

# DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the Village Hall, Dunchideock

**Present** Cllrs Goodchild, Ellis and Moor

DCC A Connett, TDC Cllr J Goodey and Mrs C Retallick (Locum Clerk) and 13 member of the public

**The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the meeting of the sad news of Mrs Carol Smith's death. Carol had been Clerk to the council since before it achieved Parish Council status in 1984 and until her retirement in 2013, had passed away at the weekend. He then asked for a moment of silence as a mark of respect.**

**1) Apologies for Absence** – Received from Cllrs Sharpe and Lake

**2) Declarations Of Interest** – None were recorded

### **3) PUBLIC DISCUSSION -**

A member of the public asked why an election has been called. Cllr Connett explained the process and how this situation came about. The discussion carried on and several questions were asked including what would be the cost to the parish.

- The clerk was able to inform the meeting that an uncontested election would cost £150. The likely cost of a contested election without poll cards would be approximately £1,250 and the likely cost of a contested election with poll cards would be approximately £1,385.

Also when would the election take place?

- Again Cllr Connett explained that TDC would make the arrangements and these would be advertised. He also confirmed that postal votes were permitted.

Mr Doyle, who looks after bookings for the hall, asked if, in future, the end time of the council meetings could be recorded.

**4) Minutes** – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017, and on 21st February 2018.

The councillors agreed they were a true record of those meetings, and the chairman signed them.

**5) Matters arising from previous minutes which are not included on the agenda** (for information)

Covered below within the clerks report.

### **6) Reports from District and County Councillor, and Police Officer.**

Cllr Goodey informed the meeting that the planning applications for the Peamore industrial estate had recently been given consent after a vote with a very small margin. He informed the meeting, for interest only, that another similar application had also been granted but that it would be several years before it would be developed. There is as yet no decision on the Quarry application at Haldon.

Cllr Connett reported that an extra £10,000 has been allocated to the councillor's budget for capital fund projects. New forms are being created and can be obtained from him.

### **7) Clerks Report –**

The clerk pointed out since the last meeting an election has been called. Therefore the next item, item 8. on the agenda, had been withdrawn.

She reported that her editing access to the village website has been restored.

Since the last meeting she had attended a meeting with the chairman, and dealt with many emails and calls. A number of the emails are highly critical, and take up a great deal of time to reply to. Several have been critical of her, and Cllr Connett circulated a set of such emails that had been received and replied to. Cllr Connett noted that the clerk's time should not be consumed with the amount of these emails that are

being sent. He proposed that the clerk should be authorised to respond appropriately, and bring any contentious matters to the next council meeting for the councillors to decide on the reply. (Mrs Swain noted that the minutes should of a higher standard. A member of the public asked if the authors of the emails intend to stand for council at the election. Others within the public forum thanked the clerk for her work)

**8) Co-option of councillors including declaration of acceptance of office – Item Withdrawn.**

**9) Future Meetings – Discussion of an agreed day to hold council meetings.**

It was decided to move this to the Annual Council Meeting in May.

**10) Parish Council website – Discussion and decision.**

The Chairman asked the council for their thoughts. Cllr Moor offered to meet Mr Swain to discuss a way forward. The meeting acknowledged that Mr Swain had built the current website which had provided news and information to the parish very well. However lately there have been issues of access and bias which are proving difficult to solve. It was agreed that Cllr Moor contact Mr Swain.

**11) Severe weather arrangements – Snow Warden**

The chairman reported to the meeting that he had prepared a report for the Country News thanking the volunteers who gave their time and efforts in clearing the roads around the parish and enabling parishioners' access to the salted highways. He proposed a contribution should be granted to them for their time and diesel. Cllr Moor agreed and proposed £100. Cllr Goodey seconded the proposal. All the councillors thanked the volunteers.

**12) PLANNING APPLICATION - None received**

Grant of planning applications (information only)

18/00488/TPOE - Proposal: Remove fallen oak (T2) at DUNCHIDEOCK - Chantemerle

<b>13) FINANCE - <u>Expenditure</u></b>	Locum clerk's expenses	117.50
	DALC (outstanding Pymt) Cllr course	30.00
	Lord Haldon Room hire 30/01/18	25.00
	Dunchideock VH grant payments	4557.00
	Severe weather payment (S137)	<u>100.00</u>
		<u>4829.50</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	Electors fund	257.00
	Cllr Lake	700.00
	Cllr Goodey	<u>700.00</u>
		<u>1657.00</u>

Bank Reconciliation and Statement – to review, agree and authorise payments presented.

Cllr Moor proposed payments of all the accounts above with Cllr Ellis seconding. Motion passed

**14) Reports from Councillors on outside bodies (for information)**

There is a TALC meeting coming up and Cllr Moor offered to attend he will report back at the next meeting.

**15) MEETINGS ATTENDED (reports for information only) – None**

**16) PUBLIC DISCUSSION -**

Mrs Robson thanked the volunteers for clearing the snow. Mrs McCarthy enquired if all the current councillors would stand for election next year when the council's term ends in May 2019. Mrs McCarthy asked about the Annual Parish Meeting and Cllr Goodey explained how these meeting are run in other parishes. It was suggested that volunteers could work with the clerk to organise that meeting to make it more appealing to the public.

**17) Items for Information or to be included on future agendas**

**a) Annual Parish Meeting** – discuss and agree the arrangements and format.

The councillors agreed that Mrs McCarthy could help arrange this with the clerk.

**The next council meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.25pm