

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12TH SEPTEMBER 2011

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

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

APOLOGIES: A Chick, WSC, G Witherford.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. RIVERSIDE PROJECT

Mr Sully said the trees need cutting ready for the next phase. He will get quotes for the work. Mr Webber asked if a path could be put in from the bridge to the car park. Mr Toogood felt the parish council should not have to fund the whole project but try to get some grants towards the work. He will try Crown Estate. Magna and the Community Council will also be approached.

2. WSC WISH LIST

Mr Toogood reported that this is almost finished.

3. MEMORIAL HALL

Email from Mr Brunt to say the external decoration will be done when Lara Durban is available. The Memorial Hall Committee are willing to meet with parish council representatives on 15th September to discuss the future of the Hall.

4. CEMETERY HEADSTONES

Letter from Mr Hale of Fine Memorials expressing his disappointment at our decision to limit the height of Headstones to 20 inches. The parish council decided to stand by their previous decision. Clerk will write to him.

5. WI SEAT

The WI have decided to have their own seat made to replace the one on the Ball. The Village Society need somewhere to place their new seat. Letter received from the secretary suggesting they place it at Gallox Bridge. The parish council were not in favour of this and suggested several other locations including West St Playing Field and the grass on The Ball. The clerk will write to them.

6. CHAPEL CRAFT POSTS

These have now been replaced but it was agreed that stronger posts were needed as the ones at Caddy's Corner have also gone. Clerk will write to Highways.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Email received from ENP regarding our concerns over 25 West St. There is an outstanding Enforcement case for the new windows which have been put in. Mr Wyborn sent a list of dates for holding a Planning Workshop. The parish council agreed to meet on Wednesday 5th October at 7.0pm in the Luttrell Arms

8. WALLS AT UNDERPASS

Laura Johns said she was willing to paint the other wall on Saturday 1st October but needed help from the parish council. Mr Toogood and Mr Bishop offered to help. Mr Toogood will contact Laura Johns and order the paint.

9. ARCHES IN PRIORY GREEN

Mr Lamacraft had spoken to Mr Addicot who will arrange to have the ivy removed.

10. STREET SIGNS

Mr Chick was unable to attend the meeting but had all the signs ready to show us. He will arrange to meet with the parish council later in the month.

11. FLY TIPPING

Mrs Lawrence brought some "NO TIPPING" signs to show us. It was decided several were needed around the village.

12. ROAD MARKINGS

Email received from Highways to say they will check the condition of the lining in Dunster and arrange any necessary refurbishment. The wall in West Close has now been repaired. Clerk will ask if the street sign in West Close could be raised for better visibility.

13. ALLOTMENT CUP

Mrs Ell arranged the judging of the Allotments and cups were given out at the Horticultural Show. Mrs Cranna has given up her allotment and Mr Lamacraft may soon be giving up his.

14. BUTTERCROSS

Some councillors felt on reflection that it was not a good idea to move it to the High St and Mr Vicary was worried that we would lose a parking space. Mr Lamacraft said it was only an idea in principle to move it back to where it had stood for 500 years. Mr Toogood called for a vote on this. Mr Lamacraft proposed and Mrs Oliver seconded. 3 voted in favour, 5 against and the rest abstained.

15. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Orchard was officially opened by Mrs Joan Nicholson on 10th September. The day was very successful and the Orchard is now officially up and running. It is hoped to put in another gate at the bottom of the footpath.

16. ATM MACHINE

The proposal to put in an ATM Machine at the Memorial Hall was discussed. Mr Toogood had received a copy of the contract for this from Mr Brunt. As Chairman of the parish council, who are Custodial Trustees, he was required to sign the contract. There was some concern from councillors that the machine may affect Post Office trade and felt the matter needed further discussion with the Hall Committee. Mr Toogood will speak with ENP about planning permission.

17. MRS LAWRENCE'S REPORT

The bid for Broadband was successful and begins in 2012. Mrs Lawrence said she had put in a bid for money for local safety work. Some of the work will be carried out, including white lining between Withycombe Straight and Bilbrook. She had also put in a bid for Emergency Road Closure signs but had not heard anything yet. The Electoral Review for Somerset has started and the number of County Councillors will be reduced from 58 to 55. West Somerset will still have 4 county councillors but there will be some changes to boundaries.

18. POLICE REPORT

SC James said there had been a spate of rural thefts in the Marsh area recently. Operation Grass had responded but no one caught. They believe this did deter further thefts. There had recently been a bad accident on the A39 and the diversion pilot scheme had been brought into operation. This received a mixed reception from motorists as there was not enough Police manpower available. The new non emergency number to ring from 19th September will be 101.

19. DIAMOND JUBILEE

Mr Lamacraft reminded everyone there would be a Public Meeting held on 13th September to discuss initiating a Diamond Jubilee Celebration next year. Details of the official celebrations to be held in London were received from Lady Gass.

PLANNING

20. Dunster Castle – Proposed replacement of steps together with installation of metal railings. Parish Council support this application.

21. Former Environment Agency Depot, Dunster Marsh – Erection of timber framed cabin to provide office facilities for Dunster Countryside & Forestry Office & recladding existing building in timber. Parish Council support this application.

22. Minehead Barbarians RFC Club, Ellicombe – Demolition of existing lean to building and rebuilding single storey with balcony & dormer plus disabled ramp. Parish Council support this application.

23. 19 St Georges Street, Dunster – LB Consent for erection of solar photovoltaic panels on rear south facing extension. Parish Council support the application.

24. Dunster Castle – LB Consent for proposed installation of handrail to stairs leading to main entrance. Parish Council support the application.
25. Dunster Castle – Full & LB Consent for proposed installation of gate together with visibility screen/fence around yard. Parish Council support the application.
26. 30 High Street – LB Consent for proposed replacement of cover of existing external blind together with change of colour of masonry etc. ENP have approved the application.
27. 15 West Street – Full & LB Consent for proposed alterations & improvements to existing single storey conservatory. Conditional permission granted by ENP.
28. 21 High Street – LB Consent to replace modern door at rear of property with handmade oak door. LB/Conservation Area Consent granted by ENP.
29. 6 Priory Green – Proposed installation of photovoltaic panels on south facing roof. Conditional permission granted by ENP.
30. Dunster Rectory – Felling of 1 Bay tree & 1 Eucalyptus. ENP have not served TPO.
31. Dunster First School – Work to 19 trees. ENP have no objection and not serving a TPO.
32. Park St/West St Junction – work to trees in Conservation Area. Fell & remove stump of Weeping Willow. ENP have no objection and have not served a TPO.

CORRESPONDENCE

33. WSC Standards Committee request updated Code of Conduct training for all councillors & clerks on Wednesday 12th October 6.30-8.30pm. Everyone will attend.
34. Local Government Boundary Commission-Electoral review. This stage of review will run from 23rd August to 14th November. Recommendations are to reduce the number of county councillors by 3.

35. Letter from secretary of Packhorse Playing Field asking if we would consider increasing our annual grant from £250 to £300. It was agreed to increase grants to both playing fields to £300 per annum. This was proposed by Mr Sully, seconded by Mr Bishop and all were in favour.
36. Email of complaint from Mr Brunt about the Sherring's compound in front of his hotel. This will be moved down to the Memorial Hall from 5th October while work on the cobbles is in progress.
37. Magna Stakeholders Conference will be held on 22nd September in the Tithe Barn.
38. Letter from the Chairman of Crowcombe parish council. They are very concerned about the Local Development Framework, Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plans and intend adopting a Crowcombe Parish Plan.
39. Letter from Environment Agency. EDF Energy have applied for Environmental Permits for proposed new Nuclear Power Station. They have also applied for permits to discharge cooling water effluents when in operation. Comments needed by 6th October.
40. Email received from SALC regarding possible funding for playing fields from Sport England. Mr Webber has applied for funding forms on behalf of DAVSCA and asked if the parish council would support them in their application. This has to be in by 28th September. Majority of the parish council were in favour of this. Mr Lamacraft proposed we give them £1000, seconded by Mrs Bale and 7 were in favour. Mr Bishop declared an interest. This to be paid possibly in the next six weeks. Bill received from Crown for fees on Playing Field lease for £2582 + £516.48 vat. Clerk had spoken to Thorne Segar who say there is nothing to pay as there is money in hand for this.
41. Community Engagement in West Somerset have asked for a list of our clubs and societies which might benefit. Questionnaire passed to Mrs Webber.
42. Details of Community Policing Award passed to Mrs Ell.
43. Details of Community Council AGM on 20th September.
44. Exmoor Visitor events form. Details to be in by 14th October.

45. Email from Suffolk Association of local Councils asking us to support a proposal to empower local councils regarding planning matters.
46. Request from Minehead Eye for funds towards free transport for young people referred to the Anti Social Behaviour Panel.
47. Email from SCC for nominations for the Chairman's Awards for Service to the Community.
48. West Somerset Steam Coast Trail – Sustrans. Comments sought. Details had been circulated.
49. Programme for Western Somerset Energy Fair at Minehead Eye on 16/17th September.
50. ENP are holding an Open Meeting for all on 29th September at Porlock Village Hall.
51. Porlock parish council are holding a meeting on 28th September in Porlock Village Hall to discuss Devolution. Chairman and Clerk will attend.

52. DEVOLUTION

Parish Councillors met with WSC on 27th July to discuss plans to cut public services. The toilets are safe until September 2012 but there are plans to close Church St toilets and it was wondered whether the NT toilets could be signed for public use. WSC were asked to maintain the ones in the Steep car park. Comments on proposed cuts needed by end of September.

ITEMS ON REPORT

53. Mrs Ell asked if Land Registry had been contacted about ownership of the Drang and the Cemeteries. This has not yet been done.
54. Mrs Ell said the Hanging Basket in Parham's car park was not being watered and needed moving to High St. Mr Sully said the post would be resited outside the newsagents when work on the cobbles is finished.
55. Mrs Ell said the path over the Packhorse Bridge was being used by motor cyclists. The buttress and coping needed attention. Clerk will report to NT.

56. Mrs Ell reported that the river bank and cages on the Flood Channel over the Packhorse Bridge had collapsed. Clerk will report to EA.
57. Mrs Ell said the wall and bridge in Mill Lane also need attention. Clerk will report to NT.
58. Mr Vicary asked if we would put in a request for top dressing on Station Road as far as the Old Manor. Clerk will ask Highways.
59. Mr Sully said the allotment hedges needed trimming. This will be done soon.
60. Mr Sully said the Crown Estate would be digging trenches in Marsh Lane for the next few weeks.
61. Mr Lamacraft said the schedule of works to the cobbles had been given to everyone in High St.
62. Mr Lamacraft said the Working Group had met with the NT regarding the overflow car park.
63. Mrs Bale reported the grass on the Ball needed cutting. Mr Williams will be asked again.
64. Mrs Bale said vegetation was overhanging on 7 The Ball. This will be reported to the Crown.
65. Mrs Bale had received a complaint that Deer were getting into the allotments. Mr Sully said the fence had now been fixed.
66. Mrs Bale reported that the village Website needed updating.
67. Mr Bishop asked if the Packhorse Playing Field could be signposted at the top of Mill Lane and Castle Hill. This will be discussed.
68. Mr Toogood said the grass the other side of the Packhorse Bridge needed cutting. Clerk will try the EA.

69. ACCOUNTS

Approx £30,000 held on account at present. Mr Sully asked if we should earmark more money for the Riverside and West St projects.

Balance at end of June	31,300
July payments	8,500
Orchard Account transferred	817
Balance	21,983
Precept due Sept	8,000
Total	29,983

INCOME (Aug)	
Burials	325.00
Memorials	40.00
Total	365.00

PAYMENTS (Aug)	
Cemetery	250.40
Clerk	313.60
PAYMENTS (Sept)	
Cemetery	250.40
Clerk	313.60
Election expenses	1196.26
Petty cash	50.00
Total	2374.26

Petty cash expenditure	45.68
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Meeting closed at 10.25pm

SEPTEMBER CIRCULATIONS

ENP Planning Applications w/e 15/7, 29/7, 2/9.
ENP Planning Committee Agendas for August & September
Avon & Somerset Police Authority Consultation
Police Authority Newsletter 2011
FSC Stakeholder Consultation: Woodland Management within Crown Estate
Western Somerset Energy Fair Programme 16th & 17th September
Community Energy Update August/September 2011
Further Electoral Review of Somerset – Submission by SCC
Warm Streets – Home Insulation
ENP Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum- Agenda for 4th August
Making the Most of Community Led Planning-Best practice Guide
Somerset Community Council-Items of Interest & Money for Playing Fields
Western Somerset Woodland Project
Community Council for Somerset Agenda for 20th September
Community Council Annual Review 2010-2011 & Looking Ahead 2011-2012
Minehead & Burnham Motor Clubs' Motor Event 1st & 2nd October 2011
Environment Agency Consultation-Proposed Hinkley Point Power Station
WSC Community Matters Newsheet
WSC Community Matters Newsletters 25th July – 8th September
Sustainable Government 14th July – 8th September
Somerset Waste Partnership Newsletter August 2011
Draft National Planning Policy Framework & Neighbourhood Planning
SALC Annual Report & Accounts 2010-2011
SALC All Areas Meeting & AGM Agendas for 24th September
Making Local Food Work August Newsletter
Clean & Cut Services
Historic Towns Forum July Update
Historic Towns Forum September Newsletter
Exmoor Motor Club Ltd's Motor Event 27th November 2011
RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign
Age UK Newsheets 21st July – 1st September
Homefinder Somerset Properties 17th July – 11th September
Somerset Community Foundation Grants Update August 2011
Mental Health Matters Membership News July 2011
Somerset West Care & Repair Ltd – List of Services
Complete Utility Management
Sustainable Options – Outdoor Furniture
SMP Playgrounds Parish & Community News
Clerks & Councils Direct September 2011
Thatch Magazine Summer 2011
Strategic Policing Plan 2011 – 2014
Crown Estate Building Strong Partnerships – Annual Report 2011
SCC -County Plan 2011-13 & Annual Report 2010-11
Proposals for Traffic Free Path – Dunster/Blue Anchor & Washford/Old Cleeve
Guide to Bus Services – Wincanton