

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MAY 15th 2023

PUBLIC SESSION: 20 members of the public attended.

Martin Lock raised the subject of the installation of poles at Stafford Way by Airband to enable them to run new cables to each house, It appears that this would be a cheaper option for Airband than to utilise the existing underground infrastructure. Ward Cllr Elliott reported that he had received a reply from Airband to say that they had received many objections and points of concern from residents and that they would prefer to liaise with one spokesperson. Ward Cllr Elliott agreed that he would do this and would keep everyone updated.

Geoff Woodward raised concerns over the planning application for developing land at South Street. He asked if the Parish Council were objecting to this proposal. It was confirmed that a private email had been received from the developers in December asking for initial thoughts to the scheme and that the Parish Council had replied (again privately at this time) that they would strongly object to the proposal. Jane Neal advised that as the developer only owned 4 metres of the access point, the disruption this would cause for traffic would be enormous. The Parish Council made their comments on this matter later in the meeting as it appeared on the agenda. Ward Cllr Lock inform the public that she had called this application to be dealt with by the planning council in full

Pym Gander asked if there was any update on the Stafford Moor Fisheries planning application, Ward Cllr Lock advised she had an update to give during the meeting.

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

PRESENT: Cllr Walker (chair), Cllr Giles (vice chair), Cllrs Barwell, Jones, Martindale, Rendell and Tremayne. Ward Cllrs Elliott and Lock Also in attendance: Clerk D Edmeads

23 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

C Cllr Saywell sent apologies for his absence from the meeting.

24 (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

25 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

26 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

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

First, can I congratulate Rosemary Lock on her re-election as Torridge District Cllr for Dolton and welcome Thomas Elliott to the role, I look forward to working with you both. Can I also thank Rachel Clarke for her service as ward Cllr during the last four years. Main update from DCC.

Approval of 20mph zone – *I am delighted to tell you that Dolton scored top of all the new 20 mph schemes submitted to DCC, and so the Council will be going forward with designing and implementing a 20mph zone in the village for this financial year. Exact details to be decided but I will liaise closely with the Highways Traffic Team and keep the Parish Council informed.*

Changes to the 315 Bus Service – *Unfortunately, due to low passenger numbers the operator of this service has handed their notice in to DCC. The service has been re-tendered and has been awarded back to Stagecoach. So we are going back to the 5B Service which will start Monday 5th June. Peak time services to/from Exeter and Barnstaple are being maintained so commuters and college/school users should not be affected by the new timetables, however if there are any issues please let me know and I will get in touch with the Transport Coordination Team at DCC.*

Surface Dressing of the road through Langham – *This has, finally, now taken place after it got repeatedly delayed due to inclement weather.*

'Dragon Patching' – *Thanks in part to the additional £9.4m of Highways funding we received from the Government, a substantial programme of 'dragon patching' will take place this year, including in Torrington Rural. Currently in Dolton, along the Parish boundary, the Road from Mudhouse Cross to Loosedon Cross has been committed for dragon patching this financial year. If there are any other roads the Parish Council think would be suitable then please let me know. This kind of treatment is best for rural lanes with light to medium levels of pothole damage.*

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DCC Budgets – Although the final figures are being finalised, I can report that DCC is set to break even for the 2022-23 financial year. This is a massive achievement given, as I've previously reported to you, we were at one point facing a projected overspend of more than £40 million! This also puts us on a much firmer footing now in this current financial year.

As ever, any issues you'd like me to look into please get in touch.

Ward Cllr Lock advised that she was pleased to have been re-elected and introduced Ward Cllr Elliott. Ward Cllr Lock offered her congratulations to the 20 is plenty group on their successful campaign

Ward Cllr Elliott confirmed his pleasure at being elected and is looking forward to working with the community

27 (23/24) GRIT BIN UPDATE

The request for a grit bin at Orchard Gate has been sent to DCC along with suggested locations. This will now be dealt with by the Network Response Team.

28 (23/24) DOLTON RANGERS LEASE - UPDATE

Members of the Parish Council will meet this month with Dolton Rangers to try and finalise this

29(23/24) VOLUNTEERS DAY UPDATE

Thanks were given by Cllr Martindale to everyone who helped out on Monday May 8th and confirmed that the village grit stocks had been sorted out and that other tidying up in the village had been done

30 (23/24) ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

There are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled. This will be advertised

31 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 15th May 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
M Lock	30/04/23	caretaker	195.00		1410
Village Hall	30/04/23	Hall hire	9.00		1411
Zurich Municipal	29/04/23	Annual insurance	1341.61	143.74	1412
TDC	30/03/23	Salary recharge	2132.14	20.00	1413
DALC	03/04/23	Subscription fee	248.16	30.15	1414
N Walker	23/01/23	Payment to LADDs	644.32	107.39	1415
D De-Pinto	30/04/23	Home office	10.00		1416

b) RECEIPTS after 14 April 2023

TDC	7875.00
Dolton School	250.00

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 14 APRIL 2023

Balance at bank 14/04/2023

Current Ac 14 April 2023	3,420.87
Reserve Ac	1,159.31
35 Day Ac	40,561.73

Less un-presented cqs at 14/04/23	1,034.80	cq no	amount
		1399	62.91
Plus un-cleared credits at 14/04/23		1400	54.00
		1401	16.50
Total Balance at bank at 14/04/23	44,107.11	1402	195.00
		1403	86.93

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Cash Book		1404	177.00
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/22	44,710.06	1405	195.00
Less payments to 14/04/23	660.46	1406	119.40
Plus receipts to 14/04/23	57.51	1407	29.65
Closing balance per cash book at 14/04/23	44,107.11	1408	58.99
		1409	39.42
Variance	0.00		

1034.80

d) Other financial matters: New bank account – All details for the new bank account will be resubmitted.

32 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

a) Applications to consider:

1/0109/2023/FUL - Westlake Farm, Dolton, Winkleigh, - no objections were raised

1/0307/2023/FUL - Land At Grid Reference 257166 112063, South Street, Dolton. As mentioned in the public meeting, the Parish Council objects to this application as it contradicts the local plan, it is detrimental to the Conservation Area, it reduces biodiversity and the access is entirely inadequate and unsafe

b) Applications granted: none

c) Applications withdrawn – none

d) Applications refused – none

e) any other planning matters: Ward Cllr Lock informed the Parish Council that she had been asked by TDC discuss the Stafford Moor Fisheries application with the Parish council and consider withdrawing her call-in as none of the following technical consultees have raised any objections to the scheme; Highways, SWW, the Flood Authority, Environmental Protection, Archaeology, Police and Natural England. The Cllrs agreed that the actual site for the development was more suitable that it first appeared on paper but still had some reservations. Dolton Parish council agreed that this “call-in” be cancelled by Ward Cllr Lock but will keep their original objections in place.

33 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

a) Children's playground equipment:

i} Cllr Rendell will liaise with John Rolls regarding the ROSPA safety inspection that was completed in March to ascertain what works / repairs are needed.

ii} Cllr Martindale advised that further examination of what equipment would be best used is needed before a final decision can be made. Cllrs Barwell, Giles, Martindale and Rendell will all work with Christine Bishop on this project. Cllr Barwell advised that she has been in touch with a company that can help with finding the necessary funding and that they would only charge for their services if they are successful. The idea was well received and thought to be a good idea.

b) Other Parish Ground issues: none.

34 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES:

a) Bus service issues: As mentioned in the report from C Cllr Saywell, the bus service to Dolton is being reduced due to low numbers of passengers. The clerk will email to C Cllr Saywell with their views of disappointment regarding this matter

35 (23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

36 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

No items were brought forward

Date of next meeting will be June 5th 2023 in the Village Hall

Signed Date