



Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.30 pm at Woodah Farm

Present: Cllr W Hole (Chairman), Cllr M Moorhouse, Cllr J Sawyer, Cllr R Crocker, Cllr Salter (from item 6) and 2 members of the public
Clerk: A Miller

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everybody. District Cllrs Purser and Swain sent their apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations

None.

Open Forum

The following issues were raised.

- Proposed parking restrictions at the school. The public supported the restrictions, but the restricted zone needs to be extended.
- Road repair on Rectory Lane towards the sewage work. The potholes were filled in, but after a week the repairs started cracking again.

The Parish Council discussed item 8.1.4. next.

3 County and District Councillors' Report

Cllr Purser previously sent his report which was forwarded to the Parish Council.

4 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting of 16 May 2023 were unanimously accepted as a true record.

5 Councillor Vacancy and Co-option

Mrs Kirsty Salter, who was present at the meeting as a member of the public, expressed her interest in a councillor position.

Resolved The Council unanimously co-opted Mrs Salter as a parish councillor.
Cllr Salter signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and joined the Parish Council.

6 Planning Matters

6.1 To Note Planning Decisions and to Receive Planning Updates

6.1.1 23/00177/FUL Shute Cottage

Polytunnels – permission granted

6.1.2 22/00023/ENFA and 22/00029/ENFA Mistleigh Copse Cabin

Appeal against Enforcement Notice issued - the unauthorised construction of a dwelling house – appeal dismissed.

6.1.3 Update About Little Park Farm

Compliance with condition 4 of the permission for permanent dwelling (16/02462/FUL) – removal of the temporary dwelling – the Planning Enforcement is in discussion with the owner of the property

Clerk to write to the district councillors asking for information regarding the case.

6.2 To Discuss a Planning Application

23/00831/FUL Perry Bungalow

Replacement dwelling

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to strongly support the application.

6.3 To Receive an Update About the Joint Planning Meeting of the Parish Councils and to Receive Information About the Planning Training for the Clerk

Cllr Crocker, who attended the Joint Planning Forum meeting, reported about the event. The Forum would like to reinstate the Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) and work within the organization. Clerk to clarify what happened so far.

Notes and slides from the meeting have been forwarded to councillors.

The Clerk reported about the planning training that she attended. Further significant changes are expected in planning regulations later this year and next year. Parish councils will be able to influence planning decisions by being involved in creating design codes for their area.

6.4 To Consider Options for Answering Planning Consultations Between Meetings

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to delegate power to the Clerk to answer planning consultations and to request a planning case to be called in to Planning Committee between scheduled Parish Council meetings - after consultation with the Chairman and other councillors. The planning consultation responses need to be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.

7 To Discuss the Improvement of the Triangle

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to set up a working group to work on the details of a plan to make the Triangle an attractive place. The detailed plan will be presented at the Parish Council meeting in September 2023.

Members of the Triangle Working Group are Cllr Hole, Cllr Sawyer, Cllr Moorhouse and Cllr Salter, who will involve interested residents in the plan making.

8 To Receive Reports and Updates

8.1 To Receive a Highways Update

8.1.1 To Discuss Additional Drain Clearing

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously approved the extra drain clearing work which had been ordered from the lengthsman to clear the drains that were blocked after the summer storms.

8.1.2 To Discuss the Possibility of Formally Joining the 20's Plenty for Us Campaign

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to formally join the 20's Plenty for Us campaign and send a lobbying email to Devon County Council to make 20mph the default speed limit where people live, play or work.

Clerk to include in the lobbying email that Doddiscombsleigh is only accessible by single lane roads.

8.1.3 To Receive Information about Overhanging Trees on Ashton Lane

A resident contacted the Parish Council about the issue. The case had been referred to Devon Highways.

8.1.4 To Receive Update About Parking Restrictions at the School

The item was discussed after the Open Forum.

The Parish Council discussed Devon County Council's proposal for installing no waiting at any time zone outside the School. The Parish Council informed the School about the proposal and the news about the consultation was published on the website.

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed that there is a need for a parking restriction to allow traffic to get through the area, but the restricted zone needs to be extended to Leigh House and it needs to include Burnt Meadow and the entrance to Rectory Lane as well.

8.1.5 To Discuss Other Highways Issues

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to contact County Cllr Jerry Brook about the dire condition of all the lanes around Doddiscombsleigh.

8.2 To Receive a Parish Path Partnership and Footpath Update

Cllr Crocker reported about the condition of bridlepath 3, which was acceptable.

The lengthsman will carry out the repair works on footpath 7, 6 and 1, which were approved and funded by Devon County Council, next week.

8.3 To Receive an Update About the Defibrillator

The adult pads arrived and were installed after a two-month delay. All the defibrillator pads are in date now. Unfortunately, delays and long waiting time might be a new norm in the future, due to manufacturing disruptions.

The defibrillator battery needs to be replaced in 2024 and the warranty of the equipment expires in 2026. It is possible to keep a defibrillator longer than the 10-year warranty period, but the equipment needs to be checked annually. Clerk to ask an estimate about the cost of the defibrillator check.

8.4 To Receive an Update About Incidents at the Sewage Treatment Plant

A resident sent an email to the district councillors and to the Parish Council about significant sewage spillages at the treatment plant last year and asked for the District Council's help to persuade South West Water to improve their system and to stop these frequent spillages. Cllr Purser supported the issue.

The Parish Council strongly agreed with the resident's opinion and is aware of the bad condition of the road leading to the treatment plant, which may compromise heavy vehicle traffic to the plant. Also, the village's sewage system is quite old and needs improvement. The Parish Council will review the situation at future meetings.

9 Finance

9.1 To Receive a Finance Report and to Approve the Bank Reconciliation

The bank balance on 30 June 2023 was £14,563.32. After deducting the amount of earmarked funds and grants, the general reserve was £3,339.11.

Since the May meeting a Parish Path Partnership grant of £300 and a VAT refund of £653.49 have been credited to the account.

The Chairman reported that the bank reconciliation for 30 June 2023 was in order.

Resolved The Council unanimously approved the bank reconciliation.

9.2 To Review the Parish Council’s Banking Arrangements

The Clerk reported that Unity Trust Bank has a new online banking system and councillors need to use it to authorize payments.

The application for a multipay charge card has been submitted but the card has not arrived yet, only information requests asking for details that have already been provided. The Council needs to pay for the website in September using a bank card.

Resolved The Council unanimously agreed to remove Ms Susan Burdge from the list of signatories and to add Cllr Salter to the list of signatories.

Former councillor Mr Davis needs to be removed from the list of councillors at the bank.

9.3 Approval of Expenditure

Venue hire 11 July 2023 £10.00

Unity Trust Bank fee March-May 2023 £18.00

Clerk’s remuneration £1,264.26

Items for displaying parish map in the telephone box £35.96

Planning course for Clerk £72.00

Resolved The Council unanimously approved the expenditures.

10 Clerk’s Correspondence

The Clerk received correspondence regarding the website. There is an option to pay for the existing website maintenance plan in monthly or yearly instalments instead of biannually, which is the current payment plan – but the monthly cost would be higher. If the Council can obtain grant funding for a new website, it is possible to carry out the project this year without losing a significant sum on prepaid maintenance plan, which is due in September. Clerk to ask for grant funding from the district councillors and from the county councillor for a new website. The Clerk will be on holiday between 7-20 August. The Chairman can be contacted with urgent issues during this time.

11 Date of Next Meeting

12 September 2023

12 Chairman’s Remarks

The Chairman thanked everybody for their participation.

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council heard about the passing of a former councillor, Mr Ernest Davis. He served as a parish councillor between 2017 and 2023 and was a well-known and very much appreciated member of the community.

The Parish Council was also sad to hear about the passing of Mr Steve Brook, whose company helped the Parish with village projects. Both will be greatly missed in the community.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.49 pm.

Signed.....

Chair

Date