

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 9th 2023

A moments silence and tribute was made in recognition of the sad loss of John Lock who was a long standing member of the Parish Council having served for more than 25 years, many of which were as Chairman. John will be greatly missed by the community in many aspects of village life including Bell Ringing, the Football Club, Dolton Carnival to mention just a few. Thoughts and sympathies are with Rosemary and family at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION: 11 members of the public attended. Agenda item number 7 “20 is plenty” was brought forward and discussed in the public session as this item was raised by several members of the public in attendance. The 20 is plenty group requested a vote of support from the Parish Council. C Cllr Saywell agreed to support this request and will put forward an application before the end of January. It was suggested that a 20 zone may be more favourably considered than a blanket speed limit for the village and the group will advise the areas they believed the 20 mile restrictions would be most beneficial. This motion of support was proposed by Cllr Walker and unanimously agreed by all Councillors. The Parish Councillors advised the 20 is plenty group to come back with a request for funds when they had a detailed plan to work with. It was suggested by C Cllr Saywell that a speed-watch group be set up and suggested that the group contact Sandra Brown, Police Community Support Officer, Torrington Rural.

Martin Lock commented on the reapplication for planning application for Land At Fishleigh Park and noted his objection.

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

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

110(22/23) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ward Cllr Lock sent apologies for absence from the meeting.

111 (22/23) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 5th had been circulated. They were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and were signed by Cllr Walker. This was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Martindale

112 (22/23) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

113 (22/23) CLLRS' REPORTS

C Cllr Saywell expressed personal thanks and appreciation to John Lock and his sympathies to Rosemary.

Roads: Following the recent bad weather, there is an increase in pot holes, the best way for these to be dealt with is for them to be reported online. The more reports received for each stretch of road /pot hole the quicker these will be fixed.

Budgets: The overspend for the current year has now been reduced to around £7m. Next year's budgets are being drafted and should hopefully be passed in February.

Ward Cllr Clarke echoed the thoughts of us all in her sadness to the sad loss of John Lock.

Housing: The amount of holiday homes, Airbnb properties etc, in the district are contributing to the housing problem being faced as there are very limited options available to assist with housing people who find themselves homeless. Schemes are in place for rural housing for local people across the Torridge area.

114 (22/23) DOLTON RANGERS – NEW AGREEMENT

The draft of a new agreement has been received and will be read by Cllrs for their input before it can be presented to the Football Club.

115 (22/23) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

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Cllr Martindale reported that the recent cold weather and snowfall the Snow Wardens had worked well although they had not received any notifications from Highways advising that their services would be needed (these had been received in previous winters). This will be looked into and hopefully rectified. Questions were raised as to where exactly the snow warden's should be paying attention to, this was clearly noted that their services are totally voluntary and they have been covering the main roads through the village. It was also clearly stated that not all roads, cul-d-sacs are possible to be gritted/salted but there are 9 grit bins in the Dolton Parish and these can be used by anyone.

116 (22/23) 20 IS PLENTY

This was discussed in the public session

117 (22/23) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 9th January 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
M Lock	30/11/22	caretaker	195.00		1387
C Cole	05/12/22	Rectory Rd planter	17.52		1388
Village Hall	20/12/22	Hall Hire	9.00		1389
T D C	30/11/22	Dog Bins	285.89	47.65	1390

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

b) <u>RECEIPTS after 15 December 2022</u>	
none	

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

No statement of reconciliation is available in this month due to the damage of Clerk laptop, this should hopefully be updated for the next meeting

- d) New bank update: the final signatures are being collected and forms are to be completed.
- e) Precept: Cllr Tremayne recommended that the precept be raised by approximately 4.9% and give the following findings/reasons:
- Recurring costs are rising and the gap between pre-committed spending and discretionary is reduced to near zero at current income levels.
 - To avoid dipping into reserves to cover regular expenditure we must either reduce spending or increase income.
 - Based on 351.76 Band D properties (or equivalent) @42.73, income was £15,027.00
 - To start closing the deficit a 4.9% increase is recommended (we account for a mere 2.5% of the total Council Tax charge) to raise £15,750.
- That gives a Band D equivalent of £44.75 an increase of £2.02.... <4p per week.
- This was formally proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Giles.
- f) other financial matters: Clerks laptop. This has unfortunately been damaged beyond repair due to flooding. A quote from Ladds to replace this had been forwarded to all Cllrs for their approval. It was proposed by Cllr Tremayne that a new one be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Barwell. A claim to the insurance company will be made for this replacement.

118(22/23) PLANNING APPLICATION

a) a) Applications to consider:

1/0459/2022/FULM – reapplication Residential development (Variation of condition 19 of Planning Approval 1/0846/2015/OUTM) (Additional CMP Report) Land At Fishleigh Park, Dolton, Devon, Cllrs agreed that this was not favourable and that their original concerns for the safety to all road users, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders etc, the road should be widened before any site construction is

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commenced

1/1056/2022/FUL - reapplication Proposed conversion of redundant building into an annexe associated to Brightley House Farm (Amended Red Edge): Building At Brightley House, Dolton, Devon, No objections were made

- b) b) Applications granted - 1/1050/2022/FUL 65 Stafford Way, Dolton, Winkleigh, EX19 8PY
- c) c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) d) Applications refused – none
- e) e) Any other planning matters: none

119 (22/23) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Children's playground equipment: a representative from Rhino Play is due to visit in January to offer their thoughts and suggestions. Grants to assist with funding will be looked into once it is known precisely what equipment will be required. C Cllr Saywell and Ward Cllr Clarke both offers donations to assist with this project.
- b) Other parish ground matters: Cllr Giles reported that the new half barrel planters are already showing signs of damage. Cllr Walker will contact Mole Valley regarding this problem.
eats on Rectory Road: Cllrs Walker and Rolls have removed one of the benches and will remove the second because of safety issues.

120(22/23) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES:

No maintenance or traffic issues were discussed.

121 (22/23) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Cllr Martindale attended a meeting with Devon Communities Together in relation to emergencies training and is going to investigate if costs are involved to join and register the Dolton Emergency Plan

122(22/23) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Recent information received confirms that Photo ID is required to be able to vote in future elections. An item will be placed in the Dolton Diary giving this information.

Cllr Martindale asked if the subject of charging points for electric vehicles be on a future agenda. Cllr Walker advised that he has already looked into this matter and that Dolton does not have the infrastructure (regarding power supply) to be able to provide charging points.

Date of next meeting will be February 6th 2023 in the Village Hall

Signed **Date**