

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Monday **December 8th 2008** in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J Lock (Chairman) Cllr C Giles (Vice-Chair) Cllrs Burnage, , Byrne, Jury, Partridge, the Clerk, 9 members of public

Apologies: Cllr Boyes , Grigg , Rolls

The minutes of the meeting held November 3rd 2008 having been duly circulated were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Jury

Seconded: Cllr Partridge

All agreed

91 (08/09) Matters Arising

There has been no further response from DCC Highways / Traffic regarding the investigation into speeding traffic. The Clerk will request an update.

Cllr Jury reported that she had attended the Area Advisory Group in October.

92 (08/09) Declarations of Interest

a) personal interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors

Cllrs Lock , Burnage, Jury on all matters concerning the Dolton & Dowland Village Hall -

b) prejudicial interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors

Cllr Burnage on all matters concerning the Edgefield Planning application

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman closed the meeting to invite members of the Public to raise questions.

There were no speakers

93 (08/09) **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Accounts to Pay** - the Clerk presented the following accounts for agreement to pay:

Supplier	Description	VAT	£
K Hardy	Caretaker wages £110.40 Expenses £2.85		113.25
M Harris	Clerk wages £321.60 Expenses £36.52		358.12
D & D Village Hall	Hire		7.00
DPFA	Training		20.00
Sutcliffe Play	Safa Grass £975	170.63	1145.63

Proposed Cllr Byrne

Seconded Cllr Partridge

All agreed

The Village Hall payment was deferred until the January meeting when a sufficient number of Councillors are available to agree to the payment and subsequently act as cheque signatories. *All other cheques were signed by Cllrs Jury and Giles*

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b) Invoices - None

c) The 2009/2010 Precept

The Clerk presented the 2009/2010 Precept Report for which Cllr Burnage requested that the Clerk be thanked for the clarity of its format. A copy is attached to the filed minutes.

There were additional revenue expenses for the work attached to revising the Parish Plan , for contracting additional playground equipment checks and for an increase in funds for the Parish Community Grant Scheme. "One off " capital sums that were initially suggested were items such as a new notice board in the village and projects that could include summer activities for young people.

Members were advised of the new Nat West Savings Account that had been opened by Cllr Lock and Giles and that would have the sum of £4660 made up by interest accrued from the Bond and Current account and include transfer of funds from the closed Building Society Dennis X and Clerks Gratuity accounts. Members were in agreement that this fund could offer the opportunity for varied community projects in addition to the continued support of Recreation Ground.

Members were advised of projected balances at the end of 2008 /09 and subsequently made the following decision regarding the precept rate for 2009/2010 :

It was resolved that:

The notice of precept upon Torridge District Council to meet expenses payable by the Parish Council during the financial year 2009/2010 remain at the 2008/2009 rate of £12300 and include the DAPC subscription of £156

Proposed Cllr Burnage

Seconded Cllr Jury

All agreed

d) Any other financial matters - None

94 (08/09) PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications for consideration

1/1158/2008/FUL Disabled Access - Dolton & Dowland Village Hall

Cllrs Lock , Burnage and Jury had previously declared a personal interest and left the meeting : Cllr Giles took the Chair.

It was resolved to forward the following comments to Torridge District Council :

Approved – no comment

Proposed Cllr Partridge

Seconded Cllr Giles

All agreed

Cllrs Lock , Burnage and Jury returned to the meeting and Cllr Lock returned to the Chair

b) Permissions granted

1/1041/2008/FUL Barlands Rectory Rd

1/1067/2008/FUL Penny Farthing , West Lane

1/0958/2008/FUL Neals Butchers

1/0452/2008/FUL Edgefield , Cleave Hill

c) Refusals - none

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d) Update report in respect of planning application 1/0214/2007/FUL Edgefield

Cllr Burnage left the room having previously declared a prejudicial interest.

Cllr Partridge led a discussion focusing upon the Section 106 issues , the drainage and access and other opportunities arising from the recently approved Edgefield planning application and the subsequent letter from Mr and Mrs Madge. (**Minute 81.4 b refers**)

The Chairman considered that the most productive way to move forward was to create a sub-committee or advisory committee to the Parish Council to look at the drainage and access scheme. The most appropriate type of committee and its membership will be the subject of a decision at the next meeting. The monitoring officer at Torridge District Council advised that the services of a solicitor would be necessary in order to draft or approve any legal documentation required as a result of any arrangements agreed. Councillors understood that this may be a cost upon the Parish Council in due time.

The monitoring officer had offered the advice that whilst it had been difficult for members who had expressed a fixed view in favour or against the application to be involved in discussions on issues such as access and drainage , now that the application had been determined , the link was not quite as strong and those members could now take part in the discussions. However members should still declare any interest arising as a result of other issues.

It was resolved that:

A sub or advisory committee be created and members consider the proposed committee 's brief and structure at the January 2009 meeting of the Parish Council .

Proposed Cllr Giles

Seconded Cllr Byrne

All agreed

e) Any other planning issues arising

1. Cllr Partridge presented a copy of a letter from Pym Gander that had been placed upon the Torridge District Council web site regarding the planning application 1/0452/2008 Edgefield on the 7th June 2008. The letter declared : *quote* "... over half the Parish Council has a vested financial interest in this application as shown by their declared interest at Parish Council meetings" *unquote*. Members considered that the letter cast a very strong slur upon the character , the credibility and honesty of the Councillors and that it was offending material that should not be seen on the website.

It was resolved that :

A request be made to the Planning Department of Torridge District Council to remove the letter regarding planning application 1/0452/ 2008 Edgefield from its web page.

Proposed Cllr Partridge

Seconded Cllr Byrne

All agreed

2. Cllr Burnage reported that there were some discrepancies between the wording of the Section 106 Agreement and the resolution which was passed by TDC Plans Committee. These anomalies will be addressed by an amendment and would not jeopardise the benefits for the Community

95 (08/09) Dennis Cross Playing Field

Cllr Jury reported that the Safa Grass has been installed and although there had been some initial vandalism , the installation was now firmly fixed. There was some discussion around the need to secure benches to the ground and that this may be a project that involves young people in the process .

96 (08/09) Parish Plan Review

The Chairman , Cllr Burnage and the Clerk had discussed the work to be undertaken in the Parish Plan Review and the Clerk had circulated a statement of Methodology to outline the 3 stages of work with a timescale for completion and launch at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2009. The Clerk was willing to undertake the work and to report back to Parish Plan Steering group at the completion of each stage .The project cost for the Clerk's work and the public consultation process would be in the region of £1000 and be submitted for payment at the end of each stage of work . The costs were outlined in the Precept report.

It was suggested that the January Parish Council newsletter have a strong editorial focus on the Parish Plan Review in order to engage and inform the community.

It was resolved :

To complete the Parish Plan Review as outlined in the methodology statement prepared by the Clerk and to budget a sum of £1000 towards the project costs.

Proposed Cllr Burnage

Seconded Cllr Jury

All agreed

97 (08/09) Matters arising from the Parish Council surgery

Cllr Boyes passed on his retrospective apologies through Cllr Burnage to the meeting for non – attendance at the surgery due to a date mix - up. Cllr Grigg had subsequently taken the surgery.. Three residents came to the surgery with a variety of issues . These issues were communicated to the Clerk for action and are listed below in the Parish Maintenance agenda item. The next surgery date will be in February and the January meeting will decide upon the date and member attendance. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall committee with a list of its required dates for hiring the venue for surgery and a request that the hall be opened (and heated in winter)

98 (08/09) Parish Maintenance and Traffic issues

The Clerk had submitted the following maintenance issue reports to the relevant authorities since the November meeting :

1. Street lighting out - *actioned and lights repaired*
2. Street lighting remaining on after midnight – *Street Engineering Dept AreaNorth reported that this is an area for public consultation prior to any decision – although some Parish Councils are requesting an earlier switch off to reduce carbon emissions – this would require a balance between community safety and energy conservation. The issue could be consulted upon during the Parish Plan Review work.*
3. Road Gritting on school routes – *Highway Engineer AreaNorth reported that the pre –salting network is under contract and the current specification does not allow for gritting on the minor roads between Merton and Dolton. However , the dept would work with the Schools Transport group to seek a solution and report back..*
4. Blocked drain – Barlands Way – *nothing to report at the meeting*
5. Chapel & Tuckley Road – potholes – *nothing to report at the meeting*
6. Stafford Rd – 30mph sign installation. – *nothing to report at the meeting*

The Clerk was asked to report the following maintenance issues :

7. Blocked drain – Aller Road – DCC Area North
8. Cost of purchase and installation of a Dog Bin – request to TDC Animal Welfare Officer
9. Junction marking request where Stafford Rd meets the ends of Hilliers and Aller Road - full report to go to DCC Highways / traffic

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99 (08/09) Correspondence

- All correspondence received was placed in the reading file
- Schedules of Planning Applications in adjoining parishes
 - Planning Obligations - Supplementary Planning Document
 - DPFA Newsletter
 - Village Green & Devon Talk magazines
 - Annual report – Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust
 - Digital TV Switch Over Information Pack
 - GT Community School circular reference Foundation Status

100 (08/09) Meetings attended

Great Torrington & District Local Community Partnership - Cllr Burnage
Torrington District Council – Investigatory Consultant - Cllr Burnage

101 (08/09) Any other business

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the earlier (winter schedule!) time of 7am on Monday January 12th
The caretaker’s duties during annual leave (Dec 23, 24 and 27) will be undertaken where necessary by K Jury
Cllr Burnage requested that all newsletter editorial be sent to him by the January 1st

The Chairman thanked those members of the public present for their attendance and closed the public meeting at 9pm.

A Part 2 was then convened

Signed.....Chairman.....dated

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