

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 8th 2024

PUBLIC SESSION: 5 members of the public attended. Val Milton spoke of the display of fireworks in December and asked if there could be a better method to inform local residents if events such as this were to happen again. Steve Martindale also commented on this subject to say that he believes guidelines given for firework displays must be adhered to in future events. Andrew Smith responded confirming that all government guidelines were adhered to that no laws had been broken. He also stated that the launch site had been chosen to ensure spectators were able to view from a safe distance. Richard Edmeads commented that fireworks are enjoyed by the majority of people and it would be a shame if no future displays would take place

NOTE: Both Cllr Martindale and Cllr Smith confirmed their comments were made as members of the public and not as Parish Councillor.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: No prejudicial or personal interests were declared by the Councillors for the main meeting

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

117 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Rendell, Ward Cllr Lock and C Cllr A Saywell sent apologies for their absence from the meeting.

118 (23/24) MINUTES:

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

119 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed

120 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

Ward Cllr Elliott spoke of the housing crisis and informed the meeting that at the moment 21% of all housing is affordable. The target is 30% so there is still room for improvement but the figures are getting better. He also reported that as of December 50 families were in temporary accommodation which had reduced from 75. Cllr Elliott also advised that members of the public should report any building work that they believe has not been approved by the planning department so that the enforcement officer can look into it. Finally Cllr Elliott wanted to note his thanks and appreciation to Graham Hutchings for his commitment and dedication in keeping Dolton clean and tidy.

121 (23/24) ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS

Cllr Martindale thought that it would be a good idea to again look into the possibility of electric car chargers in the village as 2024 sees the start of the push towards EVs. It is already known that Dolton does not have the power infrastructure at the moment for fast charging but DCC and DALC have recently asked for local communities to register their interest in this matter – this will be followed up with DALC.

122 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 8th January 2024

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
M Lock	1/1/24	Caretaker	195.00		1454
Village Hall	30/12/23	Hall hire	6.00		1455
D De-Pinto	31/12/23	Home office	10.00		1456
C Herniman	27/12/23	Grass cutting and hedge trimming	220.00		1457

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

b) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

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

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

Balance at bank 04/12/2023

Current Ac 4th December 2023

44585.35

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Less un-presented cqs at 04/12/23	0.00
Less cheques issued on 04/12/23	651.50
Less Direct Debits December	25.00
Subtotal	676.50

Total available in current account **43908.85**

- c) Precept 2024/25 and finance tracking – a spreadsheet of up to date spending had been compiled and circulated to all Cllrs showing that the current years spending is where it is expected to be. Cllr Tremayne suggested a small increase to the precept for 2024/2025 as it is already known that some costs will be increased. This was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Smith. All Cllrs were in agreement. Forms were signed and will be returned to TDC.
- d) Other financial matters: Unity Trust Bank – Cllr Tremayne is waiting for just 1 letter to be able to finalise the transfer of accounts.

123 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

- a) Applications to consider: none
- b) Applications granted: 1/0017/2023/FULM - Stafford Moor Fishery, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
- c) Applications withdrawn – 1/0459/2022/FULM - Land At Fishleigh Park , Dolton, Devon,
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters: none

124 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground Equipment update – TK Play are working on a quote for smaller project than their earlier quotation received. Whilst waiting for this it was agreed that 2 other estimates for comparison be obtained.
- b) football field hire / restrictions – to be discussed in PART II meeting

125 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) old bus shelter – the roof of the bus shelter in the square is damaged and will need to be repaired or replaced. It was agreed that it would best to replace the roof. Cllr Giles mentioned that as this is in a conservation area, planning permission will need to be applied for. Quotes will be sourced for a replacement slate roof before contacting the planning department
- b) village clean up day – ideas are needed for a clean up day that could be held at the beginning of April. Moss removal at the Paddocks was suggested for the list. An ad in the diary will be placed for further ideas and these will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) new tenders for grasscutting and caretaker – tenders for both positions will be advertised for 2 year contracts to commence April 2024. The deadline for these will be February 29th 2024
- d) any other maintenance and traffic issues – a street light is not working on West Lane and will be reported. Also pot holes on West Lane and also in the Square were mentioned and will also be reported.

126(23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

127 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Last year both Clinton and Dolton schools achieved the prestigious ACE school of character quality mark. Dolton school will be celebrating this achievement and unveiling a plaque at the school on Friday January 19th at 2.45pm. and several Cllrs confirmed their attendance to the event

Date of next meeting will be February 5th 2024 in the Village Hall

Signed Date