

## **DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 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, A Chick, WSC, SC James, PCSO Hurley, S Rogers, NT, A Miles.

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record after amendment to No 15.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

1. VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr Sully proposed Mrs Ell for Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Mr Witherford and all were in favour. Mrs Ell agreed to resume as vice chairman.

2. RIVERSIDE PROJECT

Letter received from Magna regarding the request for funds. They will get back to us. Invoice received from Thorne Segar for £596.80, legal fees for the transfer of land.

3. CEMETERY HEADSTONES

The Headstones in the New Cemetery have now been repaired at a cost of £2235.

Mr Toogood apologised for not getting any other quotes. Mr Witherford asked that we write and thank Mr Bale for doing a good job.

4. WI SEAT

The old seat is to be removed shortly and replaced with a new one. The Village Society will place their seat on the Grass at The Ball.

5. PLANNING WORKSHOP

This was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October and all the parish council attended. Mr Wyborn and Mr Green discussed planning issues dealt with by ENP. Mr Wyborn said ENP will consult on potential housing options in November and would be pleased to receive our views.

6. WALL AT UNDERPASS

Laura Johns was unable to paint the walls with anti graffiti paint as promised and will try again at half term. Parish Council decided to put the project on hold as there has been no more vandalism recently. Mr Witherford and Mr Vicary will clear the Underpass this week.

7. ATM MACHINE

A meeting had been held with the Memorial Hall Committee. The parish council felt the Post Office must be protected and they could not sanction an ATM machine until the matter had been discussed with the Postmistress. We will wait for the Hall Chairman to get back to us. Mr Brunt had complained to Mr Toogood that the matter should not have been made public. The subject of changing the use of the Memorial hall to a Museum was also discussed, the views of the Hall Committee were mixed. The Hall AGM will be held 15th November.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

This will be held at Williton on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Lamacraft and Mr Sully will not be able to attend.

9. ELECTORAL REVIEW

Letter from SCC setting out their proposals for the redesign of four electoral divisions. Stage 1 of the consultation runs until 14<sup>th</sup> November.

10. ANNUAL GRANTS

Letter of thanks received from Mr Hewison, on behalf of Packhorse Playing Field, thanking the parish council for the increased grant from next year.

11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Copy of the letter from WSC to the Chairman of Crowcombe parish council in response to his letter regarding Statutory Planning Policy for West Somerset.

12. EDF ENERGY

Joint letter from SCC, WSC and Sedgemoor regarding the application from EDF for DCO allowing it to build two new nuclear reactors at Hinkley. The three councils will submit a Local Impact Report and will keep local councils informed through Area Panel Meetings.

13. LAND AT GALLOX BRIDGE

Bill for £3098.90 received from Crown for legal fees on lease of the land. Some money is held by Thorne Segar but £1,200 will go to them for their legal fees. The parish council will pay the Crown the balance of £2000. Hopefully we will be able to reclaim this money.

14. DEVOLUTION

The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting at Porlock to discuss proposed council cuts with other parishes. The next meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Porlock.

15. HANGING BASKET POSTS

The Working Group looked at re siting one of these posts outside the Newsagent but Mr Lamacraft suggested we wait until the work on the cobbles is finished. The Working Group will be holding their Full Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**16. SIGNAGE FOR CASTLE TOILETS**

Mr Rogers said the NT were not in favour of a sign directing people to the NT toilets on Castle Hill as they could not risk additional costs or likely deterioration in standards that increased usage would bring.

**17. ALLOTMENT HEDGES**

Mr Sully reported that these have now been cut.

**18. PACKHORSE REPAIRS**

Email received from Mr Rogers regarding repairs to the bridge and the wall and also the bridge in Mill lane. The NT are awaiting contract details from EH and will get in touch with Mrs Ell.

**19. FLOOD CHANNEL**

Email from Environment Agency to say they did work on the river bank here about two months ago. They removed some cages and regraded the bank. They say they are not responsible for cutting the grass over the Packhorse Bridge. Clerk will ask them for a site meeting to discuss this.

**20. FINGERPOSTS**

Four fingerposts are needed directing people to the Packhorse Playing Field. Clerk will write to Tim Braun, ENP.

**21. POLICE REPORT**

SC James said there had been some criminal damage this month and rural theft in surrounding areas. The two undercover operations (Operation Grass) were not advertised, only the landowners knew about them. The public are asked to be extra vigilant and report any requests for scrap and take registration numbers if possible. Mr Witherford complained that cars had been parking on the cobbles. Mrs Lawrence will pass this on and it was suggested the parish council find a way to ask the public not to do this. PCSO Hurley will speak to Highways about the problem.

**22. MR CHICK'S REPORT**

Mr Chick told us the toilets in Church St are owned by WSC. He also informed us that they propose removing the roof of any toilets they close to avoid paying business rates, permission from ENP may be needed for this. The Devolution meetings with local councils have now finished and WSC await their views. No final decision has yet been made on the closure of toilets but WSC say revenue from the car parks is non-negotiable. Mr Chick said he would look into ownership of the Park St car park. New street signs have been ordered.

**23. MRS LAWRENCE'S REPORT**

The case of library closures went to judicial review in Birmingham recently but it could be up to two months before a decision is known.. "No Tipping" signs are to be put up around the village.

## **24. NT REPORT**

Mr Rogers said last season was good with an increase of 9% in visitors but more are using the gardens only and avoiding the shop. The car park is sometimes under pressure. The clearance of the Leat has been completed and the bags in the river removed. Work on the Estate Yard and Home Farm is ongoing. The Castle Express is also proving popular but a vintage bus collection from the station would be good. Fencing up the Steep has been made stock proof but more repairs are needed.

## **PLANNING**

25. The Rectory, St Georges Street – Change of use of land to residential parking for 3 St Georges Close. Parish Council support the application.
26. 14 Castle Hill, Dunster – LB Consent for installation of shower room in former scullery and installation of insulation in the kitchen. Parish Council support the application.
27. 17 West Street, Dunster – LB Consent to install secondary double glazing to front windows. Parish Council support the application.
28. Dunster First School – Proposed removal of temporary teaching block and erection of new single storey teaching building plus landscaping works. ENP have granted Conditional Permission.
29. 19 St Georges Street, Dunster – LB Consent for solar photovoltaic panels on south facing extension. ENP granted LB/Conservation Area Consent.
30. Dunster Castle – LB Consent for construction of additional steps, railings and re surfacing of path to summer house. Application withdrawn.
31. Former Environment Agency Depot, Dunster Marsh – Erection of cabin to provide office facilities for Dunster Countryside & Forestry Offices and re cladding existing building. WSC have granted Full Planning Permission.
32. Minehead Rugby Club, Ellicombe – Demolition of lean to building and rebuilding single storey with balcony, dormer and disabled ramp. WSC have granted Full Planning Permission.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

33. SCC Invitation to join the National Highways & Transport Survey. Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> October. This was passed to Mr Toogood.
34. CPRE/NALC have produced a guide "How to Respond to Planning Applications - 8 Step Guide". This was passed to Mr Toogood.
35. Details of Inter Parish Quiz on 28<sup>th</sup> October. This was passed to Mrs Webber.
36. Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund had sent a reminder to Mr Webber that Round 1 of the Programme had now closed but Round 2 opens on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.
37. Exmoor Society Pinnacle Award for Young People – closing date 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Poster put on Notice Board.

## **ITEMS ON REPORT**

38. Mr Vicary said the bush on the Old Police Station wall needs cutting back. This will be done.
39. Mr Vicary asked if SCC could weed spray at the Marsh as well next time.
40. Mr Witherford suggested we put the date of parish council meetings in the Parish Newsletter.
41. Mr Witherford suggested Mr Vicary should get a petrol allowance as he does a lot of work using his own equipment. Mr Witherford proposed £25, this was seconded by Mr Bishop and all were in favour.
42. Mr Sully said the Deer Fence had been inspected recently. Some posts are rotting and need replacing. Mr Sully will get a price for this. Site meeting will be held soon.
43. Mr Sully proposed we hold our Christmas Dinner at the Luttrell Arms again this year if this is alright with Paul. Everyone was in agreement and the date fixed for 7<sup>th</sup> December.
44. Mr Lamacraft asked if any other sections of cobbles needed adding to the list of those in urgent need of repair. Cobbles outside Dollons were added.

45. Mrs Ell said the Bay tree in the Old Cemetery was strangling the Yews. Mr Sully will take a look.
46. Mrs Demirtges had received requests for kerbing around graves in the New Cemetery. The parish council decided against this.

#### **47. ACCOUNTS**

Income:

ENP (Cobbles)	38,400.00
SCC (Cobbles)	24,000.00
Precept	8,060.00
Burials	400.00
Memorial	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,900.00</b>

Expenditure:

SD Sherring	38,400.00
ENP (Cobbles)	24,000.00
Wessex Water	151.51
Dog signs	16.32
Cemetery contract	250.40
Clerk	313.60
Crown (legal fees Gallox Field)	3098.90
Thorne Segar (legal fees Riverside)	596.80
Mr Bale (Repairs to Gravestones)	2235.00
Mr Vicary (expenses)	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,087.53</b>

Petty cash expenditure 13.31

Meeting closed 9.40pm

## **OCTOBER CIRCULATIONS**

Planning Applications w/e 16<sup>th</sup> October  
ENP Planning Committee Agenda 4<sup>th</sup> October  
SALC Summary for Members  
Community Council for Somerset Press Release 27<sup>th</sup> September  
2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England  
Standards Committee Agenda 11<sup>th</sup> October  
Exmoor Clouds Classic Trial 16<sup>th</sup> October – Minehead Motor Club & SCC  
Environment Agency – How to comment on applications for new nuclear power stations  
Somerset Rural Youth Project Press Release  
West Somerset Community Food Conference 10<sup>th</sup> October  
National Park Authority Governance Review - DEFRA will trial direct elections  
Connecting Devon & Somerset Broadband Programme Update  
WSC Community Matters Newsletter 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Sustainable Government Newsletters 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Exmoor Tourism Partnership 2011 Update  
Age UK Newsletters 16<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September  
CSE Community Energy Update September 2011  
Historic Towns Forum Updates 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Somerset Play Forum Free Workshop for Parish Councils 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Homefinders Somerset – Briefing Note on Policy Changes  
Homefinders Property List 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – Information Booklet  
Wicksteed Playscapes  
IAC Internal Audit Specialists – Information leaflet  
Furniture World Sale leaflet