

DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Annual Parish meeting on 21st May 2018 in Dunchideock Village Hall.

Present – Cllrs S Sharpe, S Moor, R Bean, K Robson, A McCarthy, DCC A Connett, Mrs C Retallick (clerk) and 21 member of the public.

The Chair Cllr Sharpe welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as the newly elected Chair of the parish council. She explained that tonight's meeting is a public meeting for the parishioners of Dunchideock.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr P Goodchild, TDC Cllr J Goodey and K Lake.
2. (The Chair moved this item to allow Cllr Connett leave to attend another meeting) Report from DCC Alan Connett – He congratulated the new councillors and thanked the council for the opportunity of being a parish councillor, during the last 12 months he was able to support the village hall for the repairs to the ceiling. This was from funds from the sale of Exeter airport. The repairs to the highways are still a constant concern but the best way to report defects is through the online reporting facility via DCC website. Finally, Cllr Connett promised to attend as many of our meetings as possible and is always willing to answer any queries via email or text. The Chair thanked Cllr Connett for his support.
3. Minutes – to approve the minutes from the last annual parish meeting held on 16th May 2017 – These have been circulated and were signed as a true record of that meeting.
4. Chairman's report from 2017/18 – As the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Goodchild was unable to be present at the meeting, a summary of the year was read out by the Clerk. The last 12 months have been a challenging with a lot of changes within the council membership. The year started with the usual Annual Parish and Annual Council meeting on the same evening and the co-option of Cllr McCarthy. With regard to council governance the financial regulations were approved and adopted but other documents were still under discussion. The council passed the external audit with just one area for action, which was the adoption of The Financial Regulations. This was dealt with within a month. Over the next few months sadly there were some difficulties resulting in 2 councillors resigning. Cllrs McCarthy and Eveleigh - I would like to thank Mrs Gill Eveleigh for her commitment and support during her time as councillor. The vacancies were advertised but before they were able to be filled the chairman stood down and the clerk resigned. Matters were still quite difficult until January when 3 more councillors resigned leaving the council inquorate and unable to function. The district authority appointed the District and County councillors to fill 3 vacancies on the parish council and thanks to them the council was quorate again. 2 councillors were co-opted (Sharpe and Moor). The council was then able to help the village hall with vital repairs to the ceiling. The 3 vacancies were advertised, but 15 electors called for an election which was held in May. Councillors Bean, McCarthy and Robson were elected and have joined the council. 2 parish planning applications have been considered this year but the council has commented on several other applications in neighbouring parishes. During the recent bad weather, the community spirit was demonstrated when Cllr Ellis and other volunteers helped to clear the snow from the lanes enabling parishioner's access to the main highways. This vital help was recognised by the councillors and an allowance was agreed and given for their expenses. The feeling in the new line up of the council is very positive and the members are looking forward to working together as a team for the benefit of the community in the forthcoming year.

5. Reports from County/District Councillors and Police – No district councillor or Police were in attendance.

6. Reports from any local organisations and clubs – Dunchideock Village Hall Committee. The Chairman is retiring after 14 years; however he reported that this year several successful events have been held. In December the ceiling fell down but with the help of grants the repairs were completed very quickly. There have been regular afternoon teas and a BBQ. An upgrade to the electrics including installing a music system and Wi-Fi is planned soon. He thanked the committee, some of whom are also stepping down so the remaining committee are looking for new members. Finally he thanked the community for supporting their events.

Neighbour Watch Shirley Philips reported the scheme has been linked to the Teignmouth branch for the last 2 ½ years. Together with a retired policeman they hope to keep this area up to date with contact numbers and an informative website. PC Martin Beck is the new Neighbourhood Officer for this area and will hopefully attend a future PC meeting. The main message for all is to ‘secure everything’. Information for joining the group was available. She brought along a parish map, prints are available for sale for approx. £15 and the funds will go to the parish church.

7. Open discussion followed by Cheese and Wine – The Chair invited comments. It was reported that recently a road traffic incident was caused by large plant machinery travelling through the village to the quarry, meeting an oncoming bus followed by a number of cars. The meeting agreed there has been an increase of large plant vehicles using the village roads are causing a problem churning up the banks, causing congestion at busy times, and presenting a safety issue to road users, particularly cyclists. The Chair understood the quarry users had an arrangement whereby the vehicles entering and exiting the quarry did so in a way to manage their timings with the bus schedule. A discussion took place illustrating a significant amount of concern from parishioners regarding the current use of the quarry and related vehicle movements. The Chair proposed this matter should be investigated further and added to the next council meeting agenda. In the meantime, the councillors will review the planning matters relating to the quarry to ensure compliance. A member of the public pointed out a conflict of interest for Cllr Ellis and this was acknowledged.

Another matter was raised. The mirror at Manstree Cross has been damaged; this is a very useful aid and essential for vehicles to safely emerge into the junction. It was confirmed that the mirror was originally purchased by the parish council and the council was asked if it could be replaced. The Chair confirmed this would be referred to Cllr Ellis to investigate.

The Chair thanked the members of the public and councillors for their attendance, the village hall committee for supplying the wine and Mrs McCarthy for organising the food.

Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Minutes Approved

Signed:

Name:

Date: