

**A Special meeting of Dunchideock Parish Council was
held on 21st January 2013**

1 Apologies were received from Mr Ellis. All other councillors were present. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.

2 **Planning Application** – for Replacement of existing treatment plant at Cross Cottage.

Mr Goodchild asked if it was necessary to proceed through the history of this site.

Mr Swain commented that Mr Lake had said dye tests were not conclusive.

Mr Baker observed that an enforcement notice had been served in March 2011.

Mr Swain said he thought foul water would be collected from Butts Cottage as well. No soakaway is indicated, it will use existing drains and seem to be directed to gully and drain in the road.

Mr Godchild said it is up to the residents of cross Cottage if they wish to replace their sewerage system.

Mr Dow said that surely Teignbridge will be considering all the issues concerning the efficiency of a sewerage system.

Mr Baker wondered why there has been percolation tests.

Mr Swain said that he thought the Council was short of information and knowledge – would this resolve the problem as doesn't understand how the proposal will work and are still not certain of the real culprit.

Mr Goodchild proposed and Mr Riddick seconded that in principle the application was acceptable but Teignbridge should be made aware that there are questions about the efficiency of the system. All in favour.

3 Agenda rescheduled for the convenience of Mr Milton

Planning Application – Haldon Ridge Travellers Site. Mr Milton has personal knowledge and first hand experience of the traveller encampment on Haldon Hill for about the last 15 years. The Planning Application is the result of a grant being made available by Government to establish a legal site of 15 pitches with axillary buildings and facilities which will be managed by Teign Housing. The pitches are permanent installations which will accommodate Traveller's vehicles. The vehicles will have to meet certain standards to be acceptable on the site. The proposed development will be alongside the illegal encampment so some families will be able to move onto the new site, then the old site will be cleared, decontaminated and regenerated.

The proposal is a 'brave' attempt to solve the problem caused by the unofficial site on Haldon Hill, if successful it may become a 'land mark' for future developments around the country – it will benefit the tenants and give them security. The grant available for the development is specific to the Haldon site.

Mr Riddick asked what is the definition of a Traveller and if they're going to be permanent how can they be Travellers.

Travellers are a very diverse group of peoples with different lifestyles and cultures. The pitches and facilities are permanent but the tenants will come and go.

Mr Goodchild is concerned that at present there are more families on the unofficial site than can be accommodated on the proposed new site. He fears there could be a confrontational situation when the old site is cleared.

Mr Baker is concerned about the clean up details of the old site and foul water drainage of the new site. All such matters will be addressed by the Environment Agency.. Mr Baker observed that the proposal is being made by Teign Housing and yet houses are not being built. There will be support structure and hard standing

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pitches for Travellers vehicles.

Mr Swain is aware that some of the residents are in employment and children attend schools. These families are likely to wish to stay together. However, there seem to be more families in this category than there will be provision. He also commented that observers of the site consider the site displays an appalling lifestyle, but some of the families are comfortable with the situation.

The description of the planning application is a site for Travellers and Gypsies. These groups do not mix so it is not understood how the development will work. The bid for funding seemed to have been kept quiet. There is an application in the Parish of Kenn for 59 houses – why not allocate some of these for travellers? Should there be a 'hosing development' in Haldon forest The project seems commendable but is it in the right location?

Mr Goodchild feels the building structures are meeting a political directive but he wondered about the feelings of the Travellers. Have they been consulted? There have been interviews and 16 families have expressed a wish to be accommodated on a pitch, this means 16 – 20 families will be evicted.

Mr Swain feels Teignbridge are in favour of the proposal as is Teign Housing and Ken Parish Council – Mr Milton explained that Kenn support the principle of the application but they have not yet discussed the detailed application.

Mr Swain also considers a new policy WE6A has been slipped into the Local Plan which is at present under consideration by the Inspector.

Mrs Eveleigh does not like the present situation but it is the Travellers' choice. She is very worried that the development will result in the eviction of some families. Where will they go? What will happen to them? What is Teign Housing? What experience do they have in managing such sites? - Teign Housing is an independent charity that arose from Teignbridge no longer managing the housing stock. Teign Housing have a good reputation and are aware they will experience problems but aim to solve them.

Mr Milton explained that Teignbridge will have authority over Teign Housing and will make sure the site is managed properly – They want the site to succeed.

Mr Milton feels the illegal occupation was very badly handled by Devon County Council at the outset some 12 years ago so the problem escalated. He is very worried by a growing problem of a similar nature on Exminster/Kenn border where Devon County Council are again not being cooperative.

Mr Goodchild feels the application represents the first proposal for a solution of the problem, perhaps it would be better to 'go with the flow' rather than taking a critical and attritional approach.

Mr Goodchild proposed giving the proposal a chance – seconded by Mr Baker who thinks that although Teign Housing might be going beyond their remit they should be given the opportunity to clear up the mess.

Mrs Eveleigh remains concerned that the plan does not take all eventualities into consideration.

Mr Dow feels the application will proceed regardless of Dunchideock's considerations.

Mr Riddick is in agreement with Mr Goodchild's proposal if this is a way forward.

Mr Swain, with contributions from Mr Goodchild will compose the response.

Mr Swain thanked Mr Milton for attending the meeting.

4 Standing Orders and Code of Conduct – Mr Swain read changes to

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paragraph 8.16 of Standing Orders and explained dispensations had to be applied for 5 days in advance of a meeting. These would be recorded.

Mr Baker proposed and Mr Riddick seconded adopting the changes.

- 5 **IT Strategy and Workload** – Mr Swain produced a document as a result of meetings that had not taken place in December and January. The Clerk had not seen this document before the meeting.

There will be no change to the Parish Council's domain name – 'dunchideock.org.uk'. This is now owned by the Parish Council and will be managed by the Clerk.

Passwords are to be known only by the Clerk, Chairman and appropriate IT support councillor(s). Passwords only changed by agreement of all these people.

The Council is grateful to Mrs Philips for assisting the Clerk but she should not open emails before the Clerk sees them.

If Councillors feel the Clerk forwards too many documents to them they should use their delete buttons.

The Clerk was not happy with points 8 & 9 concerning preparation of minutes of meetings and could not guarantee the time scale demanded.

Letters to TDC will be sent as pdf files so they can't be altered.

Hopefully this will not be an undue workload.

Mr Goodchild questioned Mr Swain's constant reference to dates of email exchanges feeling they were antagonistic and rather harsh.

Mr Swain acknowledged some skills achievement but wants to deal with text production – Minutes should not be done by dictation – Mr Baker is still prepared to assist with minutes.

There have been many problems with the computer. It has operated very slowly and of late has only worked intermittently and indicating system errors.

Mr Dow thinks a new computer should be purchased.

Mr Swain said he would have the computer back and sort it out.

Mr Baker explained that the battery for the date and time function was not working.

Mrs Eveleigh thought Mr Swain should be for working on the computer – he declined.

Mr Baker kindly volunteered to sort out the computer as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that she could not guarantee meeting the demands for minutes – Mr Swain said the Clerk could receive more instruction from Mrs Philips but not help with P.C. Business.

Mr Goodchild wondered if a voice recognition programme would help with text production and suggested extending the demand for minutes by a couple of days.

Mr Dow wondered why it was so important anyway.

Cost of changing domain name to Parish Council £36.60 payment proposed by Mr Goodchild and seconded by Mr Riddick.

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6 Chairman's Remarks:

Invitation to join the ballot managed by DALC for the opportunity to attend a Royal Garden Party – as computer not working Mr Swain will complete the form.

Mr Riddick asked if the AGM could be brought forward to end of April so that he could attend – diaries will be consulted of a Bus Shelter by the Old Post Office be on the next agenda.

7 The meeting closed at 9.20 PM. The next meeting will be on 4 March 2013

Coffee Rota – Mr Ellis

Cheque: Mr Swain - £36.60