

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 4th 2024

PUBLIC SESSION:

7 members of the public attended.

The subject of allotments was raised. This is something that has been looked into in the past without success as no land was available for this purpose. A request will be made again for possible sites for allotments

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

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

91 (24/25) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Barwell and Ward Cllrs Elliott and Lock sent apologies for their absence from the meeting.

92 (24/25) MINUTES:

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on October 7th had been circulated. They were agreed to be a correct record by all Cllrs and were signed by Cllr Walker. This was proposed by Cllr Martindale and seconded by Cllr Jones. Thanks were given to Rachael Elliott for taking the minutes of the October meeting

93 (24/25) MATTERS ARISING

No matters were brought forward to be reviewed

94 (24/25) CLLRS' REPORTS

C Cllr Saywell reported that resurfacing works are scheduled for the bottom of West Lane. It is not sure if drainage work will be taking place but this will be checked. Resurfacing works are also scheduled for Rectory Road and these should take place in the next financial year.

It was confirmed that the devolution deal for Devon has now been confirmed.

DCC are waiting for the results from a recent OFSTED inspection to Child Services and are hoping to see an improvement in the results.

Finally C Cllr Saywell reported that he has been working on a people strategy to help achieve better staff moral and working environments

Ward Cllr Elliott sent the following report that was read in the meeting (copied directly from his email):

With the closure of the 23\24 budget, we have a draft surplus of £1,371,000. We intend on using this draft surplus in a few areas ie providing staff training, maintenance to vehicles, but mainly to shore up our reserves, Acquire property for temporary accommodation, add to our apprenticeship program and also help towards funding the following leisure and property upgrades.

At full council on the 14th of October, we approved plans for £1,000,000 of funding to improve energy efficiency for Holsworthy swimming pool, this will be supplied by the public sector decarbonisation scheme. This will be via a air to water heat source pump to heat the building and pool. But only should the system be adequate enough. Their anticipation of this move is that the new heat pump will replace the existing oil fired boiler and not only significantly reduce the heating costs but also dramatically reduce the carbon emissions. Of which the swimming pools are the most in the district.

Total property emissions – Top 5 Sites	2023/24 (Tonnes CO2 equivalent) Total
HOLSWORTHY LEISURE CENTRE	243.7
TORRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE	209.7
TORRINGTON SWIMMING POOL	103.2
APPLEDORE FISHDOCK A and B	77.6
RIVERBANK HOUSE	74.1

This will be supported by the possibility of installing a 40MW array of solar PV being installed on the roof. Unfortunately, they can not cover the entire building due to the possibility of asbestos on part of the roofing sheets and the current planned location on the roof needs to be repaired first.

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Also following the outstanding results of the last 2 years for Active Torridge (the arms length company set up by TDC to run the leisure facilities) we approved to extend the contract to run the leisure services until 2032. Following their classes being full to capacity and their wish to expand their portfolio of locations, we also approved the lease of the old Library (part of the Bideford town hall) to Active Torridge. This they intend to use as a modern gym facility, along with moving their HQ offices to the site as well, freeing up their current location. With the additional facility, they project their operational management fee to fall from just under £678,000 in 22/23 to an estimated £166,200 by 29/30. The new gym facility is expected to open in early 2026 following the completion of the refurbishment works, with which we also approved the expenditure for at the same meeting.

Those refurbishment works mentioned, are a complete reroof of the entire building along with thermal insulation upgrades, internal alterations and refurbishment of the entire ground floor. The cost of which is £1,600,000 for the roof works and £1,581,900. Totalling at £3,181,000. The funding for this will be provided from budget set aside for the works over the previous years along with reserves and grant funding etc. Being a listed building, we are obliged to maintain the upkeep of the building and there has not been any significant refurbishment or maintenance for several decades due to other financial commitments.

It is hoped that these works will secure the structural integrity of the building for decades to come.

We also approved 3 new playzones. Basically, astroturf or similar surface, enclosed areas for various recreational sports and age groups to use. The sites will measure 20Mx30M and cost around £275,000 each. We have accepted an offer of grant funding for 75% of the cost from Rural England Prosperity Fund and they have also searched and identified within the district the locations for the sites. They are to be situated at:

Stanhope park, Holsworthy

Polyfield, East The Water

Former Tennis Courts at Gas Lane in Torrington

Active Torridge has been identified as the appropriate partner to manage the sites. With the council managing the maintenance as per their other sites.

There is a new round of funding from Hearts of London for Defibrillators. If interested and you have not had the email, please get in touch and I can forward the email on.

Round 6 of the household support fund is now active. It helps residents of Torridge who are struggling to afford the likes of, energy bills, food, appliances, housing and essentials. If anyone should find that they need any help, then call 01271 371 499 or go online to www.torridge.gov.uk/householdfund

95 (24/25) VILLAGE CARETAKER & CLEANER

It was agreed these roles should be combined and that should be published asking for applicants on a self-employed basis. Up to 7 hours per week and £14 per hour were thought to be reasonable and it was noted that DCC training would need to be provided to be able to work in the street. Temporary measures to clean the public toilet to enable it to remain open were also discussed. Thanks were noted for Trudy Smith who kindly cleaned the public toilet in The Square before the carnival.

96 (24/25) DOLTON PTFA - CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DONATIONS

Unfortunately there is no donation for raffle that can be donated by the Parish Council

97 (24/25) DOLTON WAR MEMORIAL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Cllr Rendell has the wreath that will be laid at the war memorial. Cllr Walker will attend and arrange for the flag to be lowered

98 (24/25) EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Martindale confirmed that the Emergencies Committee will receive a grant of £1500.00 that will enable them to buy the equipment they want. The Village Hall has kindly agreed that this equipment can be stored on their premises.

99 (24/25) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Accounts to pay 4th November 2024

Payee	Date of Invoice		Gross	Inc VAT	Cq No
Cancelled chq					1508
Payment agreed in October meeting					
Tom Mares	07/10/24	Bus shelter room repairs	2980.00		1509

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To be signed after approval in November meeting					
PCC of Dolton	13/09/24	Grant for churchyard upkeep	400.00		1510
Village Hall	31/10/24	Hall hire	9.00		1511
D De-Pinto	31/10/24	Home office and stationary	29.05		1512

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

b) RECEIPTS after 1st October 2024	
none	

BANK RECONCILIATION TO 01 OCTOBER 2024

Balance at bank 01/10/24

Current Ac 01/10/24	50,346.60		
Reserve Ac	0.14		
35 Day Ac	140.77		
Less un-presented cqs at 22/05/24	54.95	chq	amount
		1496	54.95
Plus un-cleared credits at 22/05/24			

Total Balance at bank at 22/05/24 **50,432.56**

Cash Book

Opening Balance from accounts at 1/4/24	43,016.69
Less payments to 01/10/24	9,348.91
Plus receipts to 01/10/24	16,764.78

Closing balance per cash book at 01/10/24 **50,432.56**

54.95

Variance **0.00**

Note: statements produced by end October/ beginning of November not yet received (should arrive in next few days by post). Total of cheques issued at last meeting was £7248.63 and should be noted and deducted from the closing balance

d) any other financial matters: the asset list has been updated with the insurance company (increased values of bus shelters and removal of adult exercise equipment). Also finance tracking for the financial year so far has been circulated to all Cllrs.

100 (24/25) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Applications to consider - none
- b) Applications granted - none
- c) Applications withdrawn – none
- d) Applications refused – none
- e) Any other planning matters: an email for TDC relating to listed buildings had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was agreed that this needed no direct action but could be helpful in the event of planning applications

101 (24/25) PARISH GROUNDS- any matters relating to:

- a) Dennis Cross Playground Equipment update: Cllr Devine confirmed that 7 applications for grants have been submitted and there is a possibility of a couple more small ones. 1 application has been successful and when the money is received it must be spent no later than 31st January.
- b) any other Parish Grounds issues: Cllr Walker advised that National Grid has confirmed that they will upgrading the low voltage systems in the area in March to improve the service

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102 (24/25) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

a) gritter for snow wardens: The gritter needs servicing. It was agreed that Dunn's Ploughs could do this if possible

b) Any other maintenance and traffic issues: Cllr Tremayne advised that the speed signs on Cleave Hill are overgrown and not visible to motorists. Cllr Walker will trim the vegetation around these

103 (24/25) VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED IF ANY

No meeting had been attended

104 (24/25) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

No items were brought forward.

Cllr Smith voiced his thanks to the Dolton and Dowland Carnival Committee for all the hard work that went into such a wonderful event. All other Cllrs agreed with this

Date of next meeting will be December 2nd 2024 in the Village Hall

Signed **Date**