



## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of Doddiscombsleigh held on Thursday 6 May 2021 at 7.30 pm online**

Zoom Meeting ID: 811 9682 5306  
Password: 126 663

**Present:** Cllr Turney (Chairman), Cllr H Hanson, Cllr M Moorhouse, Cllr J Sawyer, and 1 member of the public  
Clerk: A Miller

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Burdge and Cllr Davis

### **2 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Resolved** The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors held on 9th May 2019 was accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Turney Seconded Cllr Hanson All agreed

### **3 Reports for the Years 2019/20 and 2020/21**

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Parish Council about the last two years. It is exceptional that there was not a Parish Meeting last year, but it was not possible to hold one because of the pandemic. This is the first Parish Meeting since the election in May 2019.

Regarding the pandemic:

The Parish Council would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped the residents during these exceptional times. The Parish Council published information on the website regarding the pandemic which was relevant to the village in order to direct people to available help. The help itself was organised by the Church.

The Parish Council supported the Teign Valley Larder, which apart from its original aim to reduce food waste, was and remains a help for residents who were and are financially affected by the pandemic. Donation box is in the bus shelter now.

About the general operation of the Council:

In the 2019/20 financial year following the election, the Council held 10 meetings, all face-to-face meetings.

In 2020/21 the Council held 9 meetings, all online meetings using the Zoom platform. The Parish Council adapted its procedures to suit the changing environment and maintained its operation in spite of the challenges. Residents have the opportunity to join the meetings online or dial-in.

The Council's procedures were reviewed and updated to allow remote meetings. Currently there are six councillors and one vacancy.

Regarding planning:

In 2019/20 12 planning applications were discussed.

In 2020/21 15 planning applications were discussed. After the announcement of the first lockdown and before remote meetings were allowed, there were two planning applications in

the parish, which were not possible to be discussed at a Parish Council meeting. Residents were informed on the website about this fact and were encouraged to make their comments directly on the Planning Authority's website. Links to consulted planning applications is now on the home page of the website.

Planning enforcement: following complaints from residents, the Parish Council referred three cases to the planning enforcement for clarification.

About highways:

In January 2021 the Parish Council decided to engage a local contractor to carry out lengthsman services in order to improve the safety of the roads. Devon County Council stopped providing lengthsman services years ago and the condition of the drains has deteriorated.

Volunteers cleared the drains around the bus shelter.

Potholes were reported to Devon Highways and repairs were carried out, but the quality of the repairs is not always up to standard.

The clearway on Haldon has recently been implemented. The Parish Council was lobbying for the implementation of the Clearway.

About footpaths:

Parish Path Partnership projects in 2019/20: On footpath 2, between Apridge Farm and Eastern Hill, 5 stiles were replaced with gates and the bridge over the stream was improved and made safer. Another small bridge was installed on footpath 1 to make the access to a field easier. In November 2019 there was a very successful Village Walk with more than 30 participants, including many children. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there was no village walk in 2020.

In 2020/21 urgent repairs were carried out on the raised footpath between the church and the pub. Further improvements can be done when funding is available.

Regarding finance:

As an answer to the pandemic and the first national lockdown, the Parish Council introduced online payments in order to be able to operate in these circumstances. The Council's Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations were updated and new internal control measures were introduced. The Parish Council needed to increase the precept to cover the increasing costs and maintain suitable level of reserves.

About the bus shelter:

Following feedback from the community, the Parish Council decided to have the bus shelter repaired. The cob structure was painted with a special paint, which will help to save the condition of the building in a wet environment. A grant from Devon County Council covered part of the cost. The improved bus shelter is a nice structure in the centre of the village, and within the conservation area.

Regarding website accessibility:

There is a legal requirement since September 2020 to have a website which meets accessibility guidelines. Several improvements were made to the existing website and an Accessibility Statement was published. This shows how compliant the website is now. The Parish Council is working towards full accessibility of the website and decided to earmark a separate amount in the budget to achieve this aim.

About litter pick:

There was a well-attended community litter pick in September 2019.

There was another litter pick planned for March 2020, but it had to be cancelled.

About dog control:

In 2019 there was a campaign highlighting the problem caused by irresponsible dog owners, who left dog mess on public paths. There was some success following the campaign.

Regarding the Community Planning Steering Group:

The Terms of Reference was accepted in 2019, but due to the pandemic the work is paused.

About Operation Forth Bridge:

The Parish Council discussed in 2019 and had a plan in place in case of the death of a senior member of the State. Unfortunately, this sad event occurred this April, when the Parish Council followed the agreed procedure.

The Parish Council would like to say thank you to Steve LeMarchant, who put the flag on half-mast at the Triangle during the national mourning.

About other organisations:

The PC supported the refurbishment of the Teign Valley Hall – with a support letter and a donation as well.

Regarding twinning:

There was a successful visit from twinning parishes in France in June 2019. A return visit was planned but cancelled in 2020.

About Climate Emergency:

The Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019 and set up a Working Group to explore and research what people in the local community can do. In November 2019 there was a presentation about the issue with more than 40 participants in the school. The Teign Climate Hub was formed with residents of Doddiscombsleigh. There was a repair Café in February 2020.

Further planned events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but the Working Group helped the Parish Council to respond to several consultations raising the issue of the climate emergency: Government consultation about Future Home Standards, Teignbridge Local Plan Review, Interim Devon Carbon Plan and Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay.

**4 Open Discussion for Parishioners**

There were no issues raised.

**5 Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.47 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date