

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES MEETING HELD MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017  
TITHE BARN, DUNSTER

PRESENT: D Challoner (Chair), A Bevan, C Ell, G Lamacraft, A Vicary, C Oliver, A Webber, D Stanyon (Clerk)  
P Pilkington WSDC, C Lawrence SCC 7.30- 8.15 p.m.  
4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: G Ebborn, G Dibble, G Witherford

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

DISPENSATIONS: None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The planning applications at Dunster Castle were queried regarding the permitted access paths. The Clerk read out a response from Cllr Ebborn which was supported by the Council. The paths are permissive paths only.

Clarification was requested regarding Dunster Steep Car Park and Park Street Car parks being added to the West Somerset District Council Appraisal List. Cllr Pilkington explained that these car parks are currently NOT for sale and on the Appraisal List only. Under the 2012 Localism Act, the community does have right to bid. DPC could express an interest at this point, but should they be available for sale there would be a lengthy consultation process which DPC would fully participate in and make any decisions at that point.

DPC was notified that a pair of black redstarts are residing in the Pillbox at Dunster Marsh. These are fully protected and there is a category red protection on the breed.

REPORTS: Cllr Pilkington has emailed Helen Vittery for further information on progress with the pavement at Higher Marsh farm Development to the A39. There has been no response to date. The Clerk has also written to H Vittery, J Sharp and B Norman and has not had any response either. DPC may have to consider publicising the lack of progress. Cllr Lawrence will also chase this up.

The walls at Higher Marsh farm development have been reduced in height and moved back.

There is a full WSDC meeting this week to discuss the proposed merger with Taunton Deane Council. If any Councillors want to make any representations to Cllr Pilkington, individually, to do so before 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Cllr Lawrence reported that the signposts at Nutcombe Bottom, Dunster Marsh and Cowbridge have almost been completed.

There is a new SCC strategy for Health and Well-being which is aimed to ensure equal facilities for all. This will take some time to put together

Ofsted recently carried out a report on Children's Services and the result is yet to be published.

A bid to finance put a business plan together for a new swimming pool in Minehead, has been successful, from the Community Foundation funding for Sport England.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

Dunster Steep Toilets. The Clerk has completed the survey put together by Falmouth Town Council for full business rate relief for public toilets.

Cllr Challoner requested that all toilet revenue collectors check the locks are working, as the locks are now wearing in. Also, to ensure that adequate change is left for the cleaners.

The toilet revenue collection can reduce to 2 days/ week from January 2018.

There are still some non-resident businesses who have not donated towards the toilets. It was agreed that a notice would be put in the Parish Newsletter, with a note of thanks to those businesses who have donated.

Electrical Lighting Works Update - M Sully was organising for an electric survey to be carried out, at no charge to DPC. Despite being chased for this, it has not been received to date. Clerk to follow up. It was agreed that 2 electricians will be contacted to see if they would be prepared to carry out a survey, before any decision is made regarding upgrading the lighting. Clerk to organise. M Sully will be advised of DPC action.

Retail Unit - 3 contractors expressed an interest in quoting and the Clerk met with them and provided tender specifications. The deadline has passed and no quotes have been received. Clerk to chase. It was agreed that a retail

Unit Committee meeting will have to be held asap, once the quotations have been received. Webbers, Pointers and Chanin and Thomas have all supplied their charges to find a prospective tenant.

Higher Marsh Farm Development – Some wall heights have now been reduced, some lowered, some knocked down and some moved. These are under the instruction from SCC Highways Department.

Pavement - See Councillor reports regarding the pavement.

Adoption of Land at The Ball – still awaiting a response from Land Registry Office

West Street Pavement – Cllr Lawrence will follow up with Mark Blisset, as there has been no further response.

Packhorse Bridge Flooding Update – No report. Matter closed

NT sign at Dunster Station – Clerk to chase this up.

Parish Council Duties on death of the Queen – Cllr Lawrence confirmed that there are protocols in place which SCC will advise all councils when this should happen. The protocols are not open to the public until such times that they are needed.

Caravans old A39 – As the caravans are not blocking a public highway and lack of any evidence that there is a significant lack of impact to the Parish, there is very little action which can be taken. M Ford, Enforcement Officer SCC has visited the site and is monitoring the situation. Every-one was encouraged to report any concerns either to the Clerk, Cllr Pilkington or SCC. Matter closed

Dunster Parish Boundary – Cllr Pilkington and Cllr Lamacraft will investigate further what any potential costs are likely to be. Clerk to write to Carhampton Parish Council to inform them that our discussions are at a very early stage and DPC is information gathering. If DPC decide to proceed, we would consult fully with Carhampton Parish Council. Apparently an article has been published in the Carhampton Newsletter, which no-one is sure where or how it has appeared.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

Mills Gardens Bridleway Access – DPC has liaised with ENP regarding the proposed access at Mills Gardens. Matter closed.

Dunster Steep and Park Street Car Parks – see earlier report by Cllr Pilkington

Dunster by Candlelight Update – The Clerk explained that resolving the problem regarding the Insurance for the Christmas Tree was not an easy procedure and if DPC is to have any involvement in the future, this must be organised well in advance.

The toilet locks were changed so that the toilets remained open until 10.00 p.m. The toilet marshalls were attentive and on duty all evening.

There were issues regarding parking and where the Police had put the cones. Marsh Lane to Ellicombe was very congested, with cars parked on the pavement. Parking in Marsh Lane was also very obstructive. The fence was broken between The Lunch Box and the toilets. Clerk to advise WSDC. A bench was moved from Dunster Steep to the underpass, Cllrs Challoner and Vicary returned it.

It was agreed that DPC need to liaise more with the organisers and put a plan together for future events.

#### ACCOUNTS REPORT – All expenditure was agreed

Proposed Cllr Ell, seconded Cllr Oliver RESOLVED.

Chq 983	ENP	£97.50	Planning application amendment, Retail Unit
Chq 984	D Stanyon	£626.00	Nov Salary
Chq 985	Spot on Supplies	£54.00	Toilet rolls
Chq 986	CANCELLED		
Chq 987	D Williams	£599.86	Cemetery Contract
Chq 988	D Challoner	£250.00	Chairman's allowance
Chq 989	J & W Cleaning	£567.00	Cleaning Contact Nov 17
Chq 990	D Stanyon	£60.60	re-imbusement stamps and computer repair

Chq 991	D Stanyon	£25.79	re-imbusement of print cartridge
Chq 992	D Williams	£859.35	Levelling graves in Cemetery
Chq 993	Savills	£1.20	rent of land Buttercross Orchard

The Chairman signed the precept form, agreed at the last meeting

#### PLANNING

6/10/17/123 Dunster Castle. Proposed replacement of the existing ticket office with an enlarged temporary building. NO OBJECTIONS

6/10/17/124 7 The Ball, Dunster. Listed building consent for internal works, new rear window, new roof and roof-lights to rear utility and store. NO OBJECTIONS

6/10/17/125 7 The Ball, Dunster. Proposed raising roof to the rear utility NO OBJECTIONS

Comments only – 3/21/17/124 outline planning for the erection of 2 dwellings, Maples, Ellicombe Lane, Alcombe. It was agreed to respond to WSDC as we had done so previously, supporting Mr and Mrs Marsh's comments. Proposed Cllr Vicary, seconded Cllr Lamacraft

#### ITEMS ON REPORT

Cllr Vicary reported that there are 2 large potholes on the road to the Cemetery. He will obtain a quote from C J Lynch. It may prove difficult to obtain more than one quote due to a lack of Contractors.

Salt bags. There is storage being offered by a householder in Priory Green to store 2-3 bags.

Clerk to write to the Castle Hotel thanking them for the Christmas dinner.

Cllr Lamacraft requested an update on the allotments, as K Sully is giving up several of their allotments. An allotment committee meeting is due to be held early in 2018. A full update will be given to the council then.

Cllr Lamacraft is working on the rating assessment for the new retail unit. This is a lengthy and complicated system and he will keep us updated.

Cllr Ell requested that an outside light is installed outside the Gents toilet. Clerk to add to electric tender.

Cllr Ell reported that a car is frequently parked on double yellow lines in Church Street, very close to the traffic lights. This is causing an obstruction and at times congestion as wider vehicles cannot get through. Clerk to contact PCSO L Brookes

Cllr Bevan asked if anything could be done regarding cars travelling too fast through West Street. It was discussed and agreed that there is very little action that can be taken.

Cllr Challoner stated that possibly Members of the Public are unaware that they can attend DPC meetings and speak.

Cllr Lamacraft will put a notice in the Newsletter.

The flag outside the ENP Information Centre has been taken down as it was very tatty.

Cllr Challoner raised that better signage is needed near the underpass showing the direction to the Village.

Correspondence was received regarding Speed Indication Devices as it is planned that these will be withdrawn by SCC from April 2018. DPC agreed that they do not wish to contribute towards keeping them in action. Clerk to write to SCC.

Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.