

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 6th 2023

PUBLIC SESSION: 7 members of the public attended. Several comments were raised regarding the planning application to the land north of Aller Road. This was discussed in full in the planning section of the meeting

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

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

94 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Barwell sent apologies for her absence from the meeting.

95 (23/24) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on October 2nd had been circulated. They were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and will be signed by Cllr Giles

96 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Devine commented on the continuing issues with the postal service and informed the meeting that she had received a reply from the offices of Sir Geoffrey Cox who has been in touch with Royal Mail headquarters. Royal Mail has said that the recent (and ongoing) problem with delivery services is down to the staffing issues that they are facing. They say this is because of staff absences due to illness and low staff levels. Royal Mail assures us that all is being done to remedy the situation. The offices of Sir Geoffrey Cox would like to be kept informed of any continuing problems that occur.

97 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

C Cllr Andrew Saywell reported that the 20MPH designs are being "tweaked" and that hopefully the legal process will start by the end of November. If there are no objections it is hoped that the implementation of this can begin in the start of the next financial year.

The white markings on Rectory Road have been made in order to price up a resurfacing/patching scheme that could possibly happen in the next financial year. Cllr Smith pointed out that there is one pothole in particular that is cause for immediate concern – C Cllr Saywell agreed to look at this and take the appropriate action.

Negotiations are still ongoing regarding devolution and an announcement regarding this is possible later this month. The budget position of DCC in month 6 was a £13.4m overspend. This, as always, is a complicated situation and with the implementation of better contract management, modernising and delivering services, among other efforts, the budget should be brought back into line.

Finally C Cllr Saywell reported on the Library Vans, if the scheme cannot be saved then other library services are being considered, such as home library schemes, rural community libraries and digital services

Ward Cllr Lock advised the members of the public that had voiced concerns over planning matters that they should add their comments to the TDC Planning portal.

Dolton Rangers has now let the use of the pavilion and football field to the Exeter football academy who play 2 or 3 matches most weeks. The feedback from visiting teams regarding the facilities has been excellent and the influx of visitors is also beneficial to the local businesses.

Ward Cllr Elliott informed the meeting that the dog mess bin situated on Aller Road was hit by a passing truck recently due in part to the hedges being overgrown. Both the broken bin lid and the hedges have been reported and will hopefully both issues will be resolved soon

98(23/24) SNOW WARDENS

Harrison and Robson Jennings have agreed to continue their role as snow wardens for Dolton this winter.

99 (23/24) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Martindale informed the Parish Council that following a meeting of the Emergencies Committee in October, there are some documents that he feels would be beneficial to be added to the Parish Council website. It was agreed that these would be placed under the "news and notices" section

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100 23/24) ENERGY DAY

Cllr Jones reported the event that took place in October was reasonably successful and that maybe another one could be scheduled to take place in the Spring.

101 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay November 6th 2023

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
Cheque issued after last meeting – agreed during October meeting					
Church		Churchyard grant	400.00		1442
To be agreed and signed at November meeting					
TDC	27/09/23	Salary recharge	2034.14		1443
M Lock	30/10/23	Caretaker	195.00		1444
M Lock	30/10/23	Caretaker supplies	49.24		1445
Village Hall	31/10/23	Hall hire	42.00		1446
D Lock	4/11/23	Grass cutting	712.50		1447
D De-Pinto	31/10/23	Home office, stationery, postage	23.49	0.58	1448
To be formally agreed before signing					
Dolton Defibs		Grant for defib upkeep	300.00		1449

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 to be signed by Cllrs Walker and Giles.

b) Receipts &

c) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

Missing statements from October so a complete reconciliation is not possible.

The below is calculated from the September statement and figures at the current account only

Balance at bank 15/09/2023

Current Ac 15 May 2023	582.59
Chq received TDC	7875.00
Chq /cash received	50.00
Subtotal	8507.59

Less un-presented cqs at 15/09/23	411.00
Less cheques issued on 04/10/23	2600.29
Less Direct Debits September / October	2.00
Subtotal	3013.29

Total available in current account 5494.30

- d) Request for grants: A request was made for £300.00 to help fund the village defibrillators. All Cllrs agreed to the request. Cllr Tremayne proposed that the cheque be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Smith. The check had already been prepared and was signed with all others.
- e) Other financial matters: Unity bank have opened 2 current accounts, one of these will have to be cancelled. Cllr Tremayne is now online with the bank and will help to get everyone else to the same stage. Things are moving forward

102 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: 1/0939/2023/REMM - Land North Of Aller Road, Dolton, Devon, Discussions took place regarding this application and whilst the number of properties are not in question, there were

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some concerns raised regarding lack of pavements, limited parking and safety issues that this could cause. Comments will be sent to TDC in relation to access, safety, maintenance and parking

- b) Applications granted: 1/0803/2023/FUL - 8 Barfield Close, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
1/0660/2023/LBC – Chapple Cottage, Dolton, Winkleigh
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – 1/0109/2023/FUL - Westlake Farm, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
- 1/0815/2023/FUL - Great Cudworthy, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
- e) Any other planning matters:

103 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground Equipment – a plan is currently being drawn up by TKPlay and once this has been received then grants and funding can be looked into. Cllr Devine agreed to help Cllr Barwell with sourcing grants
- b) rubbish bins – Cllr Walker will chase his previous report regarding the bin situated near the paddocks and will check the possibility of having one placed at the Village car park as with the increased number of visitors each weekend this could prove beneficial.
- c) Any other Parish Grounds issues: Cllr Devine had been asked by the Dolton Gardening club if there was any known suitable space for community projects. It was suggested that they contact the church and the school and if the club had any particular area in mind that they should come back to the Council if they needed to

104 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

An email had been received regarding the junction of Barlands Way and possible safety issues, Cllrs suggested that the resident concerned should raise this with the highways department. Also a branch has broken from an Oak Tree that could be dangerous. Cllr Walker will look at the broken branch and hopefully be able to deal with this.

A grit Bin overgrown with Ivy has been noticed by Cllr Jones – he will remove the ivy

Cllr Devine has been contacted by residents of Orchard Gate regarding the maintenance of the grass verges. An email had also been received by the clerk regarding the same. The responsibility for the upkeep of the verges at Orchard Gate is not that of the Parish Council and should be undertaken by the homeowners themselves

The spare old barrel at the Paddocks will be removed and used by Cllr Smith to stand the Christmas tree in that he has arranged and that will be situated outside the Royal Oak porch so that it is visible from the bottom of Fore Street.

15(23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

106 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Cllr Jones was nominated to attend an online meeting hosted by Cllr John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council on December 5th.

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

Signed Date