

DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, School Lane, Dunchideock, EX2 9UG

Present: Cllr Sharpe (Chairman), Cllr Bean, Cllr McCarthy, Cllr Moor, Cllr Robson, Mr Harvey (Clerk)

2 members of the public

1. **Public Discussion:** An owner of Greenacres, Belvedere Park, explained some of the problems that they had during the building work and that they have tried to consider the presence of the bats.

No other items were raised

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Cllr Cook, Cllr Ellis, TDC Cllr Nuttall.

3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** (*In accordance with the Code of Conduct*)
No Declarations of Interest were given by the Councillors.

4. **Planning:** Cllr McCarthy gave briefings on the following matters as in the attached Annex A.

- a. Application Ref: 19/00668/FUL
 Location Greenacres, Belvedere Park, Dunchideock
 Proposal Change of roof materials from concrete tiles to natural slate and extend existing front dormer to include Juliet balcony and internal alterations

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a full discussion as one of the owners was present. The comment was made that the property was built about 40 years ago and there was a need to replace the roof tiles in view of their condition and all the works would improve the appearance of the property. Cllr McCarthy also explained some of the important points in the bat survey completed by the Consultant Ecologist.

Proposed by Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Sharpe and resolved to send the response to TDC as recommended for this property in Annex A.

The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders.

- b. Application Ref: 19/01358/CLDE
 Location Treetops, Higher Ashton
 Proposal Non-compliance with an agricultural occupancy condition attached to Treetops

Cllr McCarthy highlighted the fact that evidence had been provided of non-compliance for the last 10 years. However the condition included the word “was” and no evidence had been provided of the occupation of the occupiers at or from the start in 1993 of an unbroken occupancy and there is the possibility that the Agricultural Occupancy Condition could still apply.

Proposed by Cllr Bean and seconded by Cllr Moor and resolved to send the response to TDC as recommended for this property in Annex A.

5. **Telephone Box, Blacksmiths Hill:** Cllr Sharpe advised that TDC has sent the Council a Consultation Letter from BT regarding their current programme of intended public payphone removals that includes the Telephone Box on Blacksmiths Hill. The reasons given by BT are that no calls have been made in the last 12 months; there has been a 90% reduction in the use of payphones and the increased coverage for mobile phones.

(a) The first aspect to be considered was cessation of the telephone service. Cllr Moor queried the increased coverage for mobile phones as there were some black spots in the area. Despite this it was considered that it would be difficult to object to the cessation of the service. Proposed by Cllr Bean and seconded by Cllr Robson and resolved to advise TDC that there was no objection to the telephone being taken out of service.

(b) The second aspect to be considered was to decide whether to adopt the telephone box as the consultation process gives the local community the opportunity to “adopt” a traditional red “heritage” telephone box and to make it an asset that local people can enjoy at a cost of £1. Cllr Sharpe understood that if removed BT would sell it to the highest bidder. If adopted BT would provide free electric light for 7 years and maintenance would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The box was considered an iconic landmark in the village and its loss would be regretted. Other communities have made various uses of them such as a Book Exchange, Art Gallery, Photograph Gallery and for making available surplus fruit and vegetables for the community. Some residents had offered to buy the box and set up a charity if the Parish Council took no action. Suggestions for its use will be requested from residents. Proposed by Cllr Sharpe and seconded by Cllr Bean and resolved to advise BT that the Parish Council would like to adopt the telephone box.

6. **Defibrillators:** Cllr Sharpe advised that at the meeting in July it was resolved to agree to the siting of the third mains powered defibrillator on the wall below 2 Belvedere Park and to Western Power Distribution providing a non-metered electricity supply at their nearest pole. The cost of the connection to an electricity point for the defibrillator was the responsibility of the Parish Council. A problem had arisen in that WPD were going to provide a 3 phase supply and the special equipment required for this would cost about £800. A local electrician had spoken to WPD to advise them that a 3 phase supply was not necessary and they had agreed to reduce this to a standard 16 amps. This would reduce costs but the full cost was not known.

Other associated problems had come to light in so far as the wall on which the Defibrillator back board is to be mounted needs to be made good which will be done by councillors, an unmetered supplier is required which will be dealt with by Cllr Moor and the unit will overhang the verge which may need the approval of DCC Highways and the Clerk will obtain clarification. A review of the VAT regulations meant that VAT cannot be reclaimed on any expenditure as the funds had been donated.

The available funds are: - £84 surplus from donations and £264 from TDC Communities Together Fund for installation which are a total of £348. There is compensation from Lloyds Bank of £316 in the bank balance which will require a resolution if it is to be used towards the third Defibrillator.

7. **Parish Benches:** Cllr Bean reminded the Council that there are two benches in the parish that are Parish Assets. The Millennium Bench is on the Bridleway below Haldon Belvedere and the Jubilee Bench is at Webberton Cross. He reported that he has inspected them recently and considers that they both need to be removed, repaired and revarnished. A resident offered to do the necessary work over the winter which may include a small cost. Proposed by Cllr Bean and seconded by Cllr Robson and resolved to agree to the work being done and to accept the kind offer of the resident. The resident was thanked for the offer to do the work.

8. **Public Discussion:** The comment was made that there had been the suggestion of moving the telephone box to the Village Hall, but it was considered that the majority of residents would like it to remain where it is as it is an iconic landmark

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 17th September 2019

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Minutes Approved

Signed

Appointment

Date