

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020

Present: Cllrs P French, C Radclyffe, A Smallridge, K Morris, P Hayes, D Matthews, H Phipps, D Gardner, District Cllr Purser and the Clerk, Lynne Ogden. Three members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chairman began the meeting by thanking all the Councillors for their hard work in the past year.

1. **Apologies** were received by Cllr Heard
2. **Declaration of Interest Register of Interests:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on December 3rd, 2019** had been distributed, were approved and signed.
4. **Progress reports**
 - 4.1 Action Points from last meeting- All action points had been addressed apart from liaising with the school about signage, which the Clerk has arranged to do before the February meeting.
 - 4.2 Clerk's report – had been sent to all Cllrs. There was one addition.
 - 4.3 Village noticeboards – The locked noticeboards have been completed, installed and feedback forms returned to those who gave us grants. The original boards are stored in the Church and are available for recycling. The Council are pleased with them and thanked the Clerk for organising it. **A spare set of keys for the noticeboards was given to the Chairman. The Clerk also holds a set to maintain the boards.**
 - 4.4 A Dunsford Book – Cllr Hayes reported that a small group of interested people had been formed and they had begun collecting photographs. **Action Cllr Hayes**
 - 4.5 Snow warden – The Clerk updated the Council and was instructed to contact the interested party and to keep Cllr Heard informed. **Action Clerk**
 - 4.6 Housing survey/Affordable Houses project – A meeting was held in December, at which, Dartmoor National Park stated that only three sites are viable for them and that they are challenging South West Water about existing sewerage problems. The three sites are known as: - Site 4 – at Great Mead, behind the houses opposite the Garage. Site 5 – next to The Court where the public footpath is and site 6 – the field opposite The Hazels. All of them have issues and their use is finally dependent upon the Landowners being interested in their land being developed. It is hoped that a carpark for the Village will be included in the plans. The Council took questions from the members of public present. The Council stated that this is a Community led project and that there will be public consultations in the Village before any decisions are made. The Housing survey report will be put on the website. **Action Cllr Radclyffe**
5. **Correspondence:** - List of correspondence received by email listed overleaf

6. Finance 6.1.C/A £7752.79 as at 12/12/19 BBI/A £1824.69 as at 09/12/19

The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: - 6.2 Clerk's Salary – 5 weeks x 10 hours a week - Gross pay £528.50 Net pay to Clerk £422.90 (Tax to HMRC £105.60 to be paid in Q4) + expenses of £60.39 **Total to Clerk - £ 483.29 chq 1323**

6.3 The Community Heartbeat Trust for Annual support cost of two defibrillators - **£302.40 chq 1324**

6.4 HMRC – Q3 payment October, November, December - **£274.40 chq 1325**

6.5 Q3 Reconciliation – This was approved by the Council and signed by Chairman and RFO.

6.6 **Budget and Precept for 2020 -2021** – The Council discussed the updated information produced by the Clerk. It was noted that the Council had been running at a deficit as reserves had been built up. Areas of savings were identified but the Council does have several ongoing (rising) costs such as maintenance of the Village Green, the defibrillators and the dog waste bin at Steps Bridge. After much discussion, a majority of the Council agreed that the precept does need to be increased, being mindful to keep the council tax increase to a minimum. It was agreed that the **precept be raised to £10,747** which would raise the band D council tax by £5.52 per annum and others accordingly. The above budget does not include costings for the post of a lengthsman. This will be trialled in this year from reserves and, if successful, should be funded adequately from the precept in 2021 -2022. The Clerk will request this precept from Teignbridge District Council. Andrew Smallridge asked for it to be recorded that he opposed the increase in precept. **Action Clerk**

6.7 Assistance with maintenance of Church grounds – A member of the Church Parochial Council attended the meeting and answered questions about the rewilding of part of the Churchyard. It is very much an experiment at the moment which began in July and is in an area behind the Church. The idea is that it is mown in August and the clippings are removed. This should allow the wild flower seeds that have been sown to flourish. Opinion was divided among the council. It was considered good to enrich the environment but could look untidy if not maintained properly. However, it will not decrease the maintenance costs. One councillor would have welcomed more consultation and it was suggested that maybe a talk could be given to interested people in the village to explain more about the project. The Council agreed to contribute to the ongoing maintenance costs of the Church grounds up to £500 and will request an invoice from the Groundsman for this to be paid at the next meeting.

Action Clerk

7.Village Green Report -Cllr Morris began by thanking Cllr Smallridge for removing the old play equipment from the Village Green. It is now ready for the new equipment to be installed. There is a pre start meeting with Wickstead to plan the installation programme, which will take about two weeks. Cllr Morris also reported that she has quotes for a new baby swing and has secured a grant from Hastoe to pay for this. A request was made to

sweep up the leaves in the play area and Cllr Matthews volunteered for this. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Smallridge, Gardner and Matthews for all their help and Cllr Morris for her hard work.

Action Cllrs Morris, Matthews

8.DNPA, District and County Councillors' reports

8.1 District Cllr Purser reported that money is very tight and the Council is looking for ways to maintain its funds. It is possible that grant funds, like Rural Aid, will be cut. In the past, Dunsford has benefited from this grant, most recently being its contribution to the new noticeboards.

9. Planning: - Applications 9.1 – None Decisions 9.2 – DNPA 0473/19 Springfield, Dunsford – Grant of Conditional Planning Permission. 9.3 – DNPA 0474/19 – St Nicholas Dunsford -Grant of Conditional Planning Permission 9.4 – Teignbridge 19/01916/FUL – Moorview House Dunsford – Grant of conditional planning permission.

10. Parish Online – The clerk informed the Council that, as agreed, she had registered for a 30-day free trial. All councillors present were given the username and password so they can trial it for themselves before the next meeting. The Clerk has also applied for a PSMA (Public Sector Mapping Agreement) license which will give the Council access to aerial photos as part of Parish Online when completed. **Action All Cllrs and Clerk**

11. Climate and Ecological Emergency –Cllr Morris reported that she, Cllr Radclyffe and Cllr French had applied for a grant to help Dunsford work towards their targets. The Village Hall has been booked from 6 pm for the meeting on the 28th January with the Teign Climate Hub. The Council agreed to pay for this cost and members of the Teign Climate Hub are helping to set up the room. The doors open at 7.15pm. Local landowners have been invited to the meeting by Cllr French but all are welcome. Cllrs offered to donate refreshments.

12. Dog bins – a) The Council had been informed of the increase in costs, from April 2020, for emptying the dog bin at Steps Bridge. They agreed unanimously that the 39% increase was too expensive and discussed alternatives. One idea is to include this activity within the proposed Lenghtsman role. In addition, Cllrs are prepared to volunteer for this job to save the Parish money. The Clerk was instructed to inform Teignbridge that they would not be using them for Step's Bridge from April 2020 and to look into the implications of volunteers carrying out the task. b) The Council discussed the possibility of a new bin at Clifford Bridge End of the Reserve but, due to ongoing cost implications, decided to postpone action on this until it was clear how the new "emptying" arrangements of the exciting bin would work. c) The general bin in the centre of the village has not yet been upgraded. Teignbridge has instructed the contractors and they will replace it when they are next in the area. Once completed, the phased withdrawal of the current red dog bin will start

Action Clerk

13. Training/Meetings Attended by Council this month: –

SLCC Annual Branch meeting 6/12/19 – Clerk attended

14. Village signage – Discussion was postponed till next meeting when the Clerk will have liaised with the school. **Action Clerk**

15. Lengthsman for Dunsford – The Chairman thanked those councillors who had contributed ideas for the tasks needed. It was suggested that we also ask parishioners for their ideas. The Clerk was instructed to do this through the Parish magazine. **Action Clerk**

16. To discuss the email from Lynton & Lynmouth Town Mayor (email forwarded to all Cllrs on 9/12/19) The Council decided that, whilst they were sympathetic towards Towns and Parishes losing their Fire Stations, they are not in a position to offer financial support to their cause.

17. Matters brought forward by the Chairman (for information only /possible addition to next month’s agenda)

It was reported that dog fouling is becoming an issue again in the Village. The Clerk was asked to put a request to dog owners to act responsibly in the magazine.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Gardner and Smallridge for removing the bollard and tidying the area near the school.

The issue concerning the turning area that was being used as a parking space has been resolved by Cllr Morris talking to those concerned.

Cllr Phipps said she would attend this month’s TALC meeting on behalf of the Council.

18. Date of next meeting Tuesday February 4th 2020 at **Village Hall Dressing rooms, Dunsford**, at 7.45 pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm

Signed as a true record..... Cllr P French (Chairman)

Date

Email circulation during the past month

- Teignbridge District Council weekly list of applications for planning
- Rural Services Network Bulletin plus Funding Digest
- DALC newsletters
- DNP planning applications and decisions
- Teignbridge planning applications and decisions
- Prince of Wales Award 2020 information
- TALC draft minutes of 28/11/19
- Letter from Lynton and Lynmouth Town Mayor
- Temp. traffic notice re. Two Crosses to Leigh Cross
- Benefits training information
- Invitation from Devon Town and Parishes for Climate Action
- A festive look back at Devon Communities Together