

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7th 2024

PUBLIC SESSION:

4 members of the public attended.

- Public issue raised regarding 5G tower and update on. No response given from Geoffrey Cox.

Ward Cllr Rosemary Lock to chase response.

- Road closure signs at top of village, impact to local residents and businesses when there wasn't a road closure.

Suggestion made for future of sign that says – Dolton open as normal

- Clarity on road closures – linked to Orchard Gate / Stafford way, signs put up but not closed on date stated

- Sandra Brown – PCSO – nothing major to report, 1 RTC and 2 road incidents.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: No prejudicial interests were declared by the Councillors. Cllr Smith declared personal interests in items 12b

PRESENT: Cllr Walker (chair) Cllrs, Devine, Jones, Martindale, Rendell, Smith and Tremayne, Smith. Ward Cllr Elliott, Ward Cllr Lock.

76 (24/25) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Giles (vice chair), Councillor Barwell, Clerk Diane Edmeades and C Cllr Saywell sent apologies for their absence from the meeting. Rachael Elliott kindly took the minutes of this meeting

77 (24/25) MINUTES:

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

78 (24/25) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed

79 (24/25) CLLRS' REPORTS

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

Devolution – I am delighted to say that the new Government has confirmed Devon's Devolution Deal is going ahead, as previously agreed with the former Government. This is good news for Devon and it means the start of a journey of having greater powers devolved down to Devon. Immediate measures include £16m worth of additional funding for projects involving 'green' jobs, homes, skills and business growth. The new Combined Authority will have devolved powers and direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retention opportunities by 2030. The Government is also offering a strong partnership with Homes England to use the 'Affordable Housing Programme' and 'Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund' to create a joint action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people. The plan is for the Government to pass the necessary legislation in the autumn, with hopefully the first meeting of the CCA being held in January.

Family Hubs – The County Council has formally agreed to proceed with the Family Hub provision and change the way Children's Centres operate. This will move the service away from a limited and targeted approach to a universal offer. Discussions over the future use of the Children's Centre building in Torrington continue and from the discussions I have had with Officials I know they are keen to build links with the wider community as the new Family Hub model should provide more support for parents and families in Torrington Rural. One of the areas highlighted during the consultation has been childcare provision and the thinking has been that the existing building could be remodelled to provide a child care facility in the town, but those discussions are continuing. The other positive of this model is also to provide more support for families in rural communities like Dolton, so that we're not having to make young parents in the Parish travel to a building in Bideford or Barnstaple etc. and even make use of the facilities we have locally.

OFSTED Inspection – The Council's Children's Services are currently being inspected by OFSTED. It will be some time before their final report is issued but their inspection is due to finish by the end of this week and we should hopefully be given some indicative feedback as to whether the Children's Services Department is improving in its performance compared to its last inspection.

Ward Cllr Lock advised 1/0571/2024/FUL, Halfpenny Yard, Dolton, Winkleigh has been approved for 2 dwellings to be tied with the business.

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80 (24/25) DIGITISATION OF DOLTONS BOOK OF WALKS

Cllr Tremayne advised there is no further update

81 (24/25) VILLAGE CARETAKER

The current village caretaker has resigned. It was agreed that an advert for tenders be publicised as soon as possible - Cllr Walker has stated there hasn't been any applications for the role. –

82 (24/25) VILLAGE CLEANER

This will be added to agenda to discuss merging both roles (caretaker and cleaner) together and potential of advertising with employment of 5hrs a month.

83 (24/25) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Martindale has asked for clearer representation on the parish council website for the emergency committee and for the emergency policies to be added to the website. Seconded by Cllr Jones for the policies to be added to the website. Cllr Martindale stated a grant application has been submitted, which if approved will come into Dolton parish council and has asked for this be kept separate if approved.

84 (24/25) PROW SCHEME

As raised at previous meeting, Cllr Tremayne mentioned that the Public Rights Of Way register needs to be updated by 2026. The clerk will contact DALC to ask about the PROW scheme.

85 (24/25) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 7th October 2024

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
P Greenwood	01/10/24	Grass cutting –football field	410.00		1500
TDC	27/09/24	Salary recharge	2032.14		1501
Village Hall	30/09/24	Hall hire	16.50		1502
M Lock	28/09/24	Caretaker	195.00		1503
D Lock	22/09/24	Grass cutting	1125.00		1504
C Jones	09/09/24	Website services	189.00		1505
PKF Littlejohn	17/09/24	External audit	252.00	42.00	1506
D De-Pinto	30/9/24	Home office and computer ink	48.99		1507

The Payments had been circulated to all Cllrs and checked by Cllr Tremayne. These were proposed by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Devine.

b) <u>RECEIPTS after 30th August 2024</u>	
none	

c) BANK RECONCILIATION TO 30 AUGUST 2024

Balance at bank 30/08/24

Current Ac 30/08/24	43,602.37
Reserve Ac	0.14
35 Day Ac	140.39
Less un-presented cqs at 30/08/24	0.00
Plus un-cleared credits at 30/08/24	
Total Balance at bank at 30/08/24	43,742.90

Cash Book

Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/24	43,016.69
Less payments to 30/08/24	8,008.19
Plus receipts to 30/08/24	8,734.40
Closing balance per cash book at 30/08/24	43,742.90

Variance	0.00
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Note: statements produced by end September/ beginning of October not yet received (should arrive in next few days by post). Total of cheques issued at last meeting was £1565.72 and should be noted and deducted from the closing balance

- d) Request for grants - Email received for the churchyard – approved. Seconded by Cllr Tremayne
- e) completion of audit- submitted and put onto website
- f) any other financial matters-none

86 (24/25) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Applications to consider: no objection were made to the following:
 - 1/0776/2024/FUL - Wind Turbine At Grid Reference 262068 110888, Hollocombe, Devon
 - 1/0798/2024/AGMB - Land Adjacent To Chapple Farm, Dolton,
- b) Applications granted - 1/0939/2023/REMM - Land North Of Aller Road, Dolton, Devon,
- c) Applications withdrawn – 1/0479/2024/FUL - Down Farm, Dolton, Winkleigh, Devon
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters

87 (24/25) PARISH GROUNDS- any matters relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground Equipment update: Cllr Devine has completed and submitted all papers to 4Grants Ltd. More information will be reported as it is received. Cllr Martindale stated that the clean up works were completed but some other works still needed which a date is to be confirmed with Cllr Tremayne. Cllr Devine has stated that a cover letter is needed by the parish council and also a letter needed by the school, a contact has been given which Cllr Devine will get in touch with.
- b) Approval is sought from Cllr Smith to use the football field for Bikefest on Saturday 3 rd May 2025 between the times of 15:00hrs and 21:00hrs, will be used for a bar and music between the hrs of 17:00hrs and 21:00hrs. Agreed no bikes on the pitch. Proposed by Cllr Tremayne and 2 nd by Cllr Devine. Cllr Smith will contact the Football Club to ensure there is not clash of dates
- c) Cllr Walker gives thanks to Christine for water usage on village clean up day and to all volunteers for their help

88 (24/25) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) Village clean-up day report – Successful village clean up day, bank has been trimmed back. Email read out regarding dog mess in car park area – sign to be arranged to be installed to prevent. Grit bin in Orchard Way has been reported and is being dealt with.
- b) Any other maintenance and traffic issues: Cllr Walker has had communication from the school regarding a sign to be put up for the recent Ofsted report. Location of sign to be agreed. Cllr Martindale raised that there has been spam emails going around stating to be from the parish council / councillors and for others to be aware it's a spam and verify the senders address before replying.

89 (24/25) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED IF ANY

Cllr walker attended Torridge council collaborative group meeting, main point raised was reporting of potholes throughout the villages and ensuring that they are registered online. Second point was raised regarding issues with dcc insurance cover for the road warden scheme.

90 (24/25) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

- Merge of both roles Village Caretaker and cleaner
- Dolton PTFA – Christmas raffle donations

Date of next meeting will be November 4th 2024 in the Village Hall

Signed Date