



MINUTES OF DODDISCOMBSLEIGH'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING **Thursday 3rd May 2018 at 7.30pm in Doddyscombsleigh Primary School**

Present: Cllr B Plummer (Chairman), Cllr S Hewitt (Vice Chairman), Cllr E Davis, Cllr H Hanson, Cllr B Hornby, Cllr L Turney, TDC Cllr A Ford & 6 members of the public.

Clerk: A Miller

1. **Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest** - None
2. **Ratification of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors held on 4th May 2017** (circulated)
Signed and accepted as a true record.
Proposed Cllr Hewitt **Seconded** Cllr Plummer All Agreed
3. **Chairman's Report for the year 2017/18**
The Chairman, Cllr Plummer, presented her report which is at Appendix A of these minutes.
4. **Officer's Reports for the Year**
Footpaths, Neighbourhood Watch, Events co-ordinator, Emergency Planning, Website - Cllr Plummer reported on her areas of responsibility and her update appears at Appendix B of these minutes.
Highways, Parish Path Partnership, Information sharing from DALC, Public Information, Public Noticeboard, Church - Cllr Hewitt reported on her areas of responsibility and her update appears at Appendix C of these minutes.
Planning, Affordable Housing, Defibrillator, School Playing Field - Cllr Turney reported on his areas of responsibility. The Council deal with every planning application on a case by case basis. There is no change this year in affordable housing, if there is a policy change in the future the Council will revisit this area. The defibrillator is checked every month and reports are submitted to the Ambulance Service. It has not been used so far. School playing field: the next health & safety check will be in June, the last check found everything safe. There is an online survey in progress regarding the community value of the playing field and there are already several responses which will be analysed and reported back to the Council.
5. **Ideas for Future Projects and Electronic Communication from the Public** – The following points were raised:
 - There is a need in the community to have more information about the Council's vision for the Parish and the Parish Council would welcome more feedback from parishioners, e.g. coming to the meetings. There is a need for improved communication.
 - A possibility to develop the Parish Plan, consulting the public.
 - Considering the possibility to build a Village Hall which is suitable for all ages, including the pre-school age group which needs a new building soon. Several sources of funding would be available. TDC strategic vision supports a multi-use approach and communities working together.
 - Parish events are well attended and there will be a Village Fete on 30th June.
6. **Vacancy for a Councillor Position** – The Chairman asked the members of the public if anyone would stand as councillor. There were no volunteers.
7. **Open Discussion for Parishioners** – Covered in item 5.
8. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Appendix A

Chairman Annual Report

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their input to the Parish Council over the last twelve months. Parish Councillors are not paid for the work they do so it is even more important to acknowledge their contribution to the village with their various roles and responsibilities. There were three resignations over the last year but there were also three new members Co opted. There is still one vacancy remaining for anyone interested. It was a challenging year for the previous Clerk Sarah Sharpe who always tried to do her best to guide and advise the Parish Council. There were some complex issues to deal with. In September Sarah decided to resign from Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council and to concentrate more of her time as Clerk for Shillingford. Agnes Miller was appointed our new Clerk in November. With so many new laws and legislation the Parish Council have had to increase the Clerks Contracted Hours from three to five. It is a complex position being a Parish Clerk in these times and I would like to thank Agnes for her work and patience processing the documents. Finally I would like to thank the Parish Community and particularly those Parishioners who attend the meetings and contribute to Open Forum and agenda discussions. Thank you.

Appendix B

REPORT from Cllr Plummer

Footpaths

The Parish Council now has a Parish Paths Partnership agreement with Devon County Council to enable us to maintain our Public Rights of Way. These repair works have already started. The Public Bridleway is currently in a poor state and last year an exemption permit was applied for with the Environment Agency for the track to be restored. Progress with this work is dependant on the availability of material from Devon County Highways.

Neighbourhood watch

Doddiscombsleigh currently does not have a formal neighbourhood watch scheme so any reports are sent directly to the police either 101 or 999. The Police have recently left a notice in the village about recent vehicle break ins. As this is a rural area we would suggest making sure your vehicles and property are always kept secure.

Events Co ordinator

Cllr Turney has forwarded information regarding the School fête last year. The fête raised about £1600 and was shared between the school and pre school. Many of the parents not only donated their time for the event but also donated their expenses rather than claiming them. The smaller '**Great Get Together event**' last year in the Pub field was also a success. This year it is proposed to organise a **Village Fête** to take place in the Pub field. The hope is to bring the whole village together for a fun day and raise money for the school and the church combined. Anyone can get involved in these events, even donating strawberries for the Pimms or manning the **village stocks** ! A Barn Dance to raise money for the preschool is also planned very soon on the 19th May. All the details are posted in various places around the village.

There was a **Village Walk** organised by Cllr Hewitt last year to assess the Public foot path from Batts Brook to Sheldon Lane with refreshments afterwards at the Sheldon Centre. For many Parishioners this was an enjoyable event and hopefully something similar can be arranged again later this year. The Parish Council donated £50 to the Sheldon Centre for their hospitality and DCC also matched the donation.

Emergency Planning

Our lanes were cleaned with a road sweeper to reduce the risk of flooding last winter. The Parish Council continues to provide emergency sandbags when needed. Bags of road salt will also be re ordered for next winter as our lanes are no longer gritted. The Parish Council appreciate the Parishioners who bring important matters to our attention and we continually try respond to the issues as soon as they arise.

Website

The Parish Council have a new website called **Doddiscombsleigh.org**. It is a straightforward site, easy to access, easy to view and works well in an area with very slow broadband speeds. The Clerk updates the website with the all important Parish Council documents and dates for the meetings . The Parish Council website also has pages with local information, local news and events. However recent major changes with Data Protection and Privacy Laws means the Parish Council and the Website will have to adapt and comply accordingly especially regarding personal data and contact information. Thank you all and everyone.

Appendix C

Report of Cllr Hewitt

Highways:

Last year I attended with Madam Chair two Devon County Highways conferences at Kenn and at Rattery. These were information packed meetings all about our roads and the maintenance and repair works that are continually being carried out. In the last twelve months the Parish Council have tried to keep on top of reporting potholes, blocked drains or dangerous leaning trees to the Devon.gov.uk website.

Last winter a number of roads into and out of Doddiscombsleigh village desperately needed cleaning as the gullies and drains were all clogged up with leaves and sediment. There were also concerns with water running onto freezing roads. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the roads to be swept. These efforts hopefully reduced the risk of flooding particularly with a couple of the properties located along the lane from the village towards Sheldon.

Many potholes have been repaired over the last year although the recent extreme weather has caused many more potholes to appear. Understandably these potholes may take extra time to be fixed as highways are still overloaded with so many other reports for road repairs around the county. We will endeavour to continue reporting them to the Highways.

Foot paths:

Last year the Parish Council started looking at improving our public footpaths. We are pleased to inform everyone that the Parish Paths Partnership agreement (P3) is now in place with DCC for Doddiscombsleigh. We were approved grant funding this year and the repair works have now started to replace the old stiles for pedestrian shutting gates on Foot path 5 from Batts Brook to Sheldon Lane and part of Foot path 1 from the Church to Spynish Lake. Parish Council would like to thank Ros Davies the P3 officer and Johnathan Rowlands the PROW officer for all their help. Another public area to mention is the village green and I would also like to thank Steve Le Marchant to his help with cutting the grass around the War Memorial, bus shelter and the footpath to the Church. There are also other individuals who do not wish to be named who also help cut the grass in other open areas in the village and clear and unblock the drains and clear ditches. All this community help makes a positive improvement to our Parish.

DALC One of the main topics of conversation at DALC has been the new data protection and privacy laws taking place. These new laws have been adopted by all councils including Doddiscombsleigh.

Public Information

The Parish Council agreed to purchase and install an additional new public notice board in the Bus Shelter for the public to use. This notice board is already filled up with lots of local notices which is always nice to see. Last year Cllr Ponti created a Welcome letter for new residents in the Parish. The Council also agreed to include a 1 year subscription of the Parish Newsletter the new residents.

Finally I have a brief summary of a **Church** report from the Secretary for St Michaels Church on the preservation of the stained glass windows:

Master glazier Andrew Johnson has been commissioned to protect the medieval glass in St Michael's Church. So far he has protected two of the glass panels. This restoration work involves making a simplified version of the window with clear leaded glass sections. This means we will not need to protect the windows with metal grills or polycarbonate. Fundraising has already started with various events including a concert performed by Border Tails, a talk by the master glazier, and donations including £500 from Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council, £1,500 grant from Devon Historic Churches, £1,100 from Allchurches Trust and £2,000 from DCC. The quotation for the work is £18,000 in total so any donations would always be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.