



Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of Doddiscombsleigh held on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7.30 pm at the School

Present: Cllr Turney (Chairman), Cllr W Hole, Cllr M Moorhouse, Cllr J Sawyer, Cllr R Crocker, Cllr E Davis, County Cllr J Brook and 2 members of the public
Clerk: A Miller

The meeting started at 7.44pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Burdge

2 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors held on 6 May 2021 was unanimously accepted as a true record.

3 Reports for the Year 2021/22

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Parish Council about the last year.

About the general operation of the Council:

The previous Annual Parish Meeting in May 2021 was held online. Since then, the Council returned to face-to-face meetings, in line with the changing regulations, and held further 7 meetings.

2 new councillors were co-opted: Cllr Hole and Cllr Crocker. Cllr Hanson resigned due to her other commitments.

Currently all councillor positions are filled in and there is no vacancy.

Regarding planning:

Last year 17 planning applications were discussed.

Links to consulted planning applications are on the home page of the website.

Planning enforcement: last year the Parish Council referred one case to the planning enforcement for clarification. As there was no satisfactory response from the Planning Authority, the Parish Council wrote to the Planning Committee regarding all the 4 cases which were referred previously, and since then there was some response regarding all of them.

About highways:

The Parish Council decided that the lengthsman services, which were carried out by a local contractor, were important for the community and engaged the contractor for a further 3 years. Currently the Council is working on an Annual Maintenance Plan based on the experience that was gained from the contract. The Council received a grant from the Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund to cover 50% of the contractor's cost.

Our new Neighbourhood Highways Officer came to one of our meetings and explained the current policies and financial situation regarding Devon Highways. The Parish Council has applied for an official 20mph speed limit in the village and is waiting for a response.

About footpaths:

There were 2 Parish Path Partnership projects in 2021/22: on footpath 5 the steps were repaired and on the unclassified road between Leigh Cross and Spanishlake Cross the hedge was cut by a contractor where it was not possible to do it by machinery.

Regarding finance:

The Parish Council needed to increase the precept to cover the increasing costs and maintain suitable level of reserves.

Regarding preparations for the Platinum Jubilee:

The Parish Council replaced the old flagpole at the Triangle with a new fiberglass one which does not require maintenance and also bought a new union flag ready for the celebrations at the Platinum Jubilee weekend. The Council used up the existing CIL Fund to cover the cost of the flagpole replacement.

A Platinum Celebrations Committee is working on organizing the event.

Telephone box:

The Parish Council has adopted the old BT telephone box. The kiosk needs repair and when the box is in a good condition, a history archive will be displayed in it.

About litter pick:

After a long break due to the pandemic, the community litter pick returned in March 2022 and it was well attended.

About Climate Emergency:

The Parish Council joined the Devon Parish & Town Council Wildlife Network which allows the Parish to connect to other parishes who care about wildlife and get up-to-date information about the topic.

4 Open Discussion for Parishioners

The following points were raised.

- Support from the public for the Parish Council's application for a 20mph speed limit in the village.
- Question was raised about the Parish Council's email regarding the Planning Enforcement Review (Minutes of 4 April 2022 item 6.1). It was clarified that the Parish Council's remarks were related to the planning enforcement process itself and its efficiency.

5 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation. He also mentioned that the internal auditor had a positive opinion about the Parish Council's administration.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date