

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 1ST 2021

PUBLIC SESSION: 5 members of the public attended. (The following points were raised.)

Caroline Cole raised several points:

- 1: Caroline wished to express thanks to Dan Parsons for making a new flower planter for Rectory Road free of charge.
- 2: an enquiry was made regarding a Xmas tree in the square – this was covered later in the meeting
- 3: next was in relation to the festival of lights and was the Parish Council intending to light the war memorial – Councillors all agreed that lights would be put in place around the railings but would not adorn the actual memorial as this would be seen as disrespectful.
- 4: the speeding sign was the final point raised by Caroline Cole – this was already on the agenda and was covered later in the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: No personal interests or prejudicial interests were declared by the Councillors

PRESENT: Cllr Walker (chair), Cllr Giles (vice chair) Cllrs Barwell, Herniman, Lock, Martindale, Rendell, Rolls and Tremayne and C Cllr Saywell. Also in attendance: Clerk D Edmeads.

80 (21/22) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ward Cllrs Clarke and Lock sent apologies for their absence from the meeting.

81 (21/22) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on October 4th had been circulated and were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and will be signed by Cllr Walker. This was proposed by Cllr Giles and seconded by Cllr Rendell (plus others Cllrs)

82 (21/22) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

83 (21/22) CLLRS' REPORTS

C Cllr Saywell gave the following report sent the following report (copied directly from his email):

Local Highways Matters

VAS Speeding Sign, Rectory Road – I am delighted that at long last, permission has been granted by Highways to erect a 'VAS' sign on Rectory Road. I know it has taken a long time, but I am glad that the persistent behind the scenes lobbying has at last paid off! I look forward to seeing the sign going up and being operational in due course.

Patching and Drainage works, Huish to Dolton – Works on the road from Huish to Dolton, via Langham, are due to finish on 5th November. This has been a lengthy closure but alongside patching and resurfacing, it has included the construction of two small retaining walls, renewing 225mm of drains, carry out other drain repairs, lay haunching, and the patching and resurfacing of parts of Langham Hill.

West Lane – Following a discussion with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer we are hopeful that serviceability patching will take place on this road. Exact details TBC but as and when I hear I will let the Parish Council know.

Improving Rail Links – The Okehampton to Exeter line will re-open on the 20th November. In the Budget today an announcement was also made to take forward early stage proposals to re-open the Plymouth-Tavistock line. DCC are also looking at improving rural bus links to our rail connections (see below).

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Bus Route Funding Bid – DCC has submitted a bid worth £34m to the Government to improve and introduce new rural bus services throughout Devon. Proposed routes include a new strategic service through Torrington, connecting people to the railway line at Umberleigh, possibly also to an express bus service to Tiverton Parkway. Reintroducing Sunday services also being looked at. Precise route details though subject to funding but this gives you an idea as to the direction of travel of this bid.

‘Node’ Enterprise Centre opens – A new enterprise centre at Roundswell has opened. Known as ‘Node’, the coworking and office space will support SMEs, start-ups, freelancers and local workers in North Devon and Torridge (and Torrington Rural!).

The modern building boasts 37 small and medium offices, a coworking space for up to 50 people, a number of meeting rooms and an on-site coffee shop. It aims to facilitate the changing way people work, by providing flexible workspace for individuals.

Covid – Cases nationally have started to fall and this trend is normally mirrored in Devon a week or two later. The next few weeks will be critical and we have had half term which helps with mixing as the younger population (secondary school) are the predominant case numbers.

Devon had 493.5 cases per 100,000 in the last seven days compared to 435.8 for England. North Devon (493 per 100,000), Torridge (454). The overwhelming majority of cases are in people aged 20 and under.

All Devon local authorities are similar and vary week on week, we are hopeful numbers may start to fall but no trend yet.

BUT, Hospital cases remain relatively low, we have not seen a massive increase in hospitalisations as a result of the higher infection rates.

Vaccines – Almost 9/10 16+ adults in Devon are fully vaccinated. More than 100,000 have had booster jabs. The NHS can only invite people for their booster six months after they’ve had their second dose. When you are invited for a booster please book an appointment immediately.

Free school meal vouchers - DCC have sent families of nearly 18,000 children in Devon free supermarket vouchers this October half term, worth £15 per child per week and helping to prevent holiday hunger.

Foster Carers - DCC is still looking for more Foster Carers in Devon, especially for children with more complex needs. A recruitment campaign will be launched shortly... If you know anyone who would be interested, please refer them to this DCC webpage - [Child and Parent fostering - Fostering in Devon](#)

Funding for self-isolating residents – DCC have launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19. The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom. More information available online - [The COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant \(Self-Isolation\) - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

I hope this update is useful, please let me know if there’s anything else you need me to look into.

84 (21/22) QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:

Cllr Herniman informed that not much has happened regarding the Queens jubilee. Fund raising will start this month with a car wash at the Rams Head and bank accounts will be opened. There is another meeting in November so more information should follow next month.

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85 (21/22) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE / VH SOLAR PANELS AND EMERGENCY HUB INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr Martindale advised that discussions had taken place with the Village Hall committee regarding the upgrade needed for the electrics to enable the Hall to be used as a hub in case of emergency situations, this was met with approval from the Village Hall and as Danny Sullivan is a member of the Emergencies Committee hopefully he will be able to co-ordinate this. More information should follow next month.

86 (21/22) REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Following a request from the church, it was confirmed that the flower planters at the war memorial will be moved for Remembrance Sunday and that the PC will be represented during the ceremony. Cllr Walker will source a wreath for the occasion

87 (21/22) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The proposed payments were made.

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
Cancelled cheque					1299
D Lock	4/10/21	Parish grass gutting	510.00		1300
M Lock	28/10/21	Caretaker	120.00		1301
D De-Pinto	31/10/21	Home office	10.00		1302
Village Hall	31/10/21	Hall hire	6.00		1303
P Greenwood	22/10/21	Football field annual grasscutting	820.00		1304

The Payments had been circulated to all Cllrs, they were proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Herniman. These were checked by Cllr Tremayne. Cheques were signed by Cllr Giles and Lock.

b) RECEIPTS after 15 October 2021	
none	

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation#

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 15 OCTOBER 2021

Balance at bank 15/10/21

Current Ac 15 October 2021	6,879.57
Reserve Ac	1,154.19
35 Day Ac	42,226.25

Less un-presented cqs at 15/10/21	30.00	cq no	amount
Plus un-cleared credits at 15/10/21	0.00	1290	20.00
		1298	10.00

Total Balance at bank at 15/10/21 **50,230.01**

Cash Book

Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/21	43,677.97
Less payments to 15.10.21	8,606.48
Plus receipts to 15.10.21	15,158.52

Closing balance per cash book at 15.10/21 **50,230.01**

Variance **0.00**

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- d) VAT – Cllr Tremayne has been looking into reclaiming VAT and is happy to continue with this process. This was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Rendell.
- e) A request for a donation / grant has been received from the church to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard. It was agreed by all Cllrs that an amount of £300 (the same as last year) will be given. This cheque will be signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- f) Other financial matters – an enquiry has been made by several residents regarding a Christmas tree for the Village Square. This had, in previous years, been arranged by the Phoenix Ladies but this is not possible this year. Cllr Walker proposed that the Parish Council could finance the purchase a suitable tree but not to undertake the decorating of it, this was seconded Cllr Giles with all other Cllrs in full agreement. It was further suggested, and agreed, that a notice requesting volunteers to decorate the tree should be placed in the December edition of the Dolton diary

88 (21/22) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider - 1/1082/2021/FUL - 10 Rectory Road, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon. No objections were raised.
- b) Applications granted - none
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters: none

89 (21/22) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Telephone Box: this is almost waterproof and Cllr Martindale will chase the company producing the map. With any luck this could start to be used very
- b) Car Park sign: the company that is producing the map for the phone box will be contacted with the possibility of producing this sign.
- c) Trees/hedge at Dennis cross: Mr C Herniman has agreed to undertake the work needed and will start this as soon as possible
- d) residents at the Paddocks has spoken with John Rolls regarding the bank between them and Dennis Cross and asked if anything could be done to improve this area. It was proposed by Cllr Walker that the PC take over this area and replanted as wildflower area. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Rolls.
- e) Defibrillator at Pavilion/helicopter site: The defibrillator has been ordered by the first responders and Cllr Herniman will liaise with Rosemary Lock and Karen Forrester regarding the installation of this at the Pavilion.
- f) Benches on Rectory Road. It was agreed by the Cllrs that as these benches do not seem to be used and due to their unsafe condition, the best solution would be to remove them and replace them with flower planters that will be looked after by Caroline Cole
- g) It has been reported by a member of the public that one corner of the football field is very wet and has requested that a small drain be dug to try and resolve this. The football club will undertake the drainage and will consult with Cllr Martindale as his property is directly affected by this.
- h) outdoor multi gym at Dennis Cross - the following request was received via e-mail (copied directly from the mail):

I would like to ask, if there is a possibility of moving the outdoor multi gym at Dennis Cross Park to the village hall site & have it covered with suitable lighting? At present where the outdoor gym is located, is of no use in the dark, depths of winter. No lighting or suitable ground cover or shelter. I do think the equipment would have more accessible usage in the

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correct location.

It was agreed by all Cllrs that the present location of the equipment was the best place for it and to move it to the Village Hall Car Park next to the Village Hall would reduce the number of valuable parking spaces.

90 (21/22) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES:

- a) Speed sign – as stated in the report from C Cllr Saywell, Dolton has been given permission to erect the speed sign. A location has been suggested and Cllr Rendell is waiting for final clarification from Highways that we are all in agreement of this and has also asked if anything is to be sent in writing to residents that might be affected by this so that they are fully informed.
- b) An email has been received regarding the location of the disabled parking space in the Square and suggesting that it should be located at the “*quieter end of the village square as originally requested*”, a reply will be sent to advise they contact C Cllr Saywell with this issue.

91(21/22) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

92 (21/22) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

No items were brought forward

Date of next meeting will be December 6th 2021 in the Village Hall

Signed **Date**