

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY APRIL 3rd 2023

PUBLIC SESSION: 6 members of the public attended.

Pym Gander spoke about the need for a grit bin at Orchard Gate which was discussed in the meeting and details are below. She also mentioned that a “poo bin” would be a good idea but Cllrs agreed that there were plenty of these in the area already.

The use of herbicides and spraying of public walkways was also raised. After a heated discussion it was agreed that this was not something that the Parish Council intervene with as it is a personal matter between the residents involved and the area concerned does not belong to the Parish Council, therefore any complaint should be put forward to the Highways agency

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

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

1 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Giles (vice chair), Ward Cllrs Clarke and Lock and C Cllr Saywell sent apologies for absence from the meeting.

2 (23/24) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on February 6th 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 Tremayne

3 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

4 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

C Cllr Saywell sent the following report to be read in his absence (copied directly from his mail):

Potholes: Since January 1st to the end of March, a total of **16,572** safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally they have caught up, where there were delays with the patching repairs – which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair.

Of the 16,000 repairs – circa 6,000 of those were **additional** defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports.

To give you an idea of the weather impact this winter has had... in December 2,431 potholes were repaired verses 7,376 for January. In January 2022 3,494 defects needed repair in comparison with the 7,000 this year.

Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) were suspended pending catching up on the backlog. The service seems to be confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs starting this month in April.

In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4m of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England. This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes.

Devolution: The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures.

Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs

Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items.

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The latest bid amounts to a little over £10 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25 million.

The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government.

More details online here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councils-to-receive-additional-funds-to-help-support-households-with-rising-food-and-energy-costs-2/>

Growing Communities Fund: DCC has announced another round the [Growing Communities Fund](#), and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants. Typically these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed.

The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that:

could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity

build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals

tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem

and that have a clear and direct community and environmental benefits

More information can be found online here - www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund

That's it for this month. Please let me know if there is anything locally that you would like me to look into.

5 (23/24) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

The Emergencies Committee has finalised their plan that includes risk assessment and framework for key areas and members along with proper procedures in certain situations.

This had been circulated to the members of the Parish Council who all agreed that this could be published on the Dolton Parish Council website. Thanks were given to the committee members and in particular to Marian Siltow for their hard work in the preparation of this information.

Once this has been published the Clerk will notify neighbouring Parishes

6 (23/24) GRIT BINS

There has been a lot of local interest in an additional grit bin to be installed at Orchard Gate.

It was proposed that Devon Highways be contacted so that they can assess the area and advise where a grit bin could be located. If a suitable site is agreed, the parish Council will make the purchase. It was pointed out that a 100% guarantee could not be given to this request as this ultimately lies with Devon Highways

7 (23/24) KINGS CORONATION

No celebrations for the Kings coronation have been arranged by the Parish Council. A volunteer's day for Monday May 8th was suggested and all Cllrs were in agreement to this idea. Cllr Martindale will try to co-ordinate this and suggestions for projects included the tidying of the half barrel / paddocks area and assessment of the grit and salt stocks. Further information will follow via village social media channels

8 (23/24)) DOLTON RANGERS LEASE – UPDATE

As no-one from the football club was in attendance at the meeting, this item will be rescheduled to the next meeting

9 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 3rd April 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
Cheques from March					
Cancelled cheque					1398
Colin Jones	10/02/2023	Vinyl banners	62.91		1399

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Karen Clarke	20/02/2023	Waterproof posters	54.00		1400
Village Hall	28/02/2023	Village hall hire	16.50		1401
M Lock	28/02/2023	caretaker	195.00		1402
M Lock	28/02/2023	Caretaker supplies	86.93		1403
Cheques from April					
J Tremayne	20/02/23	Upgrade to V Hall electrical system	177.00	29.50	1404
M Lock	30/03/23	caretaker	195.00		1405
Playsafety	31/03/23	Playground inspection	119.40	19.90	1406
Village Hall	31/03/23	Electricity contribution	26.95		1407
D De-Pinto	31/03/23	Home office and computer ink	58.99	6.50	1408
Source for Business	06/03/23	Water bill for football field			1409

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

b) RECEIPTS after 15 March 2023	
none	

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 15 MARCH 2023

Balance at bank 15/03/2023

Current Ac 15 March 2023	1,461.87
Reserve Ac	1,158.33
35 Day Ac	42,505.20

Less un-presented cqs at 15/03/23	1,059.66	cq no	amount
Plus un-cleared credits at 15/03/23		1392	644.32
		1389	62.91
Total Balance at bank at 15/03/23	44,065.74	1390	54.00
		1391	16.50
Cash Book		1392	195.00
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/22	46,086.34	1393	86.93
Less payments to 15/03/23	21,898.10		
Plus receipts to 15/03/23	19,877.50		
Closing balance per cash book at 15/03/23	44,065.74		
Variance	0.00		1059.66

- d) Other financial matters: New bank account – All details for the new bank account will be resubmitted after the election of new Parish Councillors.

10 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: none
- b) Applications granted -
 - 1/1281/2022/FUL - Aller Farm, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
 - 1/0075/2023/FUL - Rockstone, West Lane, Dolton, Winkleigh
 - 1/1239/2022/FUL - Coppers, Rectory Road, Dolton, Winkleigh

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1/0095/2023/FUL - 65 Stafford Way, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon

1/1056/2022/FUL - Building At Brightley House, Dolton, Devon

c) Applications refused – 1/0528/2021/FUL - Land At Great Cudworthy, Dolton

d) Any other planning matters: 1/0349/2022/OUT – Halfpenny Land Dolton. An amended certificate has been advised on this application

11 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

a) Children's playground equipment:

i) The ROSPA safety inspection was completed in March and then reports have been received. A few minor points were raised which will be checked by Cllrs and arrangements can be made for any remedial works to be carried out.

ii) Following a survey regarding new play equipment at Dennis Cross it was proposed that the Parish Council would, in principal, agree to partially fund this venture providing that grants are secured and fundraising take place within the community. The approximate value of suggested new equipment is in the region of £12,000 and questions were raised in this level of expenditure was viable for the little use that the playground appears to have. Cllrs did agree that whilst this did initially sound a large amount of money, the equipment would be of benefit to the local and visiting children and agreed that the existing quote received from RhinoPlay be used to try and move forward with grant funding.

b) Other Parish Ground issues: Andrew the Gardener has stepped down from tending the half barrel planters after many years of keeping them looking beautiful.

12 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES:

a) Defibrillator Maintenance. Supplies are again expected to be delayed for the infant pads located at the village hall unit that are due to reach their use by date in August. It was agreed that these should be ordered now and hopefully should be delivered near to the expiry date of the existing ones.

b) Any other maintenance issues:

i) a possible road closure on Fore Street for 1 day is scheduled to happen in May to replace a telegraph pole, the clerk will contact the company involved to advise the issues that could be faced if their diversion signage is not 100% clear as disruptions along North Street could occur!

ii) Jubilee bus shelter: all quotes have now been received and works can hopefully start soon

13 (23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Cllrs met at Stafford Moor fisheries in February and reported that the size of the site could easily accommodate the proposed number of lodges and that services such as power seemed to have been thought out very well with substantial outlay in costs planned to ensure the infrastructure is in place.

14 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

No items were brought forward

Date of next meeting will be May 15th 2023 in the Village Hall

Signed **Date**