



Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 7.30pm in Doddiscombsleigh School

Present:

Cllr L Turney (Chairman), Cllr M Moorhouse, Cllr S Burdge, H Hanson, DCC Cllr J Brook, TDC Cllr S Purser, PC S Hodges and 4 members of the public

Clerk: A Miller

- 1 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Davis and Cllr Hornby
- 2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations** – None
- 3 Communication with the Police**

Stephen Hodges, Neighbourhood Beat Manager introduced himself. He is at this post since last December. He raised the following points.

- There was a big reduction in the number of response officers in the last years.
- This area is considered a quiet area regarding crime. But it is very likely that this number is not realistic, and crime is underreported. Because it is difficult to get hold of Police, people do not report every crime, only the very obvious ones. He emphasized the importance of reporting every crime. Every case gets a number and has to be dealt with. The more cases are reported the more resources the area gets.
- It is important to report crimes at the right place. The Devon and Cornwall Police website has an online form where you can report an issue. Facebook is not a suitable place to report. Members of the public should not hesitate to call by dialing 999, as if the matter reported does not merit a 999 response it will be triaged by the police call handling centre.
- The Parish Council can help with communication. Neighbourhood Watch and volunteers can prove that this area needs more attention.
- Cllr Burge asked him about the case when police helicopters and officers were in Doddiscombsleigh at the end of July. She was asked to contact the Police if she saw the wanted person. When she heard that a resident saw a similar person in the village, she tried to contact the police and called 999. She was on hold for 16 minutes and then put through to Dorset Police. Another two police officers arrived and that was the last she heard about the case. She did not get any feedback whether it was safe to move or walk around in the village or whether her young employees were in danger. She has not had any feedback from the Police subsequently.
- PC Hodges explained that there is not enough staff in the Police to call back everybody. There were 70,000 999 calls last month. The Police gives a feedback only if there was a threat to the community. Because in this case in July the residents of Doddiscombsleigh were at no time in any danger and the matter was completely resolved, there was no feedback. He apologized that there was no feedback from the Police, but that is the regulation now. He explained that because of the stricter

General Data Protection Regulations the information that they can give is very limited. Information can be easily distorted in the press.

- He commented that the Slow Down signs in Doddiscombsleigh are a positive example of how a community dealt with an important problem, because speeding is a massive issue.
- The Parish Council can help to spread information and educate people when and how to contact the Police. He will send contact details which can be displayed at places like the school and the pub and help people with reporting cases.

Several members of the public raised concerns or comments. The Chairman thanked PC Hodges for his presentation and answering the questions.

4 County and District Councillors' Report

DCC Cllr J Brook reported that according to government communication, the increased school funding that they hoped for, will not happen in the near future. Devon is not in a good position regarding the school funding per person within the country. Regarding road repairs – minimum 50mm deep and 500mm wide potholes can be reported on the website and he encouraged the community to let him know about the problem as well. It is possible to contact the Neighbourhood Highways Officer with any issues.

TDC Cllr S Purser reported about the new Teignbridge Strategy, which will include measures for health and wellbeing and zero carbon strategy. New polices are expected to be ready in October. TDC will spend an extra £150,000 on providing better environment in new developments in Newton Abbot. TDC Cllr Purser will have a new role as a contact to the Police Inquiry Office and he hopes that he can provide quicker and better access to Police information.

5 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meetings (circulated)

Ordinary Council meeting of 11 July 2019 and extraordinary meeting of 25 July 2019 – Signed and accepted as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Hanson **Seconded** Cllr Burdge All agreed

6 Planning Application: 19/01452/LBC

Location: Apridge Farm

Proposal: Removal of stone surround to fireplace

The Council discussed the planning application and decided to make no observations.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Hanson All agreed

7 Planning Application: 19/01277/FUL

Location: Herons Brook

Proposal: Single storey extension to kitchen and lounge

The Council discussed the planning application and decided to make no observations.

Proposed Cllr Hanson **Seconded** Cllr Burdge All agreed

8 VE Day

Discussing the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. This agenda item was suggested by a parishioner, who wanted to inform the Parish Council about what other organisations in the village are planning to do to commemorate the anniversary. As this parishioner was not present at the meeting, the Council decided to return to this item at the next meeting.

9 Village Fete Committee Letter

The Village Fete Committee sent a 'thank you' letter to the Parish Council for supporting the event, which raised £6,238.11 for four charities. Next year the Fete will be held on 27th June. Volunteers can contact the organisers to offer help. It was discussed whether this fundraising

would be suitable to raise money for the planned community building in the village as well. It was agreed that when a suitable project comes up, the Council will return to the subject.

10 Village Plan Working Group Report

Cllr Turney reported that the Group has a draft Terms of Reference, which was sent to the councillors and appears at the Appendix to these Minutes. The Group would like to use the name Community Planning Steering Group. The Terms of Reference was discussed and agreed that it is suitable to support the work of the Group.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Moorhouse All agreed

11 Matters Arising – Dog Control in the Village

Cllr Burdge reported the number of dog mess that was found last week.

Church path – 4

Path behind the School - 8

She saw very responsible dog owners who were equipped to pick up after their dogs. In the centre of the village dogs are on lead, but behind the School dogs are off the lead. That may explain the worse results there. She also thought there could be a difference between school term and holiday times.

12 Condition of the Defibrillator

Cllr Turney reported that the all the pads are now replaced, but the last checks found that the cabinet did not have light and the defibrillator did not charge. It is necessary to call an electrician to carry out repairs. He proposed that the Council pay for the work.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Moorhouse All agreed

13 Community Litter Pick

This year's community litter pick will be on Saturday, 21 September, starting at 11 am from the Triangle. It was agreed that one kit (suitable for 20 volunteers) would be enough and could be delivered to the pub. Refreshments for volunteers will be provided in the pub after the event.

14 Parish Path Partnership Walk

Cllr Hanson reported that she checked with Cllr Davis the work carried out by the contractor on footpath 2 and she is satisfied with the quality of the workmanship. The invoice for these works is at item 18.2 Approval of Expenditure.

A date for the next village walk was discussed and agreed that Saturday, 16th November would be suitable. The walk will start at 11 am, and this time the route will go uphill on footpath 2. At the top of the hill refreshments will be provided and there will be an option to return to the village by car, if somebody is tired. The remaining walkers return on footpath 2. The route – uphill and downhill together – in a comfortable pace takes about 70 minutes for adults.

15 Road Sweeping

In the previous two years the Council organized a road sweeper to clean the main routes through the village in December. Last year the Council applied for grant funding from the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund of Devon County Council, and covered some of the costs by the grant. Last year the contractor indicated that the drains need more thorough cleaning that they were able to do with their equipment. After contacting the Neighbourhood Highways Officer in Devon County Council, the Clerk got a promise that Tick Lane will be cleaned in October by a big DCC vehicle, which can jet the drains. The Parish Council can order the usual road sweeping work at the end of December, after the leaves have fallen. This should be a quicker, easier and cheaper work than last year. The Council can apply for the same funding as last year. It was discussed and agreed to order the

road sweeping in December just like in previous years and apply for grant funding from the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund. **Proposed** Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Burdge All agreed

16 Climate Conference Report and Declaration of a Climate Emergency

Cllr Turney reported that he attended a Teignbridge Climate Emergency Action Group event in June. There is a real emergency situation in the environment, because the current tendencies will result in a catastrophe. Immediate action is needed to avoid the worse scenarios. Teignbridge District Council declared a Climate Emergency, just like half of the UK's authorities. Any decisions made by them have to be assessed on the basis of how it effects the climate. TDC's aim is to be carbon neutral by 2025, which means changes in housing, transport, green spaces, agriculture. But there will be changes in every level. There are residents in Doddiscombsleigh who would like to help individuals and households to analyze their situation and find easy and low cost solutions to reduce their carbon footprint. There are several projects already under way in the School relating to the climate emergency.

The first step for the Parish Council is to declare a Climate Emergency and set up a working group to explore and research what people in the local community can do.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Hanson All agreed

Cllr Turney offered to be the Parish Council representative in the group.

17 Website

The Council was contacted by the website administrator, because the website maintenance plan is due to renewal at the end of September. This is a two year maintenance plan, which costs £136.80, the same as it was in 2017. He also asked whether the Council would like the website administration to be transferred to another person. Currently he can give editorial rights and pays for the costs, which are reimbursed by the Council. The administrator password is held in a sealed envelope in case of an emergency. The Parish Council discussed the question and agreed that the current arrangement works well, and there is no need for changes at that moment. The Council agreed to renew the current maintenance plan for a further two years.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Hanson All agreed

18 Finance

18.1 Report

The Clerk reported that the bank balance at 31 August 2019 was £6,931.37. After deducting the amount of un-presented cheques, the net bank balance was £6,807.77. Earmarked funds: Elections £1,147 Emergency Fund £1,200 CIL £1,402.84 and Parish Path Partnership Grant £2,247.12.

18.2 Approval of Expenditure

- Previously paid: Election expenses £152.85
- Parish Path Partnership Works, Footpath 2 – second payment £1007.50
- Future payment: Website maintenance for 2 years £136.80

Proposed Cllr Luke **Seconded** Cllr Burdge All agreed

Open Forum: No questions were raised.

19 Clerk's Correspondence

An email arrived from the Teign Valley Community Hall, asking a donation for covering costs that arise before they can apply for grant funding. Following the Parish Council's decision at

the meeting of 11 July 2019 to support the improvement works, the Council agreed to give £100 donation to the Teign Valley Community Hall.

20 Chairman's Remarks – The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

21 Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 14 November

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.13 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX

DODDISCOMBSLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

STEERING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE JUNE 2019

NAME OF GROUP

COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING GOUP

BACKGROUND

Teignbridge Council wrote to Parish Councils (PCs) informing them of the provisions of neighbourhood planning regulations in respect of plans for local parishes. The PC commissioned a Village Plan Coffee Morning in September 2018, led by a representative of Teignbridge Council, to enable members of the Parish to consider the possibilities afforded by such a local planning process and express their views about living in Doddiscombsleigh. The event was attended by about 60 members of the community. In response to this, the Parish Council proposed the formation of a Steering Group to move the project forward and volunteers were sought to serve on this steering group.

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP

The initial purpose of the Group is to undertake comprehensive work on behalf of the PC in order to make recommendations for the PC to make decisions about how to proceed to address local community development, cohesion and planning issues.

In the first instance by January 2020 the Group will:

- Undertake research into guidance documents on community planning and examples of community planning in other parishes and localities.
- Determine whether the creation of a plan would be in the best interests of the community.
- If so, determine which of the community planning options would best meet the Parish's needs.
- Begin to assemble methods by which the community could be involved in informing any such plan.

- Begin to assemble background and demographic data on the Parish to inform the planning process
- Will refer to outside bodies / advisors as required for specialist advice.
- Act autonomously but will report back to the PC as requested by the PC.
- Represent the views of, and actively encourage consultation and input from, the parish.
- Agree a set of Groundrules by which the SG will work together.

METHODOLOGY

The Steering Group will meet regularly to progress the project. It is expected that, by following the Groundrules agreed by the Group, decisions can be made by consensus agreement. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, decisions will be put to a vote.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP AS OF JUNE 2019

Sue Burdge, Parish Councillor
Elliott Fairs
Simon Gray, Chair Doddiscombsleigh School Governors
Boo Hornby, Parish Councillor
Tony Porter
Hugo Tillotson
Luke Turney, Parish Councillor, PC Chair

It is recognised that membership might alter during the lifetime of the Group, but this will not affect its remit or status.