

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14TH NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT: P Toogood, Chairman, B Bale, A Bishop, C Ell, G Lamacraft, C Oliver, K Sully, A Vicary, A Webber, P Webber, G Witherford.

OTHERS: C Lawrence, SCC, SC James, D Challoner.

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record after amendment to No 40.

MATTERS ARISING

1. RIVERSIDE PROJECT

Amanda Taylor had rung on behalf of Magna to say they are willing to give £500 towards the project. This will go towards the cost of tree works. The Crown had responded to Mr Toogood's letter saying funds will be committed to WSC for projects such as this as part of residential development at Dunster Marsh. Mr Sully reported that the Willow tree in Park St has still not been done as there is a problem with BT cables.

2. CEMETERY

Letter of complaint received about the Holly Bush in the Garden of Rest. Mr Sully had taken a look and quoted for the work.

3. WI SEAT

This has now been removed and will be replaced with a seat donated by the Village Society.

4. ATM MACHINE

Mr Lamacraft had spoken to Mrs Mills about this and she strongly objects. She has been in touch with the Post Office herself about one of these machines and is awaiting a reply from them. Nothing more heard from the Hall Committee to date but they will be holding their AGM on 15th November.

5. HINKLEY POINT C

New application received from EDF for an Environmental Permit. The Environment Agency are seeking comments from the public.

6. PACKHORSE BRIDGE REPAIRS

Email from Mr Rogers, NT, saying the Packhorse Bridge has been reported to EH who inspected it, but they are unable to identify any cause for concern. The bridge in Mill Lane is not their responsibility but the retaining wall on the other side of the Leat is.

Roots have caused some deterioration of the wall and will be programmed in for repair.

7. FINGER POSTS

Mr Lamacraft had spoken to ENP who said metal posts would be expensive so wooden ones would be preferable. Mr Bishop will ask the Village Society for some funding. It was agreed a site meeting might be needed to discuss siting of the posts.

8. STREET SIGNS

Email from WSC to say worn and tatty street signs will soon be replaced. The sign in West Close cannot be raised as there is a height restriction but it might be possible to relocate. The Knowle Lane sign is damaged and has been removed but will not be replaced in this financial year.

9. PARK STREET CAR PARK

WSC say land for the car park was conveyed by Crown Estate in December 1956 to Williton RDC for £1,000.

10. DEER FENCE

Mr Sully said this has been made safe and Mr Storey will look at it.

11. PARISH QUIZ

A team from Dunster took part and a cheque will be sent to the parish council.

12. WEED SPRAYING AT MARSH

Email from Highways saying weed spraying is one of the items featured for reduction in the Budget Cuts. They will not have the budget for this type of work in this financial year or the foreseeable future.

13. COBBLES

Mr Lamacraft said three estimates had been received for repairing the rest of the cobbles. No money is available from LARC as Highways will not be adopting these. Quotes had been received from Sherring's, Sully's and Sweetland's and Mr Sully and Mr Webber both declared a financial interest. The Working Group hold some money and it was suggested that the parish council also make a contribution. The work could be done in parts with really bad sections to be done first. Mr Bishop thought we should go ahead with the scheme. Mr Witherford proposed we give £10,000, seconded by Mr Vicary and the majority were in favour. We should try LARC again and invite the chairman to a meeting.

14. TREES IN CEMETERY

A quote had been received from GA Sully & Son for tree work in both cemeteries – to remove a Bay tree and Holly trees that have grown into the Yews in the Old Cemetery and remove a Holly bush from the garden of Rest in the New Cemetery at a cost of £415. Mr Sully left the room while this was discussed but he wished it noted that he has resigned from GA Sully & Sons and had nothing to do with the firms quote. Mr Webber proposed we accept the quote, this was seconded by Mr Bishop and all were in favour. The wood will be burnt on Mr Lamacraft's allotment.

15. **POLICE REPORT**

This was given by SC James who reported on the illegal Rave held over the weekend. This was organised from Devon and 600 people attended. Arrests were made. There had been three arrests in connection with metal thefts and there had also been a small amount of criminal damage and shed break ins. He had no information on the recent Drugs Raid in Dunster.

16. **MR LAWRENCE'S REPORT**

Mrs Lawrence congratulated the police on doing a good job with regard the recent Rave. She had recently attended a Conference in London on Adult Social Care. She said there will be a problem in about ten years time with the number of elderly people.

PLANNING

17. Dunster Castle Car Park – Proposed re surfacing & formalising of spaces in car park. Parish Council support the application.
18. Dunster Castle – LB Consent for proposed installation of handrail to stairs leading to main castle entrance. ENP have granted LB/Conservation Area Consent.
19. Dunster Castle – Proposed installation of gate together with installation of visibility screen/fence around yard. ENP have granted Conditional & LB Consent.
20. Dunster Castle – Proposed replacement of steps together with installation of metal railings. Conditional Permission granted by ENP.
21. The Rectory, St Georges Close – Change of use of land to residential parking for 3 St Georges Close as per amended plan. Parish Council support the application.

CORRESPONDENCE

22. SCC have produced a Countywide Parking Strategy. It explains how much parking space developments need to provide. Consultation runs from 31st August until 20th January. A copy of the Draft Strategy can be downloaded from SCC website. SCC and WSC support short term parking in town centres.
23. Letter from WSC regarding winter closure of Church St toilets. They will close from the beginning of December until 18th March. Clerk has contacted WSC about opening the toilets for Candlelight weekend and received an email from Steve Watts confirming appropriate arrangements will be made.

24. Email from Peter Lacey, SALC, regarding the recent issue of Recommended Code for Data Transparency by DCLG. He feels the document has not been "Parish Proofed" yet.
25. Email from the Chief Fire Officer regarding Automatic Fire Alarms (DSFRS). They propose to ease attendance at some non residential business premises and reduce attendance levels for all domestic properties unless the person making the 999 call can confirm signs of fire. Focus Groups will be arranged during the next two months.
26. Email from Mr Hewison regarding dealings with EA over the flood bank hedge between Packhorse Bridge and the Playing Field. They will resume responsibility for cutting this but not the grass on the other side of the bridge.
27. SCC are considering increasing charges for Blue Disabled Badges from £2 to £10. Views from the public welcomed before 1st February 2012.
28. SCC are also making savings by replacing broken slabs and paviour blocks with tarmac instead of like for like. There is however a limited amount of funding for use in historic conservation and heritage areas. They wish to know if we are prepared to help financially in sharing the cost of repairs.
29. Highways are holding a Winter Maintenance Open Depot Evening again this year on 15th November. They have provided bags of de icing material and Mr Sully has collected some for the village.
30. Invitation received from Magna Housing to their Stakeholders Conference on 17th November.
31. The Somerset Waste Core Strategy has been published for consultation until 6th January. The next step will be submission of the Document to Central Government.
32. Letter from Age UK with an update of activities and a request for funds. They will be holding a Carol Concert in Wells on 7th December and a fundraising event in Weston on 11th December.
33. ENP are assessing open spaces, sport and recreation provision within the ENP as part of their Core Strategy & Development Management Policies which will replace the current Local Plan. The questionnaire was completed and returned by the clerk.
34. Reminder to parish councils to consider precepting for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

35. Certificate received from Buttercross Community Orchard thanking the parish council for their sponsorship of a table and bench in the Orchard.

36. **DEVOLUTION**

WSC are meeting to discuss plans for Devolution & Delegation on 15th November at Williton. Porlock parish council plan to send representatives to speak at this meeting. We have to await the outcome of this meeting. Dulverton have a Lengthsman and are willing to share him with us if we agree.

37. **ACCOUNTS**

Income

Burials & Memorials	285.00
Thorne Segar refund	1050.00
VAT refund	7599.60
Total	8934.60

Expenditure

GA Sully (Hedges)	43.02
Rent Gallox Field	420.00
Weed spraying	192.00
ENP (VAT refund)	6400.00
Cemetery contract	250.40
Clerk	313.60
Dunster Action Plan 2008/11	500.00
Chairman's allowance	250.00
Petty cash	50.00
Total	8419.02

Thorne Segar (legal fees)	1200.00 (Money held on account by Thorne's)
Petty cash expenditure	44.17

Balance held at 30th September 53894.01

ITEMS ON REPORT

38. Mr Sully said if we bought our own salt bins then Highways would fill them. The bins cost approx £100 each and Mr Sully will see how many we need. He also has ten bags of salt.

39. Mr Vicary said that the area designated for housing between the Drift Road and Seaward Way is in Dunster parish and not Minehead as stated in the press. Clerk will write to WSC to inform them.
40. Mr Vicary reported the War Memorial plaque looks a mess. The top screws are loose and it needs cleaning but this cannot be done until the Hall has been painted. The clerk pointed out that a list of the names should be recorded in case anything should happen to the memorial plaque.
41. Mr Witherford said the guttering and provision of a bin outside the Memorial Hall had still not been done.
42. Mr Witherford said a panel had been kicked out of the bus shelter on the south side of the A39. Mr Sully will look at it.
43. Mr Witherford also reported Dumpy Bags left outside 10 Marsh St. Clerk will report this to the Crown.
44. Mr Lamacraft gave a progress report on the overflow car park at the Steep.
45. Mr Webber said the Football Pavilion had been broken into and a trolley taken. He asked if the parish council would give a grant to the Football Club. It was decided to give a grant of £250 to be reviewed annually. This was proposed by Mrs Bale, seconded by Mr Sully and all were in favour.
46. Mrs Ell said the white lines at Withycombe Straight had still not been done.
47. Mrs Ell reported that the post outside the Capel's was damaged. The post outside Parhams will not be replaced by Highways and the owners say they will take action if this is not done. Mr Lamacraft and Mr Toogood will discuss the matter.
48. Mrs Webber reminded everyone of the Christmas Social to be held on 10th December to raise funds for the Tithe Barn.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

NOVEMBER CIRCULATIONS LIST

WSC STREET CLOSURE NOTICE FOR CANDLELIGHT 2ND/3RD DECEMBER
ENP PLANNING APPLICATION NOTICE W/E 28/10/11
SALC WEST AREA MEETING 8TH DECEMBER – AGENDA & MINUTES
DUNSTER PANEL MEETING 17TH OCTOBER - AGENDA & MINUTES
E.A. ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT – HINKLEY POINT C POWER STATION
POLICE AUTHORITY MEETING – WEST SOMERSET 9TH NOVEMBER
EXMOOR ASSOCIATION OF PCs - MEETING 3RD NOVEMBER AGENDA & MINUTES
NPPF RESPONSE OF CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY – OCTOBER 2011
CSE COMMUNITY ENERGY UPDATE OCTOBER 2011
COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET – DOMESTIC HEATING OIL SYNDICATE
SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP S.W. INFORMATION SHEET
WSC SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES AUDIT & NEEDS ASSESSMENT
THATCH MAGAZINE AUTUMN 2011
MCC 90TH LAND'S END TRIAL 6/7TH APRIL
ENP EXMOOR CONSULTATIVE & PARISH FORUM MEETING 3RD NOVEMBER-AGENDA
BUTTERCROSS ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING 3RD AUGUST-AGENDA & MINUTES
BUTTERCROSS ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING 26TH OCTOBER-AGENDA & MINUTES
SCC PROVISION OF DE-ICING MATERIAL 29TH OCTOBER
COMMUNITY BUYING UNLIMITED – ROCK SALT BULK ORDERING
SCC GUIDE TO WINTER SERVICE IN SOMERSET 2011/2012
SCC POTENTIAL INCREASE IN CHARGE – DISABLED BADGES
ENP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD 6TH DECEMBER
CROWN ESTATE – DUNSTER ESTATE NEWS AUTUMN 2011
INFORM SOMERSET – INFORMATION LEAFLET
SOMERSET COMMUNITY ENERGY FORUM EVENT 26TH NOVEMBER
AGE UK NEWS SHEET 12TH OCTOBER/27TH OCTOBER
WSC COMMUNITY MATTERS NEWSLETTER 13TH, 20TH, 27TH OCT & 3RD/10TH NOVEMBER
SUSTAINABLE GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER 20TH, 27TH OCT & 3RD, 10TH NOV
HOMEFINDER NEWS 16TH, 23RD OCT & 6TH, 13TH NOV
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING INFORMATION SHEET
CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT NOVEMBER 2011
PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2011
WAR MEMORIALS TRUST BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2011
QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MUG ORDER FORM
WICKSTEED PLAYSCAPES