

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Monday July 27th 2009 in the Village Hall @ 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J Lock (Chairman), Cllr C Giles (Vice Chair), Cllrs Boyes, Burnage, Byrne, Grigg, Partridge, Rolls, the Clerk - Mary Harris and 7 members of public
Apologies: Cllr Jury

The Chairman welcomed Devon County Council Highway Officers; Paul Stewart and Nick Mitchell to the meeting following a "walkabout" in the village to discuss and highlight highway maintenance issues. Paul outlined and informed the meeting on a number of issues and working practices and answered questions from the Cllrs, the Clerk and the public. Nick is the Highway Superintendent for the area and knows the village of Dolton well. The parish notice board will be a receptacle for sign-posting the public to the correct County Council Depts when ever issues arise. The discussion was a useful exercise for engaging the public and the County directly. The Chairman thanked the two officers for their time and the formal matters of the Parish Council meeting started at 8.10pm.

The minutes of the meeting held on June 1st 2009 having been duly circulated, were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Partridge

Seconded: Cllr Giles

All Agreed

32 (09/10) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Cllr Boyes requested further information regarding the word "slur"- agenda item **26 (09/10) STANDARDS BOARD**. Cllr Burnage informed the Cllr of a discussion he had held with the Monitoring Officer. Cllr Boyes asked what response the CCD had given to the Parish Council regarding a request for a new Housing Needs Survey. The Clerk told the meeting that the answer had been somewhat vague in its answer and suggested that she send the email reply to Cllr Burnage.

33(09/10) CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondent	Subject	Action
Torridge DC	Dog Control measures - update	-
D D Horticultural/ Church	Hire of Field 2nd & 8th August 2009	Noted and will invoice if hiring takes place
NPS	Lease of Playing Field	Part 2
C Coombs	Parish Action Plan Working Group	Unable to give further information that would be acceptable to correspondent. Information available on Dolton web site for public view
Torridge DC	1/0452/2008 Planning Appeal - Edgefield	Discussed in "Planning"
Resident	Letter to Chairman regarding hedge trimming	Noted

34 (09/10) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declaration of Interests (personal) Cllrs Lock in respect of the Village Hall, Ham Farm Planning Application amendment, Cleave Hill Development Appeal Letter.

Cllr Burnage in respect of Ham Farm Planning Application amendment and Cleave Hill Development Appeal Letter.

Cllrs Boyes for Cleave Hill Development Appeal Letter.

Declaration of Interests (prejudicial) Cllr Partridge for Cleave Hill Development Appeal Letter.

Declaration of Interests (pre-determination) Cllr Grigg for Cleave Hill Development Appeal Letter.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Ann Coombes Raised issue regarding make up of Umbrella group.

Clive Burnage Raised issue regarding the actual delivery and types of Affordable Housing and the Edgefield Appeal.

35 (09/10) FINANCE

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

Supplier	Description	VAT to reclaim	£	No
Wonderprint	Parish Action Plan leaflets	2.79	502.39	374
M Harris	Clerk salary 7 wks 450.24 Expenses 60.94		511.18	375
Village Hall	May Hire & June hire		28.0	376
K Hardy	Caretaker wages 220.80 Expenses 2.0		222.80	377 X
DAPC	VAT on membership	17.25	17.25	378
J Lock	Expenses Receipt - Maintenance Play Area	2.14	16.41	379
J McKenzie	Parish Notice Board		420.0	380
Portsmouth Arms	Wood for repairing Play equipment bases		55.97	381
South West Water	Football Field		225.75	382
Simmons Services	Grass Cutting (War Memorial)		60.0	383

The account to pay in the name of K Hardy was reserved for amendment following a Part 2 discussion

Proposed: Cllr C Burnage

Seconded: Cllr R Boyes

All Agreed

Cheque signaturers Cllr C Giles and Partridge

b) Invoices/ income

DCC – Hire of Field £70 for year 08/09.

c) Any other financial matters

The Clerk highlighted the increased water charges for the Football / Recreation Field. The Chairman to investigate the meter reading.

36 (09/10) PLANNING

a) Applications considered:

(1) 1/0594/2009/Full - Wind Turbine, Ham Farm - amendments to height

Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Lock and Burnage left the room (Personal) - Cllr Giles took the chair

The Council offered the following comments: Continued support - however to note that the description of the wind turbines is specified as "small". If this term changes then the Parish Council wish to be notified.

Chairman returned to the Chair

b) Permissions granted: 1/0306/2009/FULL and 1/0305/2009/FULL Cross Farm

c) Refusals advised: 1/1252/2008/FULL Church Cottage – Solar Hot water

d) Other Planning Issues

(1) Notification of Appeal Letter 1/0452/2008 – Cleave Hill Development

Declarations of Interest: Personal - Cllrs Lock, Boyes and Burnage. Pre-determination Cllr Grigg Prejudicial - Cllr Partridge. All Cllrs left the room. Cllr Giles took the chair

The Council agreed to respond to the Planning Inspectorate in the matter of the Edgefield planning application and re-iterate their comments (**minute 9.1 - 08/09 refers**). The letter would also ask that a robust decision be made to enable proper implementation of the planning permission so that the scheme could deliver the affordable housing and additional community benefits to the residents of Dolton.

Chairman returned to the Chair

Draft

(2) District Council Plans Committee meeting (Topic - Affordable Housing)

Declarations of Interest: Personal - Cllr Burnage left the room

Clive Burnage reported during the Public Session that he had attended a recent TDC Plans Committee meeting and said that, "One item on the agenda was the changing of a Section 106 Agreement where they enabled a developer, as part of the cross-subsidy provision contained within the relevant Planning Policy, to generate funding by building half of the open-market share of their scheme first.

This all makes perfect common sense as delivery is key - especially if it means that realisation of Affordable Housing could be effectively strangled otherwise. The risk is however, in this case of 8 houses - 4 open-market & 4 affordable - that the developer could build two open-market houses and then shut up shop with the resultant effect being that the houses are now present where they shouldn't have been. Plans Committee members, after constructive discussion, sensibly felt that actual delivery is the priority - particularly given the current financial climate.

We need to strongly encourage the Local Authority to try and find ways of balancing these considerations and secure the actual delivery of Affordable Housing because at present, with the emphasis wholly on building the Affordable Houses first, the economics of the situation - and it's a nation-wide issue - means that one is effectively stifling the other. We need to promote and support a more proactive and practical approach to this issue and start producing some actual delivery for those in need, as well as properly securing that affordable commitment.

We also need to openly encourage the Local Authority to consider additional, proactive and innovative approaches to delivering Affordable Houses in the District - such as 'Intermediate Housing'"

The Council would submit these comments to Torrington District Council for their consideration.

37 (09/10) RECREATION GROUNDS

The Playing Fields and Equipment Maintenance report was deferred until the September meeting.

38 (09/10) PARISH ACTION PLAN

The Parish Action Plan is ready for distribution to every household with the next parish newsletter. A Dolton Vision group will be constructed and convened after the summer holiday period.

David Brown from the High Bickington Community Development Trust will be asked to speak at the next Parish Council meeting. Meeting to be convened at 7pm on September 14th 2009.

39 (09/10) PRIDE IN OUR OWN VILLAGE

Development, re design and maintenance of the War Memorial ground will be an agenda item in September.

40 (09/10) SHARED GARDEN SCHEMES

Allotment Officer Martin Moore will be asked to be the speaker at the October Parish Council meeting.

41 (09/10) HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC & MAINTENANCE

Following on from the Highways talk earlier in the meeting, it was decided that the Parish Notice Board and the Dolton Diary could publicise the relevant contact names and numbers for Highways issues when they had been received by Devon CC. Clerk to action.

42 (09/10) MEETINGS ATTENDED

Great Torrington Local Community Partnership AGM - Cllrs Lock, Burnage

Torrington District Council Plans Committee - Cllr Burnage reported that the outline application at Barfield Close was discussed and the Parish Council's views, along with those of The Ward Cllr Mrs Lock and Mr R Dunn were recognised as Members recommended the public footpath serving the residents of Dolton should be sited along the western boundary. Plans Committee Members had made several references to the fact that it was good for them to be able listen to the informed views of Parish Councils when making their decisions. To that end, Cllr Burnage requested that the Clerk explore training opportunities for new and established Cllrs.

43 (09/10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Grigg - request that Simmons services cut back the final 3 trees on Rectory road. Cllr Lock to action.

Cllr Giles - reference tree cutting legislation.

Cllr Byrne - Dog Bin needed at Aller Rd. Clerk to action TDC and Cllr Byrne to sign post exact site.

Clerk asked to action a diary advert for volunteers to raise and lower the War Memorial Garden Flag.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed

dated