

Dolton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 5th December 2005 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr.Lock in the chair, Cllrs. Heal, Berkley-Sage, Giles, Kendrew, Jury, Chivers, Grigg (7.45pm) the Clerk Mrs.R.Lock, 40 members of the public

Apologies: Dist.Cllr.Ferguson

The minutes of the meeting held November 7th 2005, having been duly circulated, were signed by the chairman as being a true and correct record. Proposed Cllr.Kendrew seconded Cllr.Jury. All Agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

712. Community Police (min.681c refers) Clerk had sent copy of diary for their information

723. Play Area Orchard Gate (min.685 refers) TDC solicitor had confirmed that the Parish Council must submit suitable scheme for their approval before moneys can be released. Resolved that Councillors study play equipment brochure and this to be agenda item for next meeting.

724. Pavement Arscotts Cottage (min.688 refers) resolved that Clerk contact Mr.W.Jury for a start date for the work.

725. Barlands – access Rectory Road (min.696 refers) correspondence received from Mr Stokes (owner) confirming that the access onto Rectory Road would be for pedestrian use only. Council noted his comments concerning “sledge hammer to crack a nut” approach.

726. MUGA/Skateboard areas (min.704 refers) letters from DRAG plus 3 copies and Mr. G.Madge all copies and sent to Councillors with their agendas for their information.

727.The Rectory (min.705 refers) Secretary of PCC informed Council that the Rectory vacated on 26th October was being kept unoccupied ready for the next incumbent. The property owned by the Diocesan Authority, could be let to a suitable local applicant following a long period of vacancy.

728. Vital Village-Design Statement (min.706 refers) Cllr.Kendrew confirmed that the figure of “75% of households” was reported by the Chairman at the last meeting in the absence of Cllr.Silltow. Cllr.Kendrew felt that Cllr.Silltow had made a grave mistake in giving such information.

729. Football Field toilet block (min.707a refers) Chairman reported that Mr. Pearson was too busy to undertake the building work. Resolved that Clerk ascertain start date for the plumbing work from Mr.Levett, and Chairman and Vice chairman would organise the building work.

730. MUGA/Skateboard areas (min.710d refers) Clerk had obtained deeds and reported that the lease with the Football Club expires in November 2013 and the lease with DCC for use of the hardcore area expires in April 2006. Resolved that Clerk now writes to DCC:

- a) to arrange a site meeting of all interested parties, when plans can be discussed
- b) pointing out that current lease expires April 2006

731. MUGA/Skateboard funding (min.710e refers) Clerk had a meeting with Devon County FA Football Development Officer who was already working with two clubs in North Devon on the construction of muga areas, and was willing to advise Dolton. Suggested costs were £80,000 - £120,000. Clerk had also sourced various funding avenues and was following these up.

732. MUGA/Skateboard – School Governors (min.710a refers) Cllr.Berkley-Sage reported that School Governors would need to see copies of agendas/minutes from organisations to prove that there was community involvement in this project.

733. The Barn London House (min.715 refers) letter received from Ms.J.Watts, (copied to each Councillor) and read at the meeting. She was making an informal complaint to TDC regarding the planning issues for the conservatory (retrospective permission now granted) Cllr.Kendrew asked that enforcement issues be an agenda item for the next meeting in view of the properties The Barn and Barlands.

734. Footpath Stafford Way-Stafford Road (min.716a refers) DCC Highways reported that leaves and dog waste are classed as “litter” and are the responsibility of TDC. Resolved that Clerk write to TDC.

735. School Alarm (min.720 refers) Cllr. Berkley-Sage reported that the School apologised for any inconvenience caused by the breakdown of the alarm system, but this has now been modified to go off after 20mins.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

736. Precept – Councillors had considered the figures supplied by Clerk. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr.Kendrew seconded Cllr.Chivers that precept for 06/07 be £7,715 a rise of £690 (rounded up to £700) to include £600 for election expenses and £90 for grants) with payment of DAPC subscription deducted from first precept payment. All agreed.

737. Clerk presented the following accounts for payment:-

a) K.Hardy	wages	£101.00
b) K.Hardy	expenses	£ 2.95
c) Village Hall	hire	£ 6.60

Proposed Cllr.Kendrew seconded CllrGiles that the above accounts be paid and Cllrs.Jury and Chivers signed the cheques.

738.Clerk reported 2 hours work for MUGA/Skateboard funding.

PLANNING MATTERS

739. Adjoining parish notices in reading file.

740. Applications to consider:-

a) Mr. Mrs.Turner	Buckland Hill	1 dwelling. Council had no objections
b) Mr.Mrs.Gale	Northfield Cottage	Extend ground floor bathroom, rebuild existing timber walls with masonry & reroof of lean to entrance lobby.

Council had no objections but made the following comments:

- i) property is a listed building and lies within village conservation area.
- ii) we note from the plans that there is only one door.

iii) velux window still shown on drawings, but noted as being omitted on plans.

741. Permissions granted:-

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|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| a) Ms. J.Watts | Barn London House | Retrospective – conservatory |
| b) Mr.Lee | Warren Cottage | Repairs/remedial work |
| c) Mrs.Crisp | Cartlinhay Cottage | New window |

742. Refusals advised: none

743.Orchard Gate Phase 3 Affordable houses plots 27-30 – letter from TDC stating that the Developers solicitors say Sec.106 agreement refers to house price inflation rather than retail price index inflation. Meeting between parties arranged. Resolved that Clerk write to TDC if nothing heard within next seven days.

VITAL VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

744.All Councillors had been circulated with copy letters from Mr.R.Boyce, Mr.G.Madge, Mr.C.Burnage, the Steering Committee, draft proposed letter to TDC from Cllr.Silltow.

Discussion took place on the Design Statement with the main points arising as follows:-

- a) Cllr.Kendrew – the Chairman of the Steering Committee had made mistakes, and there was a conflict of personalities resulting in all the correspondence. He still felt that members of DRAG who are involved with a court case with TDC could not go down to TDC and discuss the Design Statement with them.
- b) Cllr.Lock – he had attended the meeting on 24th November and had no problem with the counting procedure but the figure of 53% for percentage of yes votes from 393 households must be included with the other facts. The flyer issued by the Steering Committee could have waited until after tonights meeting. He felt that the delivery of the Steering Committee’s letter at 10.20pm on Sunday evening was totally out of order. He had noted from the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting that they had appointed a Treasurer, which they should not have done, as in previous Parish Council minutes the Clerk would deal with the financial matters of the Steering Committee. He felt that the best way forward was for the Parish Council to take over the next stage of the Design statement ie. presenting the figures and meeting representatives of TDC.
- a) Cllr.Berkley-Sage – disputed the fact that one box had achieved 100% return with 100% of yes votes. This was not the case. The voting numbers gave a strong mandate to move the process forward. She apologised for the late delivery of letters.
- b) Cllr.Giles – members of the Steering group were falling out amongst themselves. The arguments must stop. A much broader spectrum of the community must sit on the next committee if the matter is to proceed.
- c) Cllr.Jury – complained again about DRAG and the Steering Committee giving her the wrong name on correspondence. Completely out of order with the delivery late on Sunday evening with a letter.
- d) Cllr.Chivers – complained about being woken up with late delivery of letter. A much more balanced membership of the next steering committee must be achieved.

Proposed Cllr.Kendrew seconded Cllr.Chivers that the best way forward is for the Parish council to take over the next stage of the process ie. the presentation of results and meeting with TDC on the design statement, after which new committee would be formed. The Parish Council to be represented at the meeting with TDC by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr.Silltow and Cllr.Berkley-Sage. All agreed. The Clerk to contact Head of Development Services, and Chief Executive to arrange an appointment. The Chairman would contact Cllr.Silltow on the question of signing the letter.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

745.Cllr.Lock – MCTI meeting – the meeting started with a walk around the museum. Most funding goes to Headquarters, although £200 was awarded to Merton for their vital village plan.

DEEDS OF DEDICATION

746.All Councillors had now read the information supplied by NPFA following the presentation by Mr.Allin. Following discussion proposed by Cllr.Kendrew seconded by Cllr.Grigg that we proceed with the protection of Dennis Cross as an open space . All agreed. With regard to the playing/football field, more research was needed and a public meeting arranged for all users of this facility would be arranged. Agenda item next meeting.

TORRIDGE VOLUNTARY SERVICE

747.Cllr.Berkley-Sage would obtain more information on this organisation. Agenda item next month.

CORRESPONDENCE

748.Great Torrington Town Council – copy letter sent to TDC regarding car parking charges for information in reading file.

749.DCC Highways – lengthsman satisfaction cards sent for completion after each visit.

750. DCC Highways – work of ditch and grip cleaning carried out by parish lengthsman costs £350,000 pa. This is often wasted by four wheel drive vehicles driving over verges, causing damage to the verge and blocking recently opened grips.

751.TDC Statement of Community Involvement – Reg. 25 Pre submission consultation and Reg.26 Pre submission public participation should have been run consecutively and not concurrently. Parish Council did not feel prejudiced by being informed concurrently.

752.Village Green – in reading file.

753.DAPC Quality Council training 20th Jan.2006 atCrediton. Clerk will attend. Proposed Cllr.Kendrew seconded Cllr.Heal that Council pay the cost of £10. All agreed.

754.Sutcliffe – new play equipment in reading file.

755.Zurich Insurance Play equipment inspection report handed to Cllr.Kendrew.

756. TDC – 2006 register of electors issued.

757. MUGA/Skateboard areas – after reading all the correspondence relating to this matter as itemised in min.726 Cllr.Kendrew proposed that Mr.Williams be asked to carry out a feasibility study with regard to the drainage plans and that the Parish Council should have a package /plan drawn up to take the matter forward. Seconded Cllr.Giles. All agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

758.DCC Highways – following matters to be reported:-

- a) Blocked drains Rectory Road both sides, Chapple Farm Lane, North Street (double drain) Aller Road and bottom of Chapple Cross Hill and Ham Lane.
- b) Drain cover lifted bottom of West Lane by post box.
- c) Newbridge Hill road where road narrows pot holes need attention.
- d) Chapple Cross to Langham road – the Council feel that either reflectors or bad bend sign are needed on the first sharp right hand bend as a warning to drivers. Water also comes out on this bend, and below on the bend at Drakes Barton which in winter makes for ice across the road.

759.Cllr.Berkley-Sage – reported further fly tipping at Chapple Cross. Clerk to report to TDC.

760.Cllr.Kendrew – letter of thanks to be sent to Cllr.Silltow for his work as Chairman of the Design Statement Steering Committee.

761. Date of next meeting Monday 9th January 2006 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.05pm.

Signed.....chairman.....dated