

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017. 7.00 P.M.  
TITHE BARN, DUNSTER

PRESENT: D Challoner ( Chairman), C Oliver, G Lamacraft, C Ell, G Witherford, A Vicary, G Dibble, J Halbert, A Bevan. A Webber.

CLLr C Lawrence (SCC) 7.00 – 8.00 p.m., CLLr P Pilkington (WSDC). 4 members of the public

APOLOGIES: G Ebborn

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

DISPENSATIONS: None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: Ms Phoenix spoke regarding her concerns about the demolition of the wall outside her property at Marsh Gardens. A Vicary had spoken to an agent at Strongvox and been informed that the plan was to round the wall off and erect a wooden fence on the top with a gap left to exit on to the road, although this has not been officially confirmed. CLLr Lawrence has spoken to various individuals at SCC to ascertain what the final plans are but has not had a response. CLLr Lawrence will inform DPC as soon as she has any information. Clerk to write to H Vitterty, J Sharp and B Norman at SCC requesting to be informed of the decision and outcome as soon as possible.

**REPORTS:**

CLLr Lawrence reported that the first historic signpost in Dunster Marsh is due to be cleaned shortly, followed by the 2 signposts at Nutcombe Bottom.

CLLr Lawrence has attended a meeting regarding the Marsh Street pavement. This is now priority no. 1. The maximum cost has increased further and the SIS money will be needed to move the project forward. This project could still take 1 -2 years to carry out. A member of the public requested that the pavement is done as matter of urgency due to H & S reasons. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Alan Jones to express DPC concerns regarding the time scale.

CLLr Lawrence has been discussing the West Street cobbled pavement with Mark Blisset and she will request a site visit as he may be able to help. CLLr Lawrence will liaise with Dunster Working Group, in the event that a meeting is arranged.

The SCC Winter road treatment will be published via Twitter @TravelSomerset. For those who do not use Twitter the daily winter updates can be found at [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritter](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritter).

Somerset Life Museum has now re-opened in Glastonbury

SCC Children's Services are currently undergoing a 4 week Ofsted inspection.

Dillington House will be open and hosting events over the festive period, including ice-skating, a masked ball and Christmas Markets.

CLLr Lawrence reminded and encouraged every-one to get their flu jabs.

CLLr Pilkington reported that the light in Dunster Steep car park should have been repaired, but he was advised that this is not the case. He will investigate.

CLLr Pilkington queried the ownership of the Pillbox at Dunster Marsh. The response which the Clerk received from R Alford from Strongvox was read out. In brief, Strongvox own the Pillbox, but have no legal obligation to maintain or repair it. They are currently exploring whether planning consent might be possible for a 1 bed studio flat. If this is impossible, they may consider selling it.

There are now 3 caravans on the old A39 and Martin Ford has visited the site, but there is very little that he can do to remove them, unless there are very good grounds to do this. This matter is ongoing.

Police Report: Circulated and read out at the meeting. Out of 92 police calls in the whole of Exmoor, 6 were for Dunster and there were 3 potential crimes.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

DUNSTER STEEP TOILETS: D Challoner read out an update for the toilets. The Saniflo has broken twice and a basin was pulled off the wall in the Ladies. G A Sully repaired as an emergency repair. If the Saniflo breaks again, it may be appropriate to remove it completely.

The Clerk has only received one quote from an electrician for replacing the lighting in the toilets, one is unable to quote and a third is still due to come in. The Clerk queried whether it is necessary to renew the lighting as MG A Sully and Sons had advised her that the lights are on a timer and not on 24 hours/day. D Challoner understood that there was not a timer and the lights are on 24 hours/day. Clerk to check with G A Sully and Sons. This would save money, especially as the toilet income is not covering expenditure. Decision to be made at December meeting.

The timing on the locks can be changed for Dunster by Candlelight. D Challoner will sort this.

D Challoner has been informed by G Ebborn that the stewards at Dunster by Candlelight will be monitoring the toilets.

D Challoner has chased up the non-resident Businesses for their donations. Out of 15 businesses, 6 have paid a £20.00 donation. D Challoner will provide a list of businesses to Councillors before the next meeting.

D Challoner read out a letter received from The Deli, Dunster regarding clarification on the £20.00 donation and his reply. The Clerk formally responded to D Challoner at his reply to owners of The Deli, as she was concerned that some information in the reply was incorrect, especially relating to some of the financial points which Mr Challoner has made. G Dibble and C Oliver felt that Mr Challoner's response had put both his position as Chairman and DPC in a potential difficult position. D Challoner felt that he would need to resign as he will always do his best for the Parishioners and he would be concerned that this did not always fit within statutory guidelines. He questioned whether he is the right person to be Chairman and tendered his resignation verbally. G Lamacraft gave a view that the Clerk is there to guide the Council on correct procedures and that D Challoner is motivated by his commitment to the Parish. C Oliver proposed that the Chair liaise more with the Clerk. The Council offered D Challoner their support and he withdrew his resignation. The Clerk confirmed that she will continue to advise and guide the whole Council on correct procedures.

RETAIL UNIT: The Clerk read out the pertinent points from the retail Unit Committee meeting. G Lamacraft has received a comprehensive quote from Chanin and Thomas for finding a prospective tenant and also for offering a full management service. Clerk to chase up Pointer and Webbers for a similar quotation. Decision to be made at the next meeting, once all of the information is available including obtaining the 3 quotes from local builders to carry out the alterations.

BREMIS ROAD TELEPHONE BOX: The power has now been disconnected and the phone box moved to the Village Gardens. Matter closed.

LAND AT THE BALL: G Lamacraft has answered further questions required by Land Registry office. A site visit will be undertaken by Land Registry and the matter is ongoing.

WEST STREET PAVEMENT, EAST SIDE: G Lamacraft had attended a meeting at County Hall and a possible solution may be 18 months away. SCC is not prepared to spend any money and Dunster Working Party would have to be prepared to cover all costs. Cllr Lawrence has withdrawn the SIS funding for 2017-2018 year, but would consider for 18-19 year. Dunster Working Group may match the £5,000 grant from DPC and move on to other projects.

PACKHORSE BRIDGE FLOODING UPDATE: This is being pursued by West Somerset Flood Group. Matter closed.

NATIONAL TRUST SIGN AT DUNSTER STATION: A letter was received from J Lax. He has contacted the supplier of the sign and the NT aim to amend the sign accordingly.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: This is now all sorted. Matter closed.

PARISH COUNCIL DUTIES ON THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN. Cllr Lawrence was going to respond to this. To be added to December Agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

CARAVANS OLD A39: See earlier report from Cllr Pilkington. This matter was also raised at the Dunster Working Panel meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S MEETING: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Dunster Tithe Barn. This is annual event with local Chairs and Clerks meeting informally to share knowledge and experience within their Parishes.

PROTECTIVE POSTS ON THE CORNER BY LUTTRELL ARMS: The Council discussed this and decided that no further action is necessary.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: The Clerk gave a precis of the Finance Committee Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. A spreadsheet has been provided of the running costs of Dunster Steep Toilets, with a budget income of £5930.00 and budget expenditure of £12439.00. It was recommended to the full council that the precept should remain at £27,000 to cover the shortfall in income for 18-19 financial year.

The Retail Unit. It was proposed that any expenditure is kept to a minimum as there are very little spare funds available for the project. Matter ongoing and a decision to be proposed to the Council, once all the figures have been obtained.

Allotments: The claim for the high water bill (due to leakage), has been submitted to Water 2 Business. No reply to date. The bill must be paid and a refund will be issued if a reduction is made by Water 2 Business.

Grants: It was proposed that the grants made by DPC remain the same for 18-19 year. £1650.00

Clerk's Hours: The Clerk has accumulated an excess of holiday hours since starting post, up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. It is proposed that 30 hours be paid as holiday pay.

Budget: The Finance Committee went through each item and proposed a budget figure for each item. There is a VAT refund due of £6842.45 and it is proposed that this is put in NSSI savings account to cover the ring-fenced money £5,000 for West Street, £2,000 for MUGA and a figure of £13,500 to cover emergency expenditure.

Precept: It is proposed that the precept remain at £27,000 for 18-19 year to cover the Dunster Steep Toilet expenditure.

All the above points were proposed to be agreed by G Dibble, seconded C Oliver. RESOLVED

CLERK'S ANNUAL LEAVE: The Clerk will be on annual leave from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Clerk will advise WSDC and ENP Planning Departments that a time extension may be needed on any planning applications submitted during that time. D Challoner will act as an emergency contact during this above duration. An "out of office" reply will be set up on the Dunster PC email address.

#### APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE:

Chq 972	D Stanyon	£571.16	Oct Salary
Chq 973	D Stanyon	£26.79	Stamps and Ink cartridge
Chq 974	A Vicary	£7.50	Reimbursement toilet rolls
Chq 975	J & W Cleaners	£365.40	DS Toilets October
Chq 976	Water 2 business	£1410.66	DS Toilets
Chq 977	G A Sully	£160.22	Repairs to saniflow and basin
Chq 978	Spot on Supplies	£54.00	Toilet rolls
Chq 979	Thorne Segar	£40.00	Land Registry Land at the Ball
Chq 980	D Stanyon	£364.80	Holiday pay due
Chq 981	G A Sully & Sons	£717.60	Maintenance to yew trees
Chq 982	Water2Business	£841.24	Allotment water bill

Standing Order Savills Rent Gallox bridge £ 727.06 Due 28.11.17

PLANNED EXPENDITURE: Possible invoice due in for levelling graves at the Cemetery.

#### PLANNING:

6/10/17/118 LB Rose Cottage, 15 Park St, Dunster- Amended

6/10/17/119LB Cobblestones, 20 West Street, Dunster

6/10/17/112 Dunster Castle

There were NO OBJECTIONS to the above planning applications

Proposed G Lamacraft, seconded A Vicary. RESOLVED

6/10/17/120 Riverside, 22 Park Street, Dunster

A time extension will be requested in order to allow for a site visit. Clerk to do.

Correspondence was read out. Circulated by email.

**ITEMS ON REPORT:**

Allotments. K Sully will be giving up some of their allotments on the "acre field". K Sully will mark out the allotments possibly creating up to 9. 4 will be marked out imminently. An Allotment Committee meeting will be held once these have been marked out, so that those on the waiting list can be offered an allotment.

G Witherford reported that the grave leveling is proceeding well. The first middle section has been done. One individual has opted to pay £35.00/ year to keep the grave as it stands. Clerk to chase the money.

G Lamacraft: regarding the rateable assessment for the proposed retail unit, G Lamacraft will investigate the division of the rateable assessment with WSDC. Proposed C Oliver, seconded C Ell. RESOLVED The Council gave him full approval to do this.

G Lamacraft queried the Dunster Parish boundary and whether the Parish Boundary could be changed to include areas such as Dunster Deer Park, Nutcombe Bottom, Dunster Showground. This can be changed after discussions with WSDC and Carhampton Parish Council. It was agreed that G Lamacraft would look in to this.

A Webber reported that people are parking camper vans and sleeping in them overnight in Priory Green.

A Bevan requested whether the scaffolding poles which have been erected in West Street on the Cobbles need lighting as a H & S precaution. Clerk to write to SCC and County Highways

D Challoner reported that a complaint had been made at the coloured flashing lights outside the ATM at the Memorial Hall. He has requested that M Harbourne change these to white lights only.

Salt bins which need re-filling. All Councillors to check the bins and inform the Clerk asap, so she can contact WSDC before the deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

K Sully, together with A Vicary have offered to collect 10 bags of salt on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and distribute around the village.

Light in Dunster Steep car park. D Challoner is liaising with Tracey-Ann Biss over this .

A car has been parked on the "Keep Clear" sign at the bottom of the steps to The Ball. He suspected it may be employees at The Luttrell Arms and has spoken to Ann Way regarding this.

Meeting closed 8.55 p.m.