

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall dressing rooms on Tuesday February 6th 2024

Present: Cllrs P French (Chairman), R Squire, P Lewis, D Matthews, C Heard, K Morris, T Anderson and A Arnold, County Cllr J Brook, District Cllrs Swain and Purser and the Clerk Lynne Ogden

1. a) Apologies – Cllr Smith

b) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests: None

2. Minutes of the Council meeting held on January 2nd 2024 had been distributed, were approved and signed.

3. Progress Reports

3.1 Action Points from last meeting- All actions completed

3.2 Clerk's report – had been sent to all Cllrs with the Highways report

3.3 District Cllr Purser had sent a report which had been sent to all Cllrs. He also wanted to remind the Council about the DALC/TDC meeting on 12/3/2024

District Cllr Swain had nothing to add.

County Cllr Brook reported that: - the County Budget had been scrutinised and there was to be a 6.33% increase, with 2% of Council tax being ring fenced for Young Adults and Social care. Highways budget is about the same as last year and, although they have received a lump sum given by Government, there is still not enough to cover the 8000 miles of roads. (2000 of which are A and B roads and the rest are smaller lanes). Good news is there is a larger locality budget next year, mainly to support groups that work within the Community and help other people. He said that they had a good team at County who were working hard to keep within the budget. However, the SEND (Special Educational needs and Disability) debt is still hanging over them. Cllr Brook was asked if he had any locality budget left that could go towards the benches in the Village Green. He said he did and he would message the Clerk with the amount to apply for. **Action Clerk**

3.4 Housing Working Group – Cllr French sent the following report to all Cllrs: - The draft response to the PIP application submitted by the Developer for Site 1 was approved at the Jan PC and subsequently uploaded to the TDC site by the clerk. There was an additional 40+ objections registered. We await the outcome from TDC which may/may not be available for the Feb PC. Meanwhile an encouraging meeting with the preferred site representatives has occurred. Some issues remain to be resolved but there are no fatal negatives at this time. In addition, the HWG has been talking with Christow Community Land Trust (CCLT) and Middlemarch Community Led Housing CIC, who advise communities on projects like ours; if there would be any advantage for us if we created a CLT. This has not been done to date due to lack of resources. We will hold a face-2-face meeting on 19th Feb to explore ideas before the next full HWG on 20th Feb.

Action Cllrs French and Matthews

3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team – Cllr Smith had sent the following report to all Cllrs: - DERT held a meeting on January 10th in the Royal Oak. We are still actively working on the document and a leaflet. We had discussed what would be helpful to purchase in the event of an emergency and all agreed hi vis vests saying who we are on the back would be good. We agreed that instead of saying DERT it would be more beneficial to say Dunsford Parish Council so we can use them for other PC events. I would like to suggest we order 10 at a cost of around £45 (will confirm at the meeting) We now have a WhatsApp group set up for the DERT committee as part of our communication. The Council unanimously approved the purchase of the High Viz vests. **Action Cllr Smith**

3.6 The Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI) – Cllr Squire reported that they had met on the 29th January. The topics discussed included the proposed footpath; the stepping stones; wildlife warden activities and Beating the Bounds. They also wished to enquire about the possibility of leasing the land from Highways for the proposed footpath and the possibility of traffic calming items being installed on the B3212. **Action Clerk/Cllr Squire**

3.7 Review of Community Assets – The appropriate forms will be drafted ready to send off and the relevant asset owners still need to be approached.

Action Cllr Lewis

3.8 Reports from other meetings attended by Cllrs – None

4. Correspondence: - List of correspondence received by email listed overleaf.

5. Finance 5.1 Current Account/Treasurer's - £8366.45 as at 17/01/2024

Business Bank Instant Account - £1844.52 as at 09/01/24

The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: -

5.2 Clerk's Salary – 5 weeks x 10 hours a week Gross pay £686.50

Net pay to Clerk £509.30 + expenses £31.49 = **£540.79 chq 1530**

5.3 Elliott Fairs – Lengthsman's tasks for January - **£125 chq 1531**

5.4 Walled Garden January PC room hire - £10 chq 1532

5.5 Dartmoor Tree Surgeons – Tree pruning in the Village Green -**£3114 chq 1533**

5.6 NI payment for HMRC – To reimburse the Clerk who has made this payment for the Council - **£13.86 chq 1534**

5.7 Q3 Reconciliation – This had been sent to all Cllrs. The Council resolved to approve it and it was signed by the RFO and Chairman

5.8 Elliott Fairs – replacement for lost cheque 1520 - **£125 chq 1535**

The Clerk has requested a precept of £16,078 from Teignbridge District Council

6. Village Green a) Monthly Report – a) Cllr Matthews had sent the **monthly report** to all Cllrs. A replacement part is needed on the Climbing frame. There was also an incident with sewerage coming from a blocked pipe and affecting the Green. Cllr Matthews contacted SW Water and they attended promptly and resolved the problem. They also replaced the manhole cover. Thanks to Cllr Matthews and to Graham Dicker for notifying the Clerk, initially. **b) Replacement benches** - Two quotes had now been gained. A discussion took place about different approaches to providing the circular benches and whether it was possible to raise the funds needed for the wrought iron ones that would last longer than wooden ones. Methods of fund raising was discussed, including Crowd Funding, which will be looked into. **c) Tree pruning** - this work has been completed and the trees are looking better and healthier for it. Some of the cut branches are being left for animal habitats and some have been chipped. These will be left to rot down and can then be used as mulch.

Action All Cllrs /Clerk

7. Planning: - Applications: 7.1 Teignbridge Planning - 24/00129 – Removal of agricultural building and construction of two dwellings – Ford Cottage, Dunsford. The Council had no objections to this application. **7.2 DNPA – 0051/24** – Conversion of a redundant reservoir to dwelling (Technical details consent following Permission in Principle application 0186/22- Dunsford Reservoir, Fulford Lane, Dunsford. The Council discussed this and voted to oppose the application (4 to oppose and 4 abstentions) and a comment will be made about the visual impact on the Village. **Decisions:** None **Action Clerk**

8. Lengthsman – The Clerk reported that, so far, three people had shown an interest in this role. She has sent an initial reply to all of them and will update the forms (to be checked by Cllrs French and Matthews) to be sent out for them to apply officially. Elliott will continue to do 4 hours in February and will help manage a handover towards the end of March.

Action Clerk

9. Footpath Inspections – There are still some to be checked although most of them have been. Cllr French reported that things were moving forward again with repair of the stepping stones over the river. The Environment Agency have decided that it will not allow any concrete in the river so an alternative approach, similar to Tarr Steps on Exmoor, is being looked at.

10. Snow warden/grit bins (including a request for a new one)/sandbags –There was not enough time to discuss this fully but the Clerk informed the Council about the situation on the Lane from Tower Lodge up to the Tedburn St Mary boundary when a car had to be rescued during the recent icy conditions. Highways regulations remain that they will not provide or maintain any new grit bins. The Council did agree to fund some salt/ grit bags, if necessary, as an emergency. The Clerk will also discuss with Highways. This item will be revisited.

Action Clerk

11. Dog bin emptying 2024-2025 – The same rota as last year was approved and the Council resolved to pay the amount of £620 for this service. The Clerk will inform Teignbridge.

Action Clerk

12. Parish noticeboards – The Council agreed that action was necessary. The Clerk has been liaising with the Church about the refurbishment and will continue to do so. **Action Clerk**

13. Matters brought forward by the Chairman (for. information only /possible addition to next month’s agenda including: - a) Any pressing **Highways issues** for Clerk to pass on to Highways’ contact. b) Suspended for this meeting- policy reviews, 20s plenty c) The date for **the Annual Parish meeting this year will be 23/04/2024** – The Clerk will begin to contact those who normally contribute and will post the date in the Parish magazine. d) there has been a request from Smatter for two ‘no littering’ signs.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th March 2024 in the Village Hall dressing rooms

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Signed as a true record..... Cllr French (chairman)

Date

Email circulation during the past month

- Planning applications and decisions from DNPA and Teignbridge
- Rural Services Network Bulletin plus Funding Digests
- DALC newsletters
- Devon Communities Together – various newsletters
- Teignbridge newsletter
- Devon County Council newsletter
- Devon Climate Emergency newsletter
- Teignbridge Budget Survey