

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY JULY 1st 2024
AT 7.30 pm in the VILLAGE HALL, DOLTON**

PRESENT: Cllr Walker (chair), Cllr Giles (vice chair), Cllrs Barwell, Devine, Jones, Martindale, Rendell, and Smith. Ward Cllr Lock. Also in attendance: Clerk D Edmeads
8members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Tremayne, Ward Cllr Elliott and C Cllr Saywell sent apologies for their absence from the meeting.

2. Chairman's report

This is the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019; the Covid pandemic interrupted our normal meeting routine. Since then we have lost two important members of our team, Alan Haynes and John Lock, both of whom are very sadly missed.

Some of the problems the village faced in 2019 are still with us, but the Council has worked on them and hopefully will soon see results.

The speed sign at the top of Rectory Road is working, and thanks to the "TwentyisPlenty" group in the village and the Council, Dolton came top of the applications for Devon County Council's scheme to reduce speeds in vulnerable areas in the county, and with Cllr Andrew Saywell's help and support Dolton will shortly have a significant area of the village under speed restrictions. This will improve safety and make life easier for residents in the centre of the village.

The football field is in superb condition thanks to Phil Greenwood's work; it is well used by outside clubs and is widely admired. Hopefully Dolton Rangers can be resurrected and resume playing on it. The work on the new lease for the Pavilion continues, but the end appears in sight at last.

The Council is working on improvements to the Dennis Cross play equipment some of which is over 40 years old and in need of renewal. After a lot of consultation with the school, parent's groups and the children a new plan has been devised, and we are currently seeking finance and grants in order to achieve this. Hopefully we will soon see results.

The Emergencies Committee has been active and has developed a comprehensive plan for the village should the necessity arise. The Village Hall has been adapted with help from the Parish Council and could be used as a warm hub for residents should normal services be interrupted in an emergency. The Council sponsored an Energy Information Day, and several organisations attended to inform residents of new technologies and ways to improve the use of 'traditional' ways.

Housing in Dolton is still relatively expensive and there is a shortage of "affordable" homes; planning is still in place for new housing at various sites within the development area. The Parish Council has managed to curtail inappropriate new builds on land below the Village Hall and, thanks to the robust action of Torridge District Council, on the

Acorn Farm site. There is still no land available for allotments even if a demand for them was shown

The Parish Council has provided financial assistance for various local organisations and amenity groups since the previous meeting, including

Dolton Rangers Football Club

Dolton Toddler Group

St Edmund's Churchyard

The Scouts

Dolton School Parents Association

Friends of Dolton First Responders

Jubilee Fund

St Edmund's Bell Fund

Dolton TwentyisPlenty Group

We thank the Jubilee Fund for financing the new Bus Shelter.

The next Annual Parish meeting will be in June 2025.

3. Contributions / questions from parishioners

Comments were made in relation to the bank by the Paddocks / Dennis Cross that has recently been strimmed. A volunteer has come forward to look after this area to try and encourage wild flowers to grow. Cllrs agreed that this would be a good idea and accepted the offer. The Clerk will inform D Lock of this so that he does not continue to cut it back.

A query was raised regarding any update to the 5G tower. DPC have no information regarding any upgrade from 4G to 5G and advised that the query be redirected to the telecommunication provider

**4. Any other matters at the discretion of the Chairman
none**

SignedChairman Date