

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2010

PRESENT A Bishop, B Bryan, C Ell, M Ellis, L Griffiths, G Lamacraft, K Sully, P Toogood, A Vicary.

OTHERS SC Mark James, C Lawrence, SCC, W Wake, NT, Crown Reps: A Player, G Smith, L Back, 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES C Nicholson.

MINUTES The minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

1. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

The NT had completed detailed survey work, including costings, looking into providing a cafe at Dunster Castle. The surveys looked at the potential of two sites within the grounds of the Castle and the results show that the cost of creating a cafe at either of these locations is not viable at the moment. Mr Wake said they were disappointed not to be able to go ahead but building in these locations was not viable at present. The Castle reopens on 13th March and the 21/22nd March is NT Bonus Weekend with free entry to all NT properties. The old Oak tree had to come down but timber is available to anyone who is interested. Miss Bryan asked about the fencing up Dunster Steep. Mr Wake said this will be replaced.

2. CROWN ESTATE REPORT

Mr Player said there had been queries regarding rumours of plans for Home Farm. He said contrary to the rumours there are no plans for development at present. The location of a new Visitors Centre is still to be discussed and Styles farm may be interested in relocating. Lucy Back confirmed however that at this stage the Crown are not in negotiation with anyone over this site. They are still looking at all options. Mr Player said the Scout's orchard scheme was still going ahead.

3. POLICE REPORT

Mr Sully reported another break in at the railway yard recently. SC James said every crime must be reported. Police are responding with more night patrols. Over the last month there had been an incident in the church and damage caused. There are still problems with the school traffic and this will be looked at again. Quad bikes at Conygar are causing problems again. There are several groups of bikers and if seen they should be reported to the police or Crown.

MATTERS ARISING

4. SPORTSFIELD LEASE

Crown say it is back with the solicitors. Mr Sully said it should not take too long to be completed. The hedge has now been removed.

5. YARN MARKET LIGHTS

Mr Wake has contacted EH and Mr Brunt and is waiting for a date to meet with them. Mr Sully said wiring needs checking by an electrician.

6. NUTCOMBE BOTTOM PAY & DISPLAY

ENP have granted permission for this.

7. DUNSTER WORKING GROUP

Mr Lamacraft reported on the Steering Group's visit to Wells, Shepton etc and said a lot of money had been spent on their improvement schemes. The Working Group have submitted a pre-application to the RDA for a grant. They are waiting for Highways re traffic lights in Church St and David Peake is looking at costings for improvements to the entrances to the village. Graham will report back to our next meeting.

8. CASUAL VACANCY

No election was called for therefore we can co opt a new councillor. Only one application had been received, from Mr Witherford. Mrs Ell proposed we co opt Mr Witherford, Mr Vicary seconded and all were in favour of this. Mr Witherford signed the declaration forms and will attend the next meeting.

9. APPLE TREES

Mrs Ell said the Village Gardens committee will deal with this. It was suggested they liaise with the scouts who are planning to plant an orchard.

10. EDM 143

Letter from Ian Liddell-Grainger. Alistair Burt MP has agreed to introduce the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill in current parliamentary session. There is a real chance of seeing the Bill made law before May 2010. Mr Liddell-Grainger said he is not signing the Early Day Motion 143 as they have no legislative effect but will ensure the Government is aware of strong support for this Act and is forwarding our letter to John Denham, Minister for Communities & Local Government.

11. DUNSTER STEEP CAR PARK

Letter from WSC saying school coaches will only use the car park until 31st March and will end before Easter. Temporary parking has been found for Tourist coaches in Minehead until permanent parking becomes available. Coach parking in Dunster Steep will be for exclusive use of coaches visiting Dunster.

12. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Email from Dennis Quick. Bars missing in High St will be replaced in the next few weeks.

Bare wires in Underpass- Lighting department say these are related to old units and not live. All new units should now be in operation but work is ongoing.

Fly tipping at Frackford – Our report will be passed to WSC.

PLANNING

13. Dunster Tithe Barn – Proposed variation of Condition 10. PC support the application.

14. Private Garage Driveway, adjacent to Tithe Barn. Works to trees in Conservation Area- Felling of small Sycamore. PC support the application. Mrs Ell declared an interest.

15. Hornbeams, St Georges Street – Installation of 4 Dormer Windows and 5 Roof Lights within a loft conversion. Site meeting will be held.

16. 21 High Street – LB Consent for removal & replacement of roof tiles, renewal of timber casements & replacement of timber door & erection of new timber steps. ENP have granted LB/Conservation Area Consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

17. Somerset Co operative Services. Information on Community Enterprise.

18. Exmoor Association of Parish Councils will now meet at Exmoor House Meeting Room. Dates will be advised.

19. Email from West SLA – Community Energy Consultation Event will be held in Bridgwater on 10th April.

20. Email from Bruce Lang. He and Wendy Bass are available to offer advice to anyone who may have concerns about matters relating to the Code of Conduct.

21. SWCAA – Nationally Recognised Voice for the Allotment Movement. Information passed to Mr Ellis.
22. Letter about forming a Time Bank from Mrs Armin. Details passed to Mr Bishop for Parish Magazine.

ITEMS ON REPORT

23. Mr Vicary said rubbish behind the bins in Steep car park needs removing. People are dumping bags of rubbish there. Will be reported to WSC.
24. Mr Sully said a barrier was needed in the Steep car park to stop joyriders. Clerk will report to WSC and ask them to liaise with Mr Sully.
25. Mr Ellis said rubbish is being dumped at the rear of 28 Conygar View. Clerk will report to Magna.
26. Mr Ellis said Carhampton have acquired land for allotments and wish to know if anyone on Dunster Waiting List wanted one. Mr Sully will talk to them.
27. Mr Griffiths said the Orchard has been cleared up.
28. Mrs Ell said the barrier outside Chapel Crafts is damaged and the post snapped. Clerk will report to Highways.
29. Mrs Lawrence gave the PC a cheque for £500 towards work on new sportsfield. Mrs Lawrence was thanked for this and told the money will be kept in trust until needed.
30. The gate at Grabbist is now mended. Thanks to Mr Vicary for helping to get it done.

31. ALLOTMENTS

Mr Sully is working to clear the waiting list. Mrs Squirrell is giving up and Mark Curran would like an allotment when one is available. Mrs Corbett has been given notice to quit by April but she refuses to do so. We will contact National Allotment Association for guidance and forward photos of the offending allotment with copies of all letters sent.

32. ACCOUNTS

Income

Cheque Mrs Lawrence	500.00
Memorials	140.00

Total **640.00**

Expenditure

SALC subs	179.49
Mr Ell	168.00
Clerk	313.60

Total **661.09**

Petty cash expenditure 16.27

Meeting closed 9.45pm

33. CIRCULATIONS

WSC Somerset West Energy Bulletin Spring 2010
Tithe Barn Agenda & Minutes 3rd March
Exmoor Association of PCs- Agenda 25th February
SW Community Energy Consultation 10th April
Energy Saving Trust – Information on Funding for Renewable Technologies Feb 2010
Parish Champion 2010 Nominations by 19th March
Community Enterprise – A force for Rural Sustainability
Magna Stakeholders Newsletter Feb 2010
SCC Consent for Motor Event by Wooden Spoon Challenge 20th/21st march
HM Government Tackling Anti Social Behaviour
ENP Consultative & Parish Forum Agenda 25th Feb
ENP Planning Committee Agenda 2nd March
Marshalls – Re Town & Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2008
Clerks & Councils Direct March 2010
SCC Bus Services 2010 Sunday & Public Holidays
Wicksteed Playscapes – Information Booklet
Play Surface Repair Information