Plan, there is the possibility to build new properties in from of the house but not on the adjoining land and that access would be via the house entrance from the street and not via the village car park of the public path that runs alongside. It was also noted that whilst the property and land is within a conservation area, Councillors were not 100% if the house was listed or not.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Cllr Martindale stated an interest in Acorn Farm and the Cleave Hill development if these were to appear

PRESENT:

Cllr Walker (Chair); Cllrs, Giles, Lock, Martindale, Rendell and Tremayne. C.Cllr A Saywell. Also in attendance : Clerk D Edmeads.

86 (20/21) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Herniman, Rolls and Ward Cllrs Clarke and Lock sent apologies for absence from the meeting.

87 (20/21) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 2nd 2020 had been Circulated and were agreed to be a correct record. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Lock and seconded by Cllr Martindale and will be signed by Cllr Walker

88 (20/21) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

89 (20/21) CLLRS' REPORTS

C.Cllr Saywell gave the following report: (copied directly from the written report that was received)

Coronavirus

- *Stats – As of 7th December DCC area of Devon now up to 8,704 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.*
- *Since the 5th December that is a weekly increase of 574 infections.*

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- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 69 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 71 in the last 7 days, West Devon 46 cases in the last 7 days.
- Infections countywide have fallen back to where they were mid/late October, before the second lockdown. BUT, infections in the over 80s have increased.

Looking at Torridge

Torridge weekly infection rates has risen to 101 people per 100,000 as of the seven days to 2nd December, higher than our neighbouring Districts.

I know this has been concerning and at my request, the Director of Public Health has carried out the following analysis of the Torridge data and what has been going on.

In the last 14 days in Torridge there has been one care home outbreak (not in Torrington Rural) with 8 cases, and then a mixture of cases in a handful of settings, with 2's and 3's – agricultural, schools, and North Devon District Hospital. Aside from this, Torridge has only 10 settings that have had cases in the last 7 days, and each setting has had 1 case each.

A 'setting' is the Public Health Team's description for a specific site e.g. care home, workplace, school, prison, military base, etc.

Like the other districts as well as regionally and nationally, Torridge appears to have peaked during mid-November and has been reducing since then. Age groups over the last 7 days across Torridge seem to be fairly mixed. In terms of trends, those in older age groups had an uplift in cases in the last week however this data is very volatile and sensitive to change as the numbers are very small. Increase in the 80+ population are a reflection of the cases identified in care homes through routine testing.

So all in all, numbers are small (less than 10 cases per day), there isn't really any dominant situations (albeit 8 cases in the care home). The peak for Torridge was also lower than other areas and therefore the reduction post-peak may not seem as great when comparing to other areas.

With such small numbers, it only takes an outbreak or two and the infection rate per 100,000 will rocket up. In the Parish of Great Torrington, according to the 'MSOA' map, the infection rate there is 100.3 per 100,000 in the 7 days to 2nd December. But the number of infections in Great Torrington parish is just **six cases**. An increase of 1 (or 20%) in the previous week.

In Dolton, the Parish is part of the 'Winkleigh and High Bickington MSA' (the rest of my County Council division less Langtree and Frithelstock), and the good news is **there have been fewer than 3 cases**, which officially means the virus is **suppressed** locally.

Lastly, the DCC Public Health Team are hoping that the numbers in the over 80's start to fall, they are seeing falling numbers in hospitals and the rest of the population which is a good sign. We just need to get through the impact of the Christmas bubbles now...

Tier 2 : I know it is disappointing for Devon not to be in Tier 1, however the first review will be on the 16th December and it remains vital we do all that we can to keep our infection rates down. If we want to get into Tier 1, then it is even more vital now **that we all stick to the basic public health guidelines and maintain social distance, wash our hands regularly and wear face coverings where required** so we can get cases down and get into Tier 1.

The County Council is mindful of the impact this has on the hospitality sector and is lobbying hard for tailored support for our hard-hit hospitality industry.

However, it is good that shops and local businesses have been able to re-open again. This weekend I was in Torrington Town Centre where it was both busy, but also there was again good observance of the public health guidelines. If we continue to follow the basics, we should get our infection rates down.

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Schools and Support for Parents/Children/Families

- Despite the lockdown there has been a good return to School with the attendance figures for schools in Devon earlier this month at 90% (higher than the national average).
- The Government have awarded DCC more than £2 million to support vulnerable people, children and families over Winter.
- School Holiday Activities and Food Programme will be expanded covering Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021.
- Councils will distribute the funds rather than Schools as they are best placed to directly help the hardest hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the holiday.
- Local Authorities will receive the ring fenced funding at the beginning of December.
- If a child already receives free school meals, they will automatically qualify for the holiday vouchers scheme. They don't need to apply again.
- Parents and carers of children currently receiving free school meals will be sent letters and emails during the week commencing Monday 7 December with information about how to access their vouchers.
- If a child doesn't currently receive free school meals but may now be eligible due to a change in their family's circumstances, please help us ensure they can access this holiday voucher support over Christmas by encouraging them to [apply online via our website as soon as possible](#). This is the quickest and easiest way for their eligibility to be assessed and they will get an instant decision. Alternatively, they can call our education helpline on 0345 155 1019. To ensure that they receive the free school meal holiday vouchers for this Christmas period, they must apply by Friday 18 December 2020.
- Please point anyone with enquiries to our [dedicated web pages about the new scheme](#).

Care Home Visits

- Devon will be taking part in the national pilot which will allow friends and family to visit loved ones in care homes.
- A small number of care homes in Devon are taking part in the trial which involves regular testing of one family member or friend per resident so that, when combined with other infection-control measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), they can visit their loved one indoors and without a screen, while reducing the risk to care home residents, staff and other visitors.

North Devon Link Road Upgrade

- The Government has confirmed it is awarding DCC £60 million to upgrade the North Devon Link Road between South Molton and Barnstaple.
- Sections of the road will be widened to provide better overtaking opportunities and improve journey time reliability, and eight junctions will be upgraded to improve safety.
- Junction improvements also include improvements to Westleigh Junction, Haywood Rd Roundabout and Buckleigh Junction on the A39 in Bideford.

Winkleigh Work Hub

- DCC will be providing funding for a new 'Work Hub' in Winkleigh, and a second Hub in Torrington, which are designed to provide an office like environment for home workers and start up businesses. Torridge DC have applied for the funding to DCC and the bids look to have been successful.
- As we come out of the pandemic 'working from home' will I think be more common and these Hubs will be a valuable economic asset for our area.

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Happy Christmas!

Can I thank the Parish Council and all residents of Dolton for everything you have done and are doing during the pandemic to keep our communities safe. I wish you all a Happy, but above all Healthy Christmas.

90 (20/21) THANK YOU to Jenny Paine: The Parish Council would like to thank Jenny Paine for the wreath that was made for the memorial service

91 (20/21) ALLOTMENTS:

The family of Paul Middleton have contacted Cllr Martindale to say they are happy for the field that was offered for allotments can still be considered. This will be followed up once the legal process of probate have been completed

92 (20/21) VILLAGE HALL, solar panels and electric vehicle chargers:

There is no update at the moment regarding the solar panels. Once we know how this will materialise, then the subject of electrical vehicle chargers can be considered.

93 (20/21) NEW SNOW WARDEN:

As James Kendrew is now leaving the village, a new Snow Warden is needed. It was suggested that this be advertised via Facebook once the original job description had found. Luckily Rob and Harry Jennings (members of the public that were attending this meeting) volunteered themselves for this position. They will arrange to meet with Cllr John Lock to see the Salt machine for themselves and work out how it works. The Parish Council thanked them for their assistance.

94 (20/21) SALT MACHINE:

This has been serviced by Graham Dunn and is now in full working order.

95 (20/21) PROWs update:

We have been advised that updates will be provided to us in January

96 (20/21) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The proposed payments were made.

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
N Walker	13/07/2020	Zoom subscription	143.88	23.98	1252
M Lock	30/11/2020	Caretaker	120.00		1253
Dunn's Ploughs	02/12/2020	Salt spreader maintenance	60.00	10.00	1254
D De-pinto	30/11/2020	Home office and stationary	21.62	0.42	1255
P Greenwood	22/10/2020	Grass cutting, football field	660.00		1266

b) **RECEIPTS after 13 November 2020**

none

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 13 NOVEMBER 2020			
Balance at bank 13/11/20			
Current Ac sheet 202 to 13 November 2020	11,380.68		
Reserve Ac sheet 96	1,154.08		

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95 Day Ac sheet 80	42,174.18		
Less un-presented cqs at 13/11/20	2,801.62	cq no	amount
		1238	20.00
Plus un-cleared credits at 13/11/20	0.00	1244	39.48
		1246	2,032.14
Total Balance at bank at 13/11/20	51,907.32	1247	580.00
		1248	120.00
Cash Book		1251	10.00
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/20	50,026.20		
Less payments to 13.11.20	13,838.41		
Plus receipts to 13.11.20	15,719.53		
Closing balance per cash book at 13/11/20	51,907.32		2,801.62
Variance	0.00		

- d) invoice received for grass cutting of football field will be discussed in Part II
- e) Other financial matters: 2021/2022 Precept to be discussed in Part II

97 (20/21) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider –

- i) 1/0916/2020/FUL - Halfpenny Land & Buildings Dolton,

No objections were raised, however it was pointed out that no notification was sent to the neighbouring properties nor any signage visible. The only other point that was made was that it was hoped that the hours of operation would be within normal business hours

- ii) Amendment - 1/0527/2020/REMM - Land At Fishleigh Park, Aller Road,

It is not clear what the amendment is and the Parish Council are unable to comment until more details are seen

- b) Applications granted - none
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters –

- i) 1/0963/2020/REM - Land At Fishleigh Park, Dolton,

This is Phase 2 and again - it is not clear what the amendment is and the Parish Council are unable to comment until more details are seen

- ii) Solar Panel Park in Ashreigney Parish.

Individual residents are advised that they should put forward any comments or concerns regarding this project as advised in the literature that has been received by most if not all households. As the Parish Council, this will be looked at fully when the full planning application has been made before any reply is sent to Torridge District Council.

98 (20/21) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground: It was agreed by the Councillors that a meeting should be arranged at the playground with local contractor, Chris Herniman, to discuss exactly what needs to be done so that a full and correct quotation be offered.
- b) Car park: It has come to the Parish Councils attention that the field below the Car Park is for sale. This will be discussed in Part II of the meeting.
- c) Football field.

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- i) The Walking football wish to erect a memorial Bench in recognition of Alan Haynes near to the small shelter. This was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Martindale and a meeting will be arranged to agree on the exact location for it to be placed.
- ii) Cllr Martindale has installed a blue "WAY OUT" sign plus with 4 reflective posts at the entrance/exit to the football field to assist the emergency services during the hours of darkness.
- iii) Philip Greenwood would like to put ropes around the wetter areas of the football field. No objections were made but Mr Greenwood will be advised that the school are using the field and it should not create any difficulties or hazards to the pupils.

99(20/21) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) Telephone Box : There is no update this month
- b) Public Toilet in the Square: at the time of the meeting, the sink has still not been fixed firmly to the wall. This is still on the work list of Jamie Parsons and will be fixed as soon as this reached the top of his list.
- c) Traffic Survey: No update has been received regarding the survey. Emails correspondence state that there will be no outside visits at the moment but Cllr P Rendell will keep trying.
- d) New Flag: It was agreed that a new flag is needed as the existing one has seen better days. It was proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Giles that a new flag be purchased.

100 (20/21) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Martindale attended a virtual meeting that was arranged by Doug Smith from Great Torrington Town Council, the details are as below;

WATER – A GLOBAL ISSUE, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

The Fiware4Water project, funded by the European Commission is working in Great Torrington. The initiative has been designed by 14 partners from France, Greece, Spain, Holland and Germany together with the University of Exeter and South-West Water, The Fireware4Water project is joining forces with Great Torrington to begin a movement which will form part of the United Nations World Water Quality Alliance. Cities, towns and villages from around the globe will participate in a vital move towards achieving the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He reported that the meeting did not seem to very productive but will attend the next one in the hope that things begin to be discussed fully

101 (20/21) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Requests for the subjects of the Solar Park and Car Charging points be added to the next agenda

The next meeting of the Dolton Parish Council will take place on Monday January 4th 2021 at 19:30
The meeting will take place via ZOOM as social restrictions still do not allow actual meetings to take place .

Signed Date