

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Cllr J Lock, Chair, Cllr C Giles, S.Jury, R.Dunn, N.Walker, M.Grigg, A.Haynes the Clerk and 7 members of the public. Apologies: Ward Cllr R Lock and Cllr J Rolls

213(12/13) MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd July 2012 were signed as being a true and correct record.
Proposed by Cllr C Giles Seconded by Cllr S Jury

214(12/13) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Co-Option. The proposition that Ms Samaya Lune become a member of the Council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Byrne was made by Cllr Grigg, seconded by Cllr Jury and unanimously agreed. Ms Lune signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests forms and took her place.

b. Code of Conduct. Cllr Dunn's revision of the Code of Conduct having been circulated, the proposition made by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Haynes that the Clerk should forward the draft to TDC's Monitoring Officer for his comments prior to the Parish Council committing to adopt the revision was unanimously agreed.

215(12/13) CORRESPONDENCE

NDartmoor Search & Rescue Team	Request for financial support to purchase a building to house them and equipment.	Agenda 7. Finance
Parochial Church Council	Grass-cutting in churchyard requesting financial support & possibility of including it in with PC Grasscutting contract	Agenda 7 /10.
Beaford Arts	Re "The Last Post" – request to perform at Dennis Cross	Agenda item 10
DALC	Training schedule of courses; possible training course "rising to the Challenge – making Localism a reality for local councils.	Reading file & emailed Clerk has expressed an interest on behalf of PC.
DCC Emergency Planning	Newsletter	Handed to Emergency Committee
CCD	Rural Futures working together	Reading file & emailed
TDC	Draft of updated housing renewal policy	Reading file & emailed
Rough sleepers	Notice for Board	Done
Communities & Local Govt.	A consultation paper on Payments by parish councils (2 signature rule to be amended)	Reading file & emailed.
TDC	Area advisory Group special meeting on Wed 26 September 7 p.m. The Howe Hall, Torrington – update on the Localism Act. Adv. Gp meeting 23 October in Town Hall	Reading file. It is recommended that all Cllrs attend the Special Meeting on 26/09.
DALC	CCD Members Forum – Annual visit; Footpaths update; Newsletter	Reading file
TDC	Dog Control Orders – consultation	Reading file & emailed

TDC	Localised Support of Council Tax – consultation on proposed amendments to housing benefit	Reading file & emailed. Cllrs and public may respond online at TDC website
DALC	AGM & Conference 2012 – Sat 6 Oct. Westpoint, Exeter. Annual Report 2012. £20 per person/delegate	Clerk has details for Cllrs wishing to attend.
DCC Highways	Dolton Beacon improvements – not able to progress	Agenda item 13
DPFA	Playing Fields AGM 28 Sept Exeter Racecourse	Cllr July has details for Cllrs wishing to attend.

216(11/12) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Lock and Cllr Jury each declared personal interests in all matters relating to Dolton & Dowland Village Hall and Diamond Jubilee Committee. Cllr Giles declared an interest in Diamond Jubilee Committee.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to invite members of the public to speak –

Mrs A.Coombes	New flower box on Dolton nameplate & churchyard grass cutting
Mr F Hooper	20 m.p.h. speed limit through village
Mr C Burnage	Feedback to TDC's consultation documents

217(12/13) MR DEREK THORP – IDEA FOR A DOLTON FORUM

Mr Thorp gave a Presentation to the Parish Council on his idea for a Dolton Forum Website – a place on the Dolton website, www.dolton.org.uk, for villagers to post and exchange ideas, opinions and discussions. There followed a short question and answer session and Mr Thorp was thanked for his courtesy in notifying the Parish Council in advance of the new website becoming open to users. With his permission Mr Thorp's Presentation is annexed to these Minutes.

218(12/13) FINANCIAL MATTERS

The request from NDartmoor Search & Rescue for a donation to their funding was discussed and on the proposal of Cllr Dunn, seconded by Cllr Jury it was agreed to send them £25. The upkeep of the churchyard was discussed and on the proposal of Cllr. Walker, seconded by Cllr Haynes it was agreed that a donation of £150. should be made.

a) Accounts to pay.

Name	Item	VAT	Total	Cheque No.
Mrs J Sidey	Clerk's expenses £10 home use – July & Aug. Postage		£20.00) 1.20)£21.20	587
D&D Village Hall	Hire of Hall July		£6.60	590
Martin Lock	Caretaking – monthly charge July & Aug & Repair & paint Bus Shelter Sundry materials as per receipts		£208.00) 60.00)£268.	593
David Lock	Grass cutting – monthly charge	15.10	£90.53	592
David Lock	Grass cutting – monthly charge		£165.00	591
SWWater	Quarterly charges		£48.21	589
IJT	Printer cartridges	5.21	£31.18	588
Sutcliffe Play	Safety Barriers	297.60	£1785.60	594
John Sollars	Materials used to make Flower Box		£26.00	595
NDartmoor Rescue	Donation to funds		£25.00	598
Parochial Church Council	Donation to upkeep of churchyard		£150.00	597
Audit Commission	Audit Fee	£27.00	£162.00	596

Proposed that the above accounts be paid: Cllr Dunn Seconded:Cllr Haynes

Cheque Signatures: Cllr Giles and Cllr Grigg

b). Income –£195.70 refund from Jubilee Cttee for extra mugs

Balance in Curr.Acc at 13 July £5761.23.+ 195.70= £5956.93 - less today's cheques above. Also £213 balance of Annual Charge from Football Club received today but not yet banked. Balance in Dep Acc. £20,791.62

c). Any other financial matters: Audit Commission letter confirming that Grant Thornton UK is to be external auditor for Dolton Parish for 5 years from 2012/13. Confirmation letter from NATWEST on purchase of Bond 13989687/2

219 (12/13) PLANNING

5a. Applications to consider : 01/0603/2012/LBC Corner Cottage, North Street for Miss C Clevely – to form an upstairs bathroom in main bedroom. No objections

5b. Permissions granted : none

5c. Refusals advised - none

5d. To receive any other planning matters : none

220(12/13) EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Committee had met on July 9th and Mr Derek Thorp elected Chairman, to replace Cllr. Byrne. It was reported that the salt has been delivered and it is intended to distribute a small quantity of salt to volunteers at the 'crunch' spots for immediate use as necessary. The snow warden has put together a small team of people he can call on for assistance, this is in addition to the team of street wardens. At their next meeting, set for 2nd October, it is intended to update the Emergency Plan document with revised personnel and phone numbers, then supply hard copies to the Police, DCC & PC.

221(12/13) PARISH GROUNDS

(i) Football Field – nothing to report

(ii) Dennis Cross. Cllr Dunn's weekly inspections have taken place.

Sutcliffe Play have erected the swing safety barriers and refixed the netting on the multi-play climber but rubber grommets are still missing. The Village Caretaker has suggested resiting the litter bin by The Paddocks entry gate to a position closer to the Youth Shelter and this to be actioned during the next Village clean-up day. Cllr Jury mentioned that members of the public would prefer any adult equipment if purchased by the Jubilee Committee to be sited in the far corner of Dennis Cross for more privacy than would be available if sited by the road.

222(12/13) JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Cllr Jury said that the Jubilee Committee wish to plant bulbs in the grass splay from the Dolton sign down and also that an extra 36 Jubilee Mugs have been purchased and sold.

223(12/13) PRIDE IN OUR OWN VILLAGE – The new flower box is in position above the Dolton sign and has been planted. Cllr Hayes volunteered to clear the flower bed round the stay wire on the brick splay prior to work beginning to make the stone walling. No word yet received when the work will begin.

224(12/13) MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC ISSUES

i. Dolton Beacon. The Clerk had received an email from DCC to say that no funding is currently available to improve the safety at the Dolton Beacon crossroads and the scheme to do so is therefore unable to progress.

ii. The Paddocks. As requested the Clerk had contacted both TDC and then DCC about parking on the brick splay but received a telephone call from Mr Steve Elsworthy of DCC to say that they are not able to take any action. Cllr Walker was asked to purchase a NO PARKING sign on his next visit to Mole Valley Farmers.

iii. The Clerk has contacted the Police about speed of traffic on Rectory Road and again been told that if car registrations details are noted and passed to them, the PCSOs will contact the drivers. The Clerk has also reported the parking on the blind bend at the top of West Lane and the PCSO will try to contact the persons concerned and point out the danger caused thereby and also the parking in the Keep Clear splay by the War Memorial.

iv. The Clerk was asked to report to Highways that the 30 m.p.h. sign at the top Stafford Hill has gone.

225(12/13) MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Jury had attended an Advisory Group meeting at which an interesting talk on Safer Devon had been given. Details are in the reading file for councillors to see.

226(12/13) ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24 p.m..

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st October at 7.30 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....

Presentation to Parish Council 03/09/12
Proposed Dolton Forum Website
(Councillors had already received copies of prototype forum webpage)

Three years ago, probably in this very room the PC, being ahead of their time, formulated the Dolton Vision. The six core headings were formulated for the village to put their thoughts and ideas into and this became the written policy of the village.

The next process that should have happened, as we all know, was discussion and debate by the villagers on the various topics taking place in as open and transparent manner as possible without any interference, 'guidance' or preconceptions from any authoritative power. Unfortunately, this didn't happen.

When things go wrong, in any organisation, a very simple management tool is to roll the clock back to a known sound point and start again. This is where the Dolton Forum picks up the reins.

There are some simple criteria;

It has to be purely an 'enabling' process, allowing the villagers to collate their Dolton ideas and points of view under the current comprehensive headings. (In essence, this will be the source of data for any future policy document – Dolton Parish Plan, Dolton Neighbourhood Plan – all of them will require this initial process.

In this day and age, it has to be a web-based procedure (with a non-web backup), this allows the villagers the open access that is critical to such a project, with debate, argument, etc. taking place in an open forum.

Furthermore, this web-based procedure fills the criteria for the results to be seen by those OUTSIDE the village - potential developers/residents, planning policy officers, other villages, etc.

Posting on the Forum may have to be restricted to parishioners to prevent outside interference. There will be a registration system with preferably the use of real names, I can't think of any circumstances where anonymity would be required. Access will be via an extra button on the Dolton homepage.

In time, there would have to be a series of 'updates' on the major topics for those that are not 'computerised', by flyer, entry in the diary or public meeting.

However, the very essence of this forum is that it does not impinge on the existing systems in any way whatsoever. No present powers of the PC are being usurped or replaced. It is a purely additive resource. The Dolton Forum is not a PC process; therefore Councillors will still retain all of their normal receipt of verbal representations from parishioners.

I would hope that the PC will actually become a user on the Forum; indeed, it could well be a quite powerful additional tool when dealing with issues that require consultation. It will certainly be a lot cheaper.....like free!

There are cosmetic changes that need to be made to the prototype Forum homepage before it goes public. References to the Dolton Vision will be removed where possible and replaced with the words 'ideas', 'points of view', 'data', or similar.

Rules and etiquette will be a 'sticky' topic, not a separate page, etc.

A 'hints and tips' topic will inform users of operational 'how to...' details; also words that have unfortunately been 'adopted' by other agencies - 'community', 'local', etc. - that sort of thing.

I believe that, in time, the Dolton Forum will become a very powerful tool. It will signpost those areas of commonality. Future policy documents derived from it will have effectively already had a form of 'referendum process'. Of course, it will also signpost those areas of dissent that will require a further 'decision-making' process. The rest of the world will see Dolton villagers very definitely putting the word 'local' into Localism; I believe that this is what was intended when the Dolton Vision was launched.

Can I, at this time, comment upon the invaluable input of Martin Lock as the Dolton Webmaster in helping to create this software. His constant, unstinting and entirely voluntary work putting Dolton on the map by providing and running Dolton.org.uk goes largely unnoticed and thus unrewarded.

Thank you for allowing me to address the Council and I trust that the Dolton Forum meets with your approval.

Derek Thorp