

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 2nd 2023

PUBLIC SESSION: Pym Gander expressed her thanks for the new grit bin that has been installed at Orchard Gate

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

PRESENT: Cllr Giles (vice chair), Cllrs, Devine, Jones, Martindale, Rendell, and Smith. Also in attendance Clerk D Edmeads.

79 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllrs Walker (chair) Barwell and Tremayne, Ward Cllrs Elliott and Lock and C Cllr A Saywell sent apologies for their absence from the meeting.

80 (23/24) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 4th had been circulated. They were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and will be signed by Cllr Walker

81 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Devine commented on the continuing issues with the postal service and has followed up her personal complaint made to Geoffrey Cox regarding this

82 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

Ward Cllr Lock sent the following report (copied directly from her email):

This is my short report for tonight's meeting

a) postal delivery service - this will be the 13th weekday that I have received no post and up to say April I had post every day!. I have made so many telephone calls to Okehampton and Exeter sorting depots and have only managed to speak to a human just once. Like many residents I am awaiting important documents etc. Geoffrey Cox is aware of the situation.

*b) notification of planning app this morning - 1/0939/23 which is a reserved matter in respect of outline 1/0701/2018 for 27 homes land north of Aller Road Dolton. Not had chance to look at this yet
As always any concerns from the parish council please contact me.*

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

DCC Update Report for Dolton Parish Council

Dear Councillors, I am sorry I cannot be with you this evening. Main updates are:

Devolution – *Negotiations with Central Government remain ongoing, if all goes well a Devolution Deal may be agreed and ready to go public later this month... but as ever with negotiations like this they are subject to change so it will be a case of wait and see!*

Budgets – *The County Council is currently projecting an overspend of £9 million for the end of the financial year, with the main pressures coming from the Adult Social Care budget. However, I remind you this time last year we were looking at a £40 million overspend and ended up bringing that back down to a break even position. I am confident through management action plans that these overspends can be reduced and covered off. We are not anywhere near the position other Councils like Birmingham have found themselves in... BUT, that does not mean we can be complacent and rest on our laurels. And it is a reminder that our room for financial manoeuvre remains tight.*

Great Torrington School extension – *A new 'block' has been constructed on the grounds of the secondary school at Great Torrington, jointly funded by the school and DCC. The project consists of a new two-story teaching block which will accommodate three new classrooms, office space, small group work areas and a new library resource area which will be connected to the main school via a new link. The project has also enabled the existing library to be re-modelled into additional dining space for pupils, providing a much-needed expansion to the original small dining hall originally built in 1939. The total cost was £1.5 million, of which DCC funded £725,000. DCC's funds have come from local housing development contributions... so if you ever wonder where education contributions go, here is a very good example!*

DCC Pledges to make Care Leavers a protected characteristic – *Last week DCC agreed to give care leavers – young people who have been in the care of the local authority – protected characteristic status. It's recognition that young people's experience of being in the care system can be a potential source of discrimination similar to other protected characteristics such as race or disability. It means that we will make sure that the experiences of young people in care*

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

and care leavers will be considered in all of its decisions. But it is also a foundation on which to develop better support across Devon as whole, not just in the services that we are responsible for. We will therefore work with partners to improve support for care experienced people in all aspects of their lives including housing and accommodation, health, employment, as well as education.

Mobile Libraries – The decision to end the Mobile Library service was called in to the Council's Corporate Scrutiny Committee and will be referred back to Cabinet either in October or November. However work in the meantime remains ongoing on working up a more effective rural outreach service, whether it is a community library, home delivery of books, digital service etc. I genuinely believe there are more effective ways of promoting book readership to people than a costly, limited and not very accessible service that the old library vans currently provide and which have extremely low usage.

That's it for this month, as ever, any issues then please let me know.

83 (23/24) DOLTON DIARY UPDATE

Cllr Rendell updated the Parish Council by confirming that husband and wife team Vanessa and Chris Pritchard-Wilkes will be taking over the Dolton Diary from January 2024

84 (23/24) LIBRARY VANS

This was covered in the report sent by C Cllr Saywell

85 (23/24) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Martindale informed the Parish Council that there will be a meeting of the Emergencies Committee in October to ensure everything is in place for the winter months

86 (23/24) ENERGY DAY

This event is now arranged and confirmed for October 12th. Representatives from local companies will be on hand to offer help and advice. Posters to promote this will be put on social media. Refreshments will be offered

87 (23/24) REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

A request has been made to tidy the war memorial area ready for the ceremony of remembrance on Sunday November 12th and for someone to attend the flag on this date. This of course will be taken care of

88 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 2nd October 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
DCC	5/9/23	Grit bin – orchard gate	350.00		1434
Colin Jones	12/9/23	Web hosting	112.00		1435
Source for Business	6/9/23	Water bill	67.41		1436
Village hall	30/9/23	Hall hire	19.00		1437
D De-Pinto	30/9/23	Home office	30.00		1438
M Lock	29/9/23	caretaker	195.00		1439
J Tremayne	12/7/23	Half barrel planters	180.00		1440
D Lock	24/8/23	Grass cutting	1246.88		1441
Cheque agreed during the meeting					
St Edmunds church		Churchyard maintenance grant	400.00		1442

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

b) RECEIPTS after 15 September 2023	
TDC	7850.00

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

Balance at bank 15/09/2023

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Current Ac 15 September 2023	582.59		
Reserve Ac	1,165.14		
35 Day Ac	40,945.00		
Less un-presented cqs at 15/09/23	411.00	cq no	amount
		1492	21.00
Plus un-cleared credits at 15/09/23		1493	390.00
Total Balance at bank at 15/09/23	42,281.73		
			411.00
Cash Book			
Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/23	44,710.06		
Less payments to 15/09/23	21,239.94		
Plus receipts to 15/09/23	18,811.61		
Closing balance per cash book at 15/09/23	42,281.73		
Variance	0.00		

- d) Request for grants: a request was made by St Edmunds church to help towards the cost of churchyard maintenance. A sum of £400.00 was proposed by Cllr Giles and seconded by Cllr Smith. All Cllrs agreed and the cheque will be arranged.
- Another request had been received for a grant to help fund the village defibrillators. All Cllrs agreed that funding will be given but it was suggested that the Parish Council take more responsibility towards these now that the Responders have disbanded. The clerk will speak to Richard and Janet Oaten to see how best to proceed

89 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: 1/0939/2023/REMM - Land North Of Aller Road, Dolton, An extension to the deadline will be requested to allow Cllrs time to look at the application
- a) Applications granted: 1/0741/2023/LBC -Mead Cottage, Fore Street, Dolton, Winkleigh
1/0823/2023/LBC - Mead Cottage, Fore Street, Dolton, Winkleigh
- b) Applications withdrawn – none
- c) Applications refused – none
- d) Any other planning matters: none

90 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

Dennis Cross Playground equipment – a meeting took place last month to decide what equipment would be best suited for the village. A list was made of suitable equipment was drawn up that included large multi activity units and smaller items such as replacement swing seats and balance beams. All of this has been forwarded to TK Play who will implement a plan and provide the quotes needed to take this to the next stage.

91 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

Street lights on Aller Road are not visible due to overgrown trees. Highways will be contacted regarding this

92 (23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

93 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

No items were brought forward

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

Signed Date