

Dunchideock Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 November 2015

Present: Cllrs Swain (Chairman), Dow, Ellis, Eveleigh, Goodchild, Robson. 14 residents present. TDC Cllr Lake arrived during the meeting

1. **Introduction & Welcome** – A warm welcome was extended to Sarah Sharpe who has taken on the role of Clerk to the Parish.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Riddick
3. **Speaker – PC Jon Croft** – Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC Croft reported 5 crimes recorded by the Police this year for the Parish. He advised on the good practice of recording serial numbers on equipment (power tools and machinery) to assist in restoring them to the owner following theft or burglary. He reassured that crime levels were low in the parish. Questions were taken from the public which covered advice for deterring theft of oil, self-help, Neighbourhood and Farm Watch. The overriding message was for vigilance and to encourage the reporting of any crimes to the Police. The 101 service costs 15p per call.
4. **Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were made.
5. **Open Meeting** – No additional items were raised. Members of the public were advised that matters relating to the planning application on the agenda would be brought forward to this part of the meeting.
6. **Planning** – Application 15/02704/FUL (Lyalls - caravan) was discussed. The applicants kindly explained their application. Members of the public were invited to ask questions and present their views. Cllr Goodchild detailed the context in relation to the Local Plan. It was reported that there had been no planning notices posted and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to TDC Planning dept to request a time extension. It was proposed that the PC will provide a detailed response (Cllrs Swain/Goodchild to draft) to TDC regarding various aspects in this application. It is therefore not supported. Proposed by Cllr Eveleigh, Seconded by Cllr Dow. Agreed unanimously.
7. **Matters Arising**
 - 7.1 **Village fire hydrants** – This matter is still in progress
 - 7.2 **Highways**
 - a) Manstree Cross – It was agreed that the situation regarding the corner would be monitored.
 - b) Milestone monument – Cllr Ellis reported the rocks had been placed.
 - c) Mud on parish roads – This was due to the late harvest and prevailing conditions. It was reiterated that contractors and farmers have a duty of care to keep the highway clear of debris.
 - d) Vehicles from the quarry – concern was raised about the size of vehicles associated with the business in the quarry and the difficulty when they encounter other large vehicles such as the bus on the lanes. It was agreed that due regard should be made of the bus timetable to alleviate this conflict.
 - e) Drain outside Mount Pleasant – Appears blocked. Cllr Robson advised that the Highways gully cleaners were programmed to work in the area.

8. Finance Report

8.1 **Financial Position.** Having looked after financial affairs in the absence of a Clerk, the Chairman reported that the 2nd precept payment had been paid by TDC. The change of signatories with TSB bank is in progress.

8.2 **BT Grant.** It had been agreed by BT to make a donation of £600 for masonry work to protect the Broadband cabinet however they are struggling with a mechanism to pay this other than to an approved BT contractor. Discussions are ongoing.

8.3 **Salary and Expenses.** Cllrs agreed the costs of Clerks training for Transparency course (£30) and New Clerks course (£30) to be split 50/50 with Shillingford Parish which is serviced by the same clerk. It was proposed that the Clerk would receive salary two-monthly in arrears. Councillors were advised that the Contract of Employment had been signed. All agreed.

9. **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator** – Deferred to the next meeting.

10. **Transparency Code** - A grant under the Transparency Code was discussed and it was agreed that an application would be made for IT equipment for the Clerk.

11. **Data Protection Act** – The affect on this council is to be investigated in due course.

12. **County & District Councillors Reports** – TDC Lake reported on the status of the planning application relating to the caravan site at Clapham. A TDC site meeting had been arranged at short notice but no Clapham residents had been able to attend. The matter is referred back to a full planning meeting.

13. **Village Hall Report** – A grant application for refurbishing the toilets is being progressed.

14. **Clerk's Correspondence** – No issues raised.

15. **Open Meeting** – Residents reported that there were blue markings on the Clapham road believed to indicate SWW investigation into a leak. It was requested that the TDC Environmental hotline be published (0800 328 6402); it had successfully been used to report several occasions of dead badgers on road and was an efficient service. The meeting was reminded that the rural skip would be in place on Saturday 7 November and members were encouraged to make full use of the facility. This has been extended to adjoining parishes.

16. **Chairman's Remarks** – The handover to the new Clerk was progressing well. Cllrs were asked on views to invite the Devon Communities Together for Devon to run a Broadband village meeting to encourage sign up to super-fast broadband. It was agreed not to progress.

17. **Date of next meeting** – Date of next Parish Council meeting was set as Monday 4th January 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman