

Dunchideock Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1st September 2014

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Swain (Chairman), Dow, Ellis, Eveleigh, Goodchild, Riddick & Robson. Two residents present. TDC Lake arrived during the meeting. There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.
2. **Speaker – Mr Dave Facey, Community fire Safety Officer, DSFRS**
 - 2.1 Mr Facey explained the background to the present community fire safety work, aimed at reducing deaths, injuries and fires. Significant reductions have been achieved over the last decade by virtue of educating the public. School children are a particular target and visits are made to schools to target different age groups.
 - 2.2 The education process also aims at groups such as the elderly and vulnerable with visits to Age Concern, doctors surgeries & childrens agencies. Visits can be made to private homes on invitation to carry out fire safety risk assessments and provide smoke detectors (and sometimes CO2 detectors) when appropriate. The home fire safety visit advises on emergency escape plans, phone access and fire extinguishers (he stressed we should read the instructions for how to use them!).
 - 2.3 It may be that not all our village fire hydrants remain in service. We shall follow this up with DSFRS to get the current situation.
 - 2.4 Mr Facey was thanked for attending our meeting and providing informative and valuable advice.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 7th July 2014.** Cllr Riddick proposed and Cllr Eveleigh seconded these to be a correct record. All approved.
4. **District Councillor's Report** Cllr Lake had no special matters to report but there was a discussion regarding the forthcoming East of Exeter developments. Health clinics, roads, public transport were discussed. This item will be on a forthcoming agenda for more information on progress.
5. **BT Fibre Cabinet.** Further to the on site 25th June to discuss options to protect the new box, it has so far proved difficult to get action by DCC/BT. This will be continue to be pursued by Cllr Swain
6. **Previous Clerk.** Due to her domestic situation, Mrs Smith is unable to release the remaining parish paperwork from her home in the immediate future. This will be followed up in due course. This historical information must be retained for parish records. Cllr Goodchild had discussed with Mrs Smith the repayment to the pc of her advance salary. He reported that Mrs Smith considers she has been paid in arrears and not in advance (as the council had agreed to be the case in May). Since the background information to resolve this is not presently available, the topic will be put in abeyance for now.
7. **Recruitment of New Clerk.** Cllr Swain has re-advertised in September Country News. Cllr Goodchild will look into details of the locum clerks listed on DLAC web pages. Cllr Swain has spoken with a local clerk regarding them assisting us, but they have declined. Contact is being made with another local clerk.

8. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.** No further news from Mr Thompson, the co-ordinator on possible changes. Cllr Robson will meet him to discuss more details and consider whether and/or how she might be able to assist.
9. **HMRC Data.** An “Interim Penalty Letter” from HMRC (originally sent to Mrs Smith in June) has been received regarding Mrs Smith’s pay and tax for 2013/14. It appears she did not report to them as necessary, using the laptop and their software programme. Cllr Swain has brought the council up to date with HMRC but a fine, now thought to be up to £400, might still be imposed. The HMRC final assessment and penalty letter is now awaited.
10. **Web Domain and Email** Cllr Eveleigh proposed and Cllr Dow seconded payment of £18.31 to Cllr Swain for 1&1 Internet domain fee (for 2 years) and the email fee for one year. All agreed.
11. **Energy Saving** Cllrs Goodchild and Robson reported that on detailed investigation, the experiences of Blewbury parish do not lend themselves to a parish of our size and nature. There is however, still potential for smart meters and use of a heat detection gun for residents to use to improve village energy efficiency. They will investigate possible funding for such equipment
12. **Sandbags.** The draft policy was agreed (sent to DCC 2/9/14). We shall maintain our number & storage of bags as they are in the village hall store.
13. **“Getting People Involved”** Cllr Robson reported back on the conference she had attended. She summarised that unfortunately, very little of the information or suggestions relate well to the nature of our village
14. **Finance.** The Chairman reported today’s balance is £2,431.39 mentioning that this includes £300 TDC Cllr’s. grant received last year for IT equipment.
15. **Village Benches** Cllrs Dow & Swain will bring the benches back to Cllr Dows’ home for maintenance
16. **Village Hall Committee.** Quotations are being obtained for work to refurbish the garage/store rooms roof and walls. An application has been made to TDC for a Premises licence for selling alcohol at village functions. The pc agreed to send a letter of support.
17. **Clerk’s Correspondence.** The Chairman highlighted the DCC Parish Councils Conference to which all are invited. Other items included changes to Open Government Regulations (filming or recording meetings), the polling station review (we agreed to not propose changes) and the annual DALC conference.
18. **Open Meeting** The changes to the electoral roll were discussed. The public might wish to check their status on the new roll since errors appear to exist.
19. **Chairman’s Remarks:** Cllr Eveleigh mentioned that there is a proposal to build 9 affordable houses on private land in Shillingford. Cllr Dow said there is a water leak at the bottom of Blacksmith Hill. It has already been reported to SWW.
20. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 3rd November 2014 (coffee – Cllr Ellis).

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Cheque 182 £18.31 D Swain – for Domain name/email

Chairman