

Dunchideock Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th January 2014

1. The chairman reported that the clerk had fallen ill today so was not present. She had refused to produce an agenda for this meeting (which he had to do to ensure the meeting was legal), had not agreed with the chairman the minutes of the November meeting, nor forwarded them to councillors, had not passed on the minute book nor accounts for this meeting. An email from the clerk was discussed but it was agreed by a majority of 4 to 2 that this be not treated as a resignation.
2. **Present:** Cllrs. Swain (chairman), Dow, Ellis, Eveleigh, Goodchild and Robson. Three members of the public. Apologies presented by Cllr. Riddick. There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.
3. **Open Meeting:** No matters were raised
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2013.** Since these had not been agreed by the chairman and clerk, and had not been made available to councillors, it was agreed to defer them to the March meeting.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 Planning Application – Haldon Gypsy & Traveller Site. Approved
 - 5.2 Planning Application – Solar Array Bowhay Farm. Refused. A member of the public expressed thanks to the parish council for its work in opposing this application, stating that the Council's efforts were recognised by others in the Parish.
 - 5.3 Renovation of Notice Boards. All three parish boards (and the village hall board) have been refurbished and are back in place. Cllr Eveleigh proposed and Cllr Goodchild seconded payment of £150 to Cllr. Dow for the work, travel and materials, with thanks. All agreed.
 - 5.4 Notice in Country News. This was not completed because of format and content problems. Cllr Robson, with chairman, will review a similar notice for the January edition.
6. **Budget and Precept for 2014/14.** The chairman explained his proposed budget (circulated beforehand). It was agreed the precept should be increased to £2,000, still the 5th lowest in Teignbridge. The increase is some 8p per week for a band D property. Spending on charity donations and the clerk's emolument were discussed and it was agreed that the budget could accommodate changes to such items during the year. Cllr Dow proposed and Cllr Robson seconded acceptance of this budget and precept. All agreed. Clerk to advise TDC of PC precept request.
7. **Emergency Plan, Transport Group and Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr. Goodchild was concerned these topics were no longer being progressed and that the Council could become too inward looking. It was agreed to be aware of the potential need for some element of emergency or precautionary planning (PG to pass paperwork to DHS), to revisit the Underdown laybys in due course but to not progress a NHP. The Underdown grit bin will be inspected by Cllr Robson since it is reported to have fallen over. (Post meeting note – Bin emptied, replaced in position and refilled by DHS 7/1/14)

8. **Officers Freedom of Action.** Cllr Goodchild said this item no longer needed discussion.
9. **Broadband.** BT OpenReach is progressing installation and introduction of high speed broadband is anticipated in March 2014. Cllr. Ellis is liaising with BT to ask them to move the new fibre cabinet away from the road edge where it is at high risk of damage from passing vehicles.
10. **Clerk's Correspondence** The clerk had forwarded emails regarding Devon Waste, DCC Residential Home and Teignbridge Local Plan. Cllr Lake explained the background to these; the PC need not reply in detail since they mostly do not affect this parish. However, it was agreed to liaise with local parishes regarding the Peamore proposals since it seems that traffic impacts might be deleterious to our locals travelling to and from Exeter.
11. **Clerk's Use of IT & Council's IT Strategy.**
 - 11.1 Although adequate equipment has been provided and training undertaken, the clerk has not progressed sufficiently in use of IT. A meeting of Cllrs. and the clerk will be set up (Monday 13th Jan) to discuss options to resolve the IT problems. The meeting will also deal with the matters summarised in paragraph 1 of these minutes and will be held in private.
 - 11.2 The IT Strategy approved by Cllrs. Jan 2013 was thought now to be unnecessarily bureaucratic. Cllr. Goodchild proposed, Cllr. Lawrence seconded and all approved that the following requirements and process are to be adopted henceforth:-
 - 11.3 Meeting agendas will be agreed between the chairman and the clerk and emailed to councillors and other interested persons (eg district & county councillors) one week before the meeting
 - 11.4 The clerk will email draft minutes to the chairman within a week of the meeting
 - 11.5 The chairman will agree any changes with clerk who will then finalise the draft minutes and circulate to all councillors as soon as possible
12. **Chairman's Remarks:** Cllr Eveleigh asked about the eviction of the Haldon Travellers but this is now overtaken by progress on the new 15 pitches of accommodation. It was noted that the drain near Webberton Cross is blocked. Chairman agreed to report this to DCC (post meeting note – unblocked by DHS 7/1/14)
13. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 3rd March 2014 (coffee – Cllr Robson)
The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Cheque for £150 is due to Cllr Dow when the Clerk is fit and able to process it.

Chairman