



Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.30
pm at the Church

Present: Cllr L Turney (Chairman), Cllr J Sawyer, Cllr Hole, Cllr R Crocker (from agenda item 5), Cllr M Moorhouse (from agenda item 8.2) and 1 member of the public
Clerk: A Miller

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Burdge. Cllr Moorhouse indicated that he would be late due to work.

2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations

None.

3 County and District Councillors' Report

Cllr Purser sent his apologies and his report:

As you have probably seen all the various budget meetings have now been held and the council tax set for next year. The Teignbridge element sees an increase of £5 on a band D property with increases from the other precepting bodies as well leading to a 3.2% increase on average.

All band A to D properties will receive a £150 payment to offset some of the energy cost increases. Rather than a straight discount from the bill it has to be paid separately which means if not a direct debit payer you will need to apply for the money giving your bank details. TDC are working on the logistics of this.

At a long council meeting the High Street Fund for Newton Abbot was passionately discussed. The proposal for the new cinema, market hall and performance space were discussed along with the potential £9.2 million of grant money. The proposals were in the end agreed.

The budget agreed that the grants to voluntary organisations would not change at this time and the Councillors Community Fund would increase to £1200 from April. My current years allocation of £1000 is now all spent.

The program of decarbonisation works at Forde house has slowed due to the sad demise of the contractor Midas although a new contractor is being sought.

There are a series of free online seminars to help parents and carers understand and support teenagers see TDC website for more details.

From Mon 28 Feb to Fri 4 March the planning dept are having a blitz on catching up with outstanding work so please be patient with any new issues.

Empty homes campaign is going well. If you know of an empty home or have one you are struggling with to resolve contact TDC empty homes officer for advice.

4 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Extraordinary Council meeting of 3 February 2022

Resolved Unanimously accepted as a true record.

5 Councillor Vacancy and Co-option

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Ms Rachel Crocker as parish councillor.

Ms Crocker, who was present at the meeting, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form and took seat on the Parish Council.

6 To Discuss Councillors' Responsibilities

It was discussed after item 15.

7 Planning Matters

7.1 To Note Planning Decisions

7.1.1 22/00021/AGR Land At Ngr 285479 85963, Mistleigh

Erection Of Two Forestry Buildings - prior approval is not required

7.1.2 21/02368/FUL Land At Ngr 284978 85254, Doddiscombsleigh

Extend Current Concrete Hardstanding And Add Retaining Wall, Creation Of An All Weather Turnout And Schooling Area And Associated Works – permission granted

7.2 To Discuss Planning Applications

22/00144/HOU The Well House

Single storey side extension

Resolved The Parish Council decided to make no observations.

Proposed Cllr Sawyer Seconded Cllr Hole All agreed

8 To Receive Reports and Updates

8.1 Parish Path Partnership and Footpath Update

The hedge on the unclassified road has been cut. The lengthsman invoice of £300 is to be approved at item 14.3. Before her resignation, Cllr Hanson confirmed that the job had been done and she was happy with it.

8.2 Highways Update

8.2.1 Drain Clearing

The lengthsman has finished the list of works that was ordered in December and he worked the 20 hours that the Parish Council had 50% funding for. Cllr Sawyer confirmed that the work was done to a very good standard.

It was discussed that some manholes close to Duckspool need to be cleaned but the grant funding for the current financial year has been used up.

Resolved The Council decided to prepare an Annual Maintenance Plan for Drain Clearing and to ask the lengthsman's suggestion about areas for regular maintenance. The proposal to be discussed at the next meeting.

8.2.2 20 mph Speed Limit in the Village

Cllr Moorhouse arrived during the discussion.

Devon Highways currently is inviting applications for 20 mph speed limit zones. Previously the Parish Council tried to obtain an official 30 mph speed limit for the village, but Devon County Council did not see justification for an official speed limit. That is why the Parish Council installed the warning Slow Down signs three years ago.

Resolved The Parish Council decided to apply for official 20mph speed limit between the village centre and the following points:

- Greystones on the lane to Sheldon
- Glenlea on Ashton Lane

- On Tick Lane before Duckspool
- Sexton's Cross – although there are less houses, the lane is used by walkers, dog walkers and horse riders

Proposed Cllr Turney seconded Cllr Hole All agreed

8.3 Telephone Box Project Update

Cllr Hole reported that he asked expert opinion regarding moving the telephone box to the Triangle. Unfortunately, as the box is in a poor condition and very heavy, there is a significant possibility that it would break up.

When the weather will be better, he will assess with volunteers the condition of the kiosk and suggest what parts to order.

8.4 Flagpole and Fir Tree Project Update

The flagpole has been replaced and the invoice is to be approved.

Cllr Sawyer reported that during the installation it was recommended to remove some dead wood from the fir tree, because an old branch would be in the way of the flag. Afterwards Cllr Sawyer and Cllr Hole would apply the fertilizer. Next year those parts of the tree that will not be able to recover, needs to be removed. Possibly the height of the tree needs to be reduced to be less vulnerable to storms.

Resolved The Council agreed to take out the dead wood from the fir tree now which would interfere with the flag.

Proposed Cllr Sawyer Seconded Cllr Moorhouse All agreed

9 To Discuss the Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

9.1 Jubilee Celebrations Working Group Report

Cllr Hole reported that a two-day event is planned for Saturday and Sunday, 4th and 5th June with competitions, raffle, vintage car and tractor display, bring & share, etc. A poster about the events is ready for publication. Proceeds will go to charities.

The question, why there is a separate Jubilee Fete and a separate Village Fete three weeks later was discussed. A member of the Village Fete Committee, who was present at the meeting explained, that the annual Village Fete is considered to be a major fundraising event, which attracted visitors from further afield in previous years. The Committee's opinion was that the Jubilee weekend would not be so successful for this type of fundraising, because people will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee mostly in their own community. Besides, the Jubilee weekend is during half term, when some members of the organizing committee will be away and it is not so suitable for teachers – who usually attend their fundraising event - either.

9.2 Jubilee Mugs

The Parish Council returned to the subject because the funding of the project is not possible as it was intended at its last meeting.

Resolved It was unanimously agreed that the organizers of the Jubilee celebrations will be responsible for the jubilee mug project. The Parish Council will help the organizers to start the project and to get ready by the Jubilee weekend by ordering 200 mugs with the chosen design and mailing boxes. The organizers will take over the project later at cost.

9.3 Flags

The current Union flag is in a poor condition and needs to be replaced. The need for a unique Jubilee flag was also considered.

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to order a new Union flag from the House of Flag's.

The Jubilee flag will be ordered by the organizers of the Jubilee Celebrations.

9.4 Engraving the Jubilee Stone

Resolved The Parish Council agreed to order the works from Williams & Triggs as soon as possible and apply for funding from the Locality Budget in April, after the next financial year started.

Proposed Cllr Turney Seconded Cllr Sawyer All agreed

9.5 Tree Planting for the Jubilee – Queen’s Green Canopy

The Parish Council considered possible locations for planting trees for the Platinum Jubilee.

Resolved The Parish Council agreed to explore the possibility of planting trees on both sides on the road verge in the T junction arriving from Sexton’ Cross. Clerk to contact Highways.

The Church Warden agreed to contact the Rector regarding planting a tree in the Church yard boundary.

10 To Discuss Insurance Cover for the Village Fete

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to contact the insurance company and provide public liability insurance for both the Jubilee Fete and the Village Fete.

11 To Discuss the Condition of the Notice Board at the Triangle

Cllr Hole reported that a volunteer offered to repair the notice board at the Triangle which is in a poor condition.

12 To Discuss the Contents of the Parish Council Newsletter in the Magazine

The Council agreed to return to the subject at the next meeting.

13 To Discuss the Mobile and Internet Coverage in the Village

The Parish Council received an email from Cllr Read, Christow Parish Council. Christow is lobbying for better internet and mobile coverage in the area and asked for more support and representations to be sent to Mel Stride MP.

The Parish Council agreed that poor internet and mobile coverage are a problem in several parts of Doddiscombsleigh as well.

Resolved The Parish Council agreed to send an email to Mel Stride highlighting the inequality of mobile and internet services in the Parish and asking his support for installing fibre optic cables in the village.

14 Finance

14.1 Report

The Clerk reported that the bank balance at 6 March 2022 was £4,299.45. After deducting the amount of earmarked funds and grants, the general reserve was £1,146.67.

If the Council approves and pays the expenditures at item 14.3, the general reserve will be £718.82.

14.2 To Discuss How to Use Up the CIL Fund

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the entire amount of the CIL Fund, £1,402.84 has been used up in the current financial year for the following projects:

Flagpole replacement £1,186.75

Bus shelter painting £ 216.09.

14.3 Approval of Expenditures

Flagpole and installation £1,424.10

Drain clearing £325.00

Hedge cutting £300.00

New Councillor Course Part 1 for Cllr Hole £18.00

Donation to Church £10.00

Resolved The Council unanimously approved the expenditures.

15 Clerk's Correspondence

There will be a litter pick on Saturday, 19th March at 10.30am starting from the Triangle. The Parish Council was informed about two successful and one attempted burglary in the village, which affected outbuildings. It was agreed to warn the public and highlight the issue in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

Item 6. Councillors' Responsibilities

Resolved The Parish Council unanimously agreed to the following responsibility areas, formerly the tasks of Cllr Hanson:

- P3 co-ordinator and footpaths: Cllr Crocker
- Finance and administration: Cllr Turney

16 Date of Next Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting on Thursday, 12 May 2022.

Open Forum

There were no questions raised.

17 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.46 pm.

Signed.....

Chair

Date

PART B

The decision about engraving the Jubilee stone was made at item 9.4.