



Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2019 at
7.30pm in Doddiscombsleigh School

Present:

Cllr B Plummer (Chairman), Cllr S Hewitt (Vice Chairman), Cllr L Turney, Cllr Davis, Cllr B Hornby, DCC Cllr J Brook & 19 members of the public
Clerk: A Miller

Open Forum: the public expressed their views at the appropriate agenda items.

1 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Hanson

2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations – None

3 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meetings (circulated)

Ordinary meeting of 10 January 2019 and extraordinary meeting of 21 February 2019 –
Signed and accepted as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Hewitt **Seconded** Cllr Davis All agreed

4 County Councillor's Report

DCC Cllr J Brook gave information about the approved budget of Devon County Council. The County Council had to make £13.5 million savings, but there are areas that were not affected by the budget cuts, e.g. children and adult services. There are more funds available for drainage works, schools and employing additional staff. DCC will employ more people, because the care services will be provided by the Council again, as the previous contractor did not provide the care services at the expected standard. There are three funds, which were previously administered by the District Council and now organizations can apply for these funds directly to the County Council. Details of these funds will be available later.

5 Planning Application: 19/00091/FUL

Location: Land adjacent to the Nobody Inn

Proposal: Five dwellings

The applicant, who was present at the meeting, explained that after the public consultation in January 2018, they took on board the comments and the proposed development is smaller than it was originally. Part of the field towards Town Barton remains a green area, and provides a right of way across the field. It can be used as additional parking for the church and the applicant would maintain it. Instead of the originally planned five detached dwellings the proposal contains three detached and one semidetached dwellings. The architect came to the meeting to answer technical questions.

The Chair invited the significant number of residents who were present at the meeting to express their views. The majority of the community were concerned about the effect that the development would have on the conservation area. The following points were raised.

- There are areas marked for possible development in the Parish, but the pub field is not amongst them. This area is outside of the settlement boundary and specifically excluded from development due to its historic value.
- The field is part of the conservation area, the medieval core of the village. The proposal would result in a loss of important historic views.
- The field played an important part in the life of the community in the past, and it can play a role in the future as well, if there are no houses on it.

Reflecting the opinion of the majority of the residents at the meeting, the Parish Council decided not to support the application.

Proposed Cllr Plummer **Seconded** Cllr Davis Four members voted in favour and one abstained.

6 Replacement Tree at the Triangle

The Parish Council decided to recommend to Devon Highways to replace the removed beech tree with a crab apple tree in the Triangle. The proposed tree would be smaller than the beech tree that stood there previously, and is a native species which should be suitable for the relatively small place in the centre of the village. As orchards are part of Doddiscombsleigh's history, the chosen tree would be a great addition to the conservation area and a hint to the heritage of the village.

Proposed Cllr Plummer **Seconded** Cllr Hewitt All agreed

7 Information about the Local Council Elections on 2 May 2019

The clerk informed the Council and the public that there will be district and parish council elections on Thursday, 2 May 2019. There are 7 positions available on the Parish Council. Nomination packs can be obtained during this meeting from the clerk and later from the Electoral Services of the District Council, calling 01626 215188, or emailing electoralservices@teignbridge.gov.uk. Nomination papers have to be hand delivered to the Returning Officer, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbott, TQ12 4XX by 4 pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019. The list of the candidates will be published on the Teignbridge District Council website, <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/electoral-services/elections-on-thursday-2-may-2019/> on 4 April. If there are seven or less candidates for the parish councillor positions, the candidates will be automatically elected for the posts. If there are more than seven candidates, there will be a poll on 2 May. Regardless of the number of parish councillor candidates, there will be a poll on 2 May to elect two district councillors to represent the Teign Valley. Residents who are not registered to vote yet, can still register by 12 April 2019. Further information about the elections can be found on the District Council and the Parish website.

If there are less than three candidates for the parish councillor position, then the new Council will be inquorate and cannot make valid decisions until the District Council appoint new members. This scenario would disrupt the normal Council operation, because there are deadlines that would not be met – approval of the Annual Return and the renewal of the insurance. In case of the inquorate new Council, the current Council may consider to hold an extraordinary meeting towards the end of April and make decisions about those issues which have an urgent deadline. Even if the new Council is not inquorate, the current Council may consider to hold an extraordinary meeting and approve the Annual Return, which relates to the 2018/19 financial year, when the current Council was in office, and not to leave this task for the new Council. The date of the next meeting is item 14 on the agenda and the Council can make a decision about it.

The Parish Council decided to find an appropriate date towards the end of April and hold an extraordinary meeting. **Proposed** Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Davis All agreed

8 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The clerk contacted Kate Berry, who did the internal audit last year, and she is ready to carry out the work this year as well. The Council appointed Kate Berry to do the internal audit for the 2018/19 financial year.

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Hewitt All agreed

9 Twinning Signs

Visitors will arrive from the French twinned parishes in June. Cllr Hewitt asked a quote for an oak twinning sign, which would be installed under the notice board in the Triangle. The cost is £179. The Council agreed that the wooden sign would be a good option and it can be ready for the visit. Cllr Hewitt agreed to ask additional quotes and the twinning sign can be an agenda item at the extraordinary meeting in April.

10 Highways Update

The Council thanked Steve LeMarchant for maintaining the green areas in the centre of the village for years as a volunteer. Due to health reasons he cannot do all the work himself and a volunteer is needed to cut the grass along the footpath between the church and the Triangle.

The Slow Down Signs planning application has been submitted. The planning permission has not been granted yet, but there were no objections. Hirst Signs needs up to 10 working days to deliver the signs, and the Council has to install them in March, as this is the condition of the Locality Budget grant. In order to meet this deadline, the Council has to order the signs this week, although the planning decision will be made only next week. The Council decided to order the signs as soon as possible to meet the condition of the grant.

Proposed Cllr Plummer **Seconded** Cllr Turney All agreed

11 Finance**11.1 Report**

The Clerk reported that the bank balance at 28 February 2019 was £6,270.54. After deducting the amount of un-presented cheques, the net bank balance was £5,964.14. The grant of £288 from the Communities Together Fund arrived for the Sign Project. Earmarked funds: Elections £1300, Emergency Fund £1200, CIL £1402.84, Parish Path Partnership Grant £491.29, Sign Project £151.60. In March £500 Locality Budget grant arrived for the Sign Project as well.

11.2 Approval of Expenditure

Payments to approve:

- Extra key for notice board – replacing an expired cheque, approved on 16 August 2018 £10.95
- ICO fee – fee request arrived after publishing agenda £40.00

Future payments to approve:

- DALC training course fee (Elections) £36.00
- DALC membership fee – last year it was £70.00
- TP Jones payroll agent fee £75.60
- Slow Down Signs – expected cost £542.40

Proposed Cllr Turney **Seconded** Cllr Hewitt All agreed

12 Clerk's Correspondence – Recent urgent correspondence not covered above - None

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

14 Date of Next Meeting – Discussed at item 7.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman