

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JULY 3rd 2023

PUBLIC SESSION: 7 members of the public attended. The following comments were made:

Pym Gander congratulated the new councillors on their appointment

Michael Moody addressed the issue of Japanese knotweed that is emerging in the verge on Rectory Road. He has already been in contact with Devon Highways who have no current policy to treat this species on roadside verges.

As this is on Highways land and therefore not something that can be dealt with by the Parish Council it was recommended that Mr Moody contact C Cllr Saywell to see if he could escalate this matter

Martin Lock mentioned the dead tree near Beacon Cross. The Parish Council is already aware of this and the matter is in hand

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: No prejudicial were declared by the Councillors. Cllr Martindale expressed a personal interest in any discussions relating to Acorn Park

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

48 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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

49 (23/24) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on June 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 Giles and seconded by Cllr Tremayne

50 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed.

51 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

Ward Cllr Lock confirmed that TDC Planning Manager Helen Smith will hold a meeting for local Parish Councils regarding Planning process and how Parish Councils should respond to applications. This will take place at Dolton Village Hall on July 26th at 7pm and is open to all Councillors, Clerks and members of the public.

C Cllr Saywell sent the following report that was read (copied directly from his email)

I am sorry not to be with you tonight but I am travelling to Bournemouth this evening to represent Devon County Council at the Local Government Association Conference and to hopefully get the opportunity to lobby Ministers for better services in our part of the world...

Main updates from DCC.

DCC Budget *It is now official that DCC came in with a small underspend for the 2022-23 financial year. A big achievement following the projected £40 million overspend in the summer of last year if we had sat back and done nothing to address it. With inflation continuing to be a problem I expect the Council finances will remain tight for the new/current financial year but hopefully not to the extent it was last year. This underspend also helps put the Council on a firmer footing for this current financial year if there are any further unforeseen financial shocks.*

5b Bus Service *As per my email updates, since the May meeting some additional Department for Transport bus funding was awarded to DCC and the Council was able to offer an improved off-peak service for the 5b bus route and is now very similar to the old 315 service. I do have to stress though, we must 'use it or lose it!'. Although peak time services will remain protected, for this route to become financially sustainable we do need to see a big uptick in off peak passenger numbers. The Government's £2 fair cap has been extended to the end of October, and then it will go up to £2.50 until November 2024. Compared with the fuel cost of a car journey, I can't think of a cheaper way for residents of Winkleigh to get to Barnstaple or Exeter (or anywhere else in between on the route) for just £2... so let's get using the bus!*

20 MPH Zone *As previously reported the application I submitted for Dolton's 20 mph zone was approved. The 20 mph zone for Winkleigh down Townsend Hill is currently being advertised and I expect to be implemented by the end of September. I am anticipating design work for Dolton to start over the summer with an implementation, once all the legal consultations are completed, in 2024. I appreciate it is a long wait... unfortunately in my experience the process to change speed limits and traffic regulations has to go through an arcane process thanks some equally long winded road traffic laws*

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Dragon Patcher The Dragon Patcher is now out and about working on sites in Torrington Rural. According to the online system it is currently working on sites in Langtree and Ashreigney, so I would expect it to make its way down to Dolton over the coming summer months.
That's it for this month. Any issues you'd like me to look into please let me know.

52 (23/24) ENERGY CHANGES & DOLTON

Cllr Martindale voiced his concerns regarding the proposed changes that could be implemented in coming years regarding electric vehicles, heat pump systems etc. It is known that before any changes can be made in the Village in relation to public EV chargers, an update/increase to the power supply is needed.
An open day was suggested by Cllr Jones where residents could learn more about possible changes. This was agreed to be a good idea and Cllr Jones will contact 361 to try and arrange this with a spokesperson that should be able to offer help and give advice. A letter will be sent to Western Power to ask if there are any plans to upgrade to local power supplies.

53 (23/24) DOLTON RANGERS LEASE - UPDATE

The lease has now been agreed with the Football Club with just a few changes to be made. Cllr Walker will arrange these so that the new lease can be signed and finalised.

54 (23/24) ROYAL MAIL ISSUES

Following a period of delivery problems, Royal Mail deliveries are still sporadic and it is hoped they will continue to improve. Cllr Devine has been in contact with the offices of Sir Geoffrey Cox who has given assurances that he will raise the matter with the CEO of Royal Mail.

55 (23/24) VILLAGE LEGACY / BUS SHELTER – UPDATE

Work started on the new bus shelter. A temporary seat has been placed opposite the site with a notice board.

56 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS FINANCE

a) Accounts to pay 3rd July 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
J Parsons	06/03/23	Deposit for bus shelter renovation	3500.00		1422
P Greenwood	05/06/23	Grass cutting, football field	410.00		1423
M Lock	29/06/23	caretaker	195.00		1424
D De-Pinto	30/06/23	Home office	10.00		1425
Village Hall	30/06/23	Hall Hire	9.00		1426
Ladds of Crediton	03/04/23	Antivirus	34.95	5.82	1427

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

b) Receipts

Cheque from Jubilee Committee £3,500.00

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

No statements available this month to balance.

The below is calculated from last months figures at the current account only

Balance at bank 15/05/2023

Current Ac 15 May 2023	10,706.06
Less un-presented cqs at 15/05/23	4,816.22
Less cheques issued on 05/06/23	1438.30
Less Direct Debit	42.00
Total available in current account	4409.54

- d) Unity trust account update - Signatures were collected for the new bank account. When the account is fully set up, all councillors will have the authority to approve payments once they have been posted by the Clerk
- e) any other financial matters: none

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57 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: no objections were raised to the following:
1/0469/2023/FUL - Land At Great Cudworthy, Dolton, Winkleigh,
1/0518/2023/FUL -9 Stafford Way, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
- b) Applications granted: none
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters: it has been reported that Royal Parkes are in administration. There is no information of what will happen to the Acorn Park site (if anything).

58 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dead Tree by bus shelter – This will need to be taken down (along with the one at Beacon Cross). Arrangements will be made to do this later in the year.
- b) any other Parish Grounds issues:
 - i) Dennis Cross Playground, an entry will be placed in the Dolton Diary in August to try to determine the needs and wishes of villagers regarding new equipment. The adult equipment will be removed and any monies made from the Sale (scrap metal) will be donated to the Dowland Church
 - ii) Dogs on football field – It was agreed that a new sign is needed to say “NO DOGS ALLOWED”, the clerk will look into the options available

59 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) half barrel planters: Cllr Tremayne has sourced replacement half barrels and will hopefully collect them in the coming weeks. Racheal and Tom Elliott have kindly volunteered to maintain the planters and requests for sponsors will be made as in previous years.
- b) New defibrillator: quotes have been collected for the replacement unit needed at the village hall. The cost will be in the region of £1,000.00 plus VAT. Cllr Tremayne proposed the purchase of the new Defibrillator and this was seconded by Cllr Walker. It was agreed that should this need to be paid for during the summer break then a cheque should be signed before the next meeting, this was proposed by Cllr Tremayne and seconded by Giles
- c) Japanese knotweed – this was discussed in the public session
- d) Any other maintenance and traffic issues:
 - i) A report of broken litter bin near the Paddocks has been received. An email will be sent to TDC to inform them of this and request this be fixed or replaced
 - ii) Pavements and kerb edges have been reported with knee high vegetation / weeds along with an offer to assist with the maintenance of this. However the Parish Council cannot sanction this type of activity due to insurance issues and the need for official training before anyone is allowed to work in the roadside

60 (23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

61 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Cllr Rendell informed the Parish Council that in a recent meeting of the Dolton Diary team, both he and Maria were stepping down from the Diary at the end of this year after 7 years. New volunteers will be needed. Cllr Walker thanked Cllr Rendell for his and Marias hard work over the past years, this was voiced by all Cllrs.

Date of next meeting will be September 4th 2023 in the Village Hall

Signed Date