



MINUTES OF DODDISCOMBSLEIGH'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 12th February 2015 at 7.30pm in Doddyscombsleigh Primary School

Present: Cllrs N Cupper (Chairman), V Brook, J Le Marchant, M Porter, B Prest and S Stanley

In attendance: District Cllr S Purser, County Cllr J Brook & 4 members of the public

Locum Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

Open Forum

No comments were made by members of the public.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.32pm.

02/2015.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr E Brook

02/2015.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

02/2015.03 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

02/2015.04 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2015 were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

02/2015.05 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Purser informed members that the austerity continues at TDC. It will be setting its budget next week and no increase in council tax is being proposed. Similarly there will be no increases in fees or charges and no new initiatives are being proposed. The new refuse collection will not start until September due to delays in planning for the bulk waste transfer station.

The new travellers' site at Haldon is full. The old site is now empty and will be cleared. Cllr Le Marchant commented that it appeared that some of the vehicles were not roadworthy and as part of the initial consultation, this had been made a requirement for those living at the site.

Cllr Stanley expressed concern about the increasing number of cycles and parked cars on the road through Haldon Forest and related traffic safety issues. After a short discussion, it was agreed to write to the Forestry Commission and Devon County Council expressing these concerns and suggesting one or a combination of the following: Larger car park, reducing the speed limit and double yellow lines to prevent people from parking.

02/2015.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Jerry Brook reported that he was confident that the budget as proposed will be accepted with an increase of 1.99%. Cuts will continue and some services previously undertaken by DCC will be

undertaken by charitable trusts. A number of services will be reduced, in particular relating to the highways hence the introduction of the community road warden scheme. Similarly, there are now barely any DCC run care homes. Almost 2000 jobs have been lost since 2009 saving £90m.

02/2015.07 DOG FOULING

The Chairman informed members that he had received a complaint about dog fouling in the village from a parent walking her child to school. The main areas of concerns are on the raised footpath between the church and the pub, the village triangle and on the grass verges near the school. After a discussion, it was agreed to include another piece in the newsletter highlighting the problem and also to contact the dog warden for his advice and request that he visits the village.

02/2015.08 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

- 8.1. Members received and noted information about the 'Community Road Warden/Self-Help Scheme' and agreed to advertise for volunteers in the parish magazine. It was further noted that DCC is offering free Chapter 8 training until the end of March for those wishing to become a designated road warden.
- 8.2 The Chairman informed members that a parishioner had requested a grit bin near Burnt Meadows. This was to replace the bin which disappeared from outside the school. The bin outside the school, however, has now returned and the Parish Council agreed that this was sited in the correct place without the need for any additional bins.
- 8.3 Members were invited to comment on a DCC consultation concerning public transport services. Cllr Le Marchant advised that there were three services affecting Doddiscombsleigh. Members accepted that these buses were not necessarily well used and therefore did not object to the proposals.
- 8.4 Cllr Le Marchant informed members that the wall opposite the school looks as though it has been hit by a vehicle and there are a lot of broken bricks on the ground. It was agreed that the clerk would report it to whomever was responsible for it.
- 8.5 It was noted that some of the potholes which have previously been reported have now been filled. It was further noted that a response from DCC about the fault with the reporting system has been received from DCC Highways Officer, Simon Pearson, acknowledging that there is an issue with it.

02/2015.09 WAR MEMORIAL

Comments were invited on an application received by English Heritage to add the war memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. After a discussion, no comments were made.

02/2015.10 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Chairman advised that little progress had been made since the last meeting. Opinion in the Steering Group is split about whether another housing needs survey is necessary. He also advised that the Steering Group does not want to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting, as previously planned, and would prefer a more informal meeting at a later date.

02/2015.11 SMARTEN UP DODDI SCHEME ('SUDS')

There was no report given.

02/2015.12 ELECTIONS – 7 MAY 2015

The clerk confirmed that nomination papers would be available by the beginning of March and the deadline for both nominations and withdrawals is Thursday 9th April at 4pm.

It was agreed that the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Thursday 21 May 2015.

02/2015.13 THE TRANSPARENCY CODE (SMALLER AUTHORITIES)

Members received details of The Transparency Code (Smaller Authorities) and were informed by the clerk that it should be reasonably straightforward to comply with with the assistance of Phil Russon who currently looks after the village website. She informed members that she would work with Phil to ensure that the Parish Council complies with the requirements.

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02/2015.14 FINANCE

- 14.1 Members approved the clerk's salary and disbursements for January & February - £292.82 (Cheque no 170)
- 14.2 The clerk advised that she would manage her PAYE and the requirement to provide HMRC with real time information using the basic tools provided by HMRC. This will result in the Council having to approve quarterly PAYE payments for the clerk.

02/2015.15 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman informed members that he had received a complaint about a car speeding through the village which nearly knocked a child over. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would contact the local PCSO.

02/2015.16 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

[Members were reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future]

- 16.1 The Chairman invited suggestions for the format and content of the Annual Parish Meeting now that the Affordable Housing Steering Group was not giving a presentation. Suggestions included a summary of achievements for the year to be given by the Chairman, ideas for future projects and public questions and comments.
- 16.2 The Chairman considered that whilst the concrete blocks which have been put around Triangle are helping to prevent some vehicles parking on the verge of the green, they are not aesthetically pleasing. It was therefore agreed to remove them and replace them with some granite chunks dotted around the perimeter. The Chairman and Cllr V Brook would source some suitable stones. The concrete slabs will be stored in Cllr V Brook's yard.

02/2015.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7.00pm in Doddiscombsleigh Primary School. The Annual Parish Meeting will commence on the same date at 7.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting in Part I at 8.56pm.

Part II
Members of the public and press were excluded from this meeting as the items under discussion contain information exempt under Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A

02/2015.18 CLERK’S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT
Members agreed that the Chairman should sign the Clerk’s Employment Contract as proposed which commenced on 1 February 2015.

The Chairman closed the meeting in Part II at 9.13pm.

Signed.....