

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 5th 2024

PUBLIC SESSION: 7 members of the public attended. No matters were raised

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

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

128 (23/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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

129 (23/24) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January had been circulated. They were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and will be signed by Cllr Walker

130 (23/24) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed

131 (23/24) CLLRS' REPORTS

Ward Cllr Elliott informed the meeting that TDC have agreed to charge double council tax on second homes from 2025. As of April 2024, the already 100% premium for empty dwellings of 2 years or more is being reduced down to one year. So a property only has to be empty for one year to be charged 100% premium instead of 2.

Ward Cllr Lock advised that the devolution plan has been approved and will keep us updated with progress

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

My apologies I cannot be with you this evening. It has been a busy month since your last meeting with ongoing budget setting work, alongside local work with here in Dolton and Torrington Rural. I was delighted to attend the ACE Character Award Celebration at Dolton Primary School and again congratulate the school and its pupils on this fantastic achievement.

Two main overall updates for you.

DCC Budgets – *The Budget setting process is continuing and the draft Budgets have just finished going through the Scrutiny Committee. The final Financial Settlement from Central Government looks likely to be a bit more generous than first expected with some additional funding for social care services. However, as work remains ongoing I will give you a full breakdown of the Budget once it is finalised later this month. While money does remain tight, we don't appear to be in the situation that other Councils have found themselves in in either being short of funds and/or having to make major cutbacks.*

Devolution – *The Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay has now been published. The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to approval by Devon and Torbay following a public consultation.*

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education. Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

*The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (CCA), that will **not** require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.*

The Deal should allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on priorities that matter to the people of Devon and Torrington Rural such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Highlights of the proposal are:

- *Direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030*

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- Government transfer of over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- Stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness
- Even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- Boosting and supporting high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital

There was a special DCC Cabinet Meeting on Friday to agree to go out to a public consultation on the Deal and once the details of the consultation are published I will update the Parish Council accordingly.

That is it for this month – anything you need me to look into please let me know.

132 (23/24) EV CHARGING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLY CAPACITY

Cllr Jones has spoken with National Grid regarding the power supply to Dolton. They have informed him that upgrades can be made upon review. Cllr Jones will try to contact an installer that is recommended by the Energy Saving Trust to see what costs would be involved in the installation of a public charger before the matter can be looked into any further. A new government scheme has been launched for EV charging points but this is mainly aimed towards schools!

133 (23/24) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 5th February 2024

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
M Lock	30/1/24	Caretaker	195.00		1458
Village Hall	30/01/24	Hall hire	9.00		1459
D De-Pinto	30/01/24	Home office + paper + ink	53.74	6.50	1460

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

b) Statement of Accounts: Bank Reconciliation

Missing statements from December & January 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 4 th December 2023	44585.35
Less un-presented cqs at 04/12/23	0
Less cheques issued on 04/12/23	651.50
Less cheques issued on 08/01/24	431.00
Less Direct Debits December	25.00
Less Direct Debits January	25.00
Subtotal	1132.50
Total available in current account	43452.85

c) Other financial matters: none

134 (23/24) PLANNING APPLICATION

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- a) Applications to consider: 1/0091/2024/FUL - Halfpenny Yard, Dolton, - no objections were made
- b) Applications granted: none
- c) Applications withdrawn non,
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters: none

135 (23/24) PARISH GROUNDS. Matters Relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground Equipment update: the playground committee have received a number of quotes and it was noted that although the quotes were similar, they each had slight variations of equipment according to each companies catalogue and of course price differences. With this in mind it was said that as long as it can be shown that at least 3 quotes had been received, the one that is finally chosen is best for Dolton with given reasons, then this would be OK to move forward with grant requests. The playground committee would meet again to discuss their options.
- b) playground inspection in March: The annual inspection has been confirmed for March and once the report has been received it was agreed that we should forward the report to TKPlay for them to quote for any remedial works that are needed on the equipment that is to be kept.
- c) trees at Dennis Cross: Cllr walker along with Mr C Herniman arrange for the overgrown and dead trees to be cut and removed from Dennis Cross. All Cllrs agreed that it would be a good idea to replace any tree that is removed.
- d) Any other Parish Grounds issues: none

136 (23/24) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) old bus shelter: a quote has been received for repairs to the roof. Before this can be taken any further it was decided that a member of the Planning department we asked to visit the site to advise what restrictions are in place for any work to be carried out and also if planning permission needs to be sought as it is within a conservation area.
- b) Village Clean up day: The date was agreed as Saturday April 6th and several ideas were put forward. The day will be advertised in the Dolton Diary and further ideas will be discussed at the next meeting
- c) any other maintenance and traffic issues: Cllr Walker thanked Cllr Rendell for getting the speed sign working again.

137(23/24) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No meetings had been attended

138 (23/24) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Cllr Tremayne asked for the possible digitisation of Roger Dunns book of local walks be added to the next agenda

Cllr Jones asked that the Resilience conference in March be added to the next agenda

Cllr Smith asked for clarification from other Parish and Ward Cllrs regarding the Square and who to speak to if the need to close for any reason – this is a matter for Highways with the possibility of the need for a traffic management scheme

Cllr Devine asked that we highlight the need for photo ID needed for elections

Date of next meeting will be March 6th 2024 in the Village Hall

Signed Date