



## **Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of Doddiscombsleigh held on Thursday 16 May 2023 at 7.30 pm at Woodah Farm**

**Present:** Cllr W Hole (Chairman), Cllr M Moorhouse (from agenda item 3), Cllr J Sawyer, Cllr R Crocker, District Councillor A Swain and 3 members of the public  
Clerk: A Miller

The Chairman introduced Cllr Swain, a new district councillor for the Teign Valley, to the public.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **2 Ratification of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors Held on 12 May 2022**

**Resolved** The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Electors held on 12 May 2022 was unanimously accepted as a true record.

### **3 Report for the Year 2022/23**

Cllr Moorhouse joined the meeting.

The Chairman reported about the previous year.

About the general operation of the Council:

In 2022-23 the Parish Council held 10 meetings and decided to hold monthly ordinary council meetings – except in August.

The Parish Council elected a new Chairman, who has been holding the position since last May.

The former chairman, Cllr Turney, resigned from his councillor position due to his other commitments.

4 of the 6 councillors decided to stand for election this April and they were elected to the positions. There are 3 vacancies now, which need to be filled by co-option.

The Parish Council would like to thank Ms Burdge and Mr Davis for their work on the Council.

The Parish Council secured a grant from Cllr Jerry Brook's Locality Budget to purchase a new office laptop.

Regarding planning:

Last year 16 planning applications (including appeals) were discussed.

The Parish Council discussed and objected the Teignbridge Local Plan development proposal for the Parish.

The Parish Council intended to improve the efficiency that its comments make on planning decisions and on the process of planning enforcement cases. First, the Parish Council invited a representative of the Planning Authority to one of its meetings, but the invitation was refused. Then Doddiscombsleigh turned to other parishes and towns in the area of Teignbridge Planning Authority and organized the first meeting of the Planning Forum, which is lobbying to improve the co-operation between parishes and the Authority and to give more

influence for communities to shape where they live. 17 parishes attended the meeting and decided to join their forces and send a joint letter to Teignbridge detailing the areas which need improvement. The Planning Authority intends to attend the second meeting of the Planning Forum at the end of this month and work on the way forward.

#### Fir tree:

Unfortunately, a detailed scan of the fir tree revealed that there was a significant decay in the tree trunk and Devon County Council decided to remove the iconic tree. The discussion about the future of the Triangle will be the next agenda item.

#### Bus shelter:

The bus shelter has been repainted following an incident when children left marks on the wall. The Parish Council secured a grant from the Tidy Teignbridge Fund to cover the cost.

#### Queen's Jubilee and National Mourning:

The community celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last June. The Parish Council presented the children of the Parish with a Jubilee mug and organized the engraving of the Jubilee Stone to commemorate the event – partly funded by Cllr Jerry Brook's Locality Budget.

Sadly, in September the Parish was mourning the death of the Queen and parishioners laid their flowers at the Triangle.

The Parish Council planted three trees on the road verge close to the T junction, with the permission of the landowner, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy - in memory of the late Queen.

#### Telephone box:

The telephone box, which was adopted last year by the Parish Council, has been refurbished. The project was mostly funded by public donations.

#### Highways:

Last year the Parish Council approved an Annual Plan for Drain Clearing, which formalized the previous years' practice, when the lengthsman cleared the drains along the main roads of the Parish. The project was partly (25%) funded by a grant from the Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund and partly from the Parish Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund.

Potholes has been reported to the Highways, but the condition of the roads deteriorated significantly. The Parish Council asked for volunteers to repair potholes in the Parish as part of the Road Warden Scheme, but so far only one resident volunteered.

The Parish Council applied for a 20mph speed limit restriction within the village, but the application was not successful.

The Parish Council continued reporting incidents at the Railway Bridge, but the authorities have not solved the problem yet.

#### Finance:

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

The Council decided to move the current account from HSBC to Unity Trust Bank, because the new bank's online system can provide 2-person authorization for payments, and it is more secure.

The Parish Council received a significant amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money last year, which allowed projects like drain clearing to be carried out.

Community funded projects were the refurbishment of the telephone kiosk and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Parish Council thanks the parishioners who help the community and especially those who cleared the roads after the serious storm last week.

**4 Discussion about the Future of the Triangle**

No new suggestions were raised.

**5 Open Discussion for Parishioners**

The following points were raised.

- The storm and the effect on the Triangle. Previously the water flew down towards Ashton from Down Lane, but since two houses with access roads were built there, the water and the debris flow towards the Triangle.
- A day of volunteering was proposed for drain and gully clearing.
- Speed restriction would appear to be necessary in the village – a possible solution would be speedhumps.
- Burnt Meadows was tarmacked after children’s accidents.
- Residents raise a lot of money for specific projects through the Village Fetes.
- Road Warden Scheme: it was clarified that Devon Highways provide only cold tarmac for the scheme, which is only a temporary solution.
- Dog fouling is a problem on Rectory Lane and at the Triangle.

**6 Chairman’s Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date