

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5TH AUGUST 2015**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)
Cllr M Walker
Cllr R Hayman
Cllr S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine
Cllr R Pratt

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr E Underdown, Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

53/15 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

54/15 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

55/15 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

No reported crimes this month.

56/15 To receive declarations of interest

None.

57/15 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright said the NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had announced on 16th July that following the public consultation, it would be closing all beds at Ottery and Axminster hospitals. She said she was disappointed that the CCG appeared to have ignored the recommendations of the stakeholder group to keep some beds available, and also that the CCG had previously indicated it would 'move' beds, rather than close them. The decision will go before Devon County Council's health and scrutiny committee on 14th September, and Neil Parish MP is speaking to the Health Secretary. Members resolved to write to Richard Westlake on DCC's committee to express their objections to the CCG's decision. The clerk will draft a letter and circulate for approval before sending.

Cllr Bond said that since the various hearings of the latest version of EDDC's Local Plan, EDDC has been told to come back by the end of August with more evidence of its five-year land supply. The inspector also advised EDDC to meet Natural England to reassure the organization that its views would be taken into account regarding the plan.

Cllr Bond explained that there are a number of public consultations taking place at the moment, including Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation and polling stations.

58/15 To approve the August payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0691	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0692	F J Clampin	£181.80	Clerk's salary and expenses
0693	PLandscape	£106.80	Grass cuts, July (maintenance of play area)
0694	DALC	£30	Course for new councillors
0695	P Sellick	£60	Gazette distribution
0696	Len Abbott	£156.25	Work to clear drains and ditches in the parish

0697 Len Abbott £200 Purchase of equipment and clothing for lengthsman

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £9,186.79.

59/15 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 15/1669/TRE – 8 Campion Way Honiton EX14 2YR Oak tree, re-pollard
- b) 15/1585/FUL – 1 Hamlet Cottages (Land Adj to) Weston Honiton EX14 3PB Construction of x2 detached dwellings
- c) 15/1518/FUL – The Old Rectory Gittisham EX14 3AB Construction of oak-framed garage to north east of dwelling house

Members had no objections to the applications.

60/15 To consider the draft East Devon Local Plan

Cllr Valentine said he had attended the Local Plan hearings, and he thought the inspector would declare the Local Plan sound. The alternative, he said, would be disastrous for EDDC. Cllr Bond added that the plan could be adopted by Christmas, all being well.

61/15 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair reported that Honiton Town Council had applied for the designation of a neighbourhood plan area. He will continue to attend meetings with Honiton TC and Awliscombe PC. A copy of the application has been posted on the parish noticeboards.

62/15 To consider limited residential development in the parish

The Chair reported that he, Cllr Valentine and Cllr Bond had met EDDC planning officers and affordable housing officers and Combe Estate on 3rd July. A representative of the Community Council of Devon (CCD), Janice Alexander, was also present. The PC was told that the parish is categorised as an unsustainable community and therefore any development of residential housing would not be permitted, unless there were exceptional circumstances. However, this could be demonstrated if the outcome of a housing needs survey showed this. Paul Lowe (EDDC Housing Enabling Officer) had advised this should be done as soon as possible before the Hayne Lane development is built. If a need can be demonstrated, the Chair explained, a community housing trust is then set up. This is not controlled by the parish council, although it may have representatives from the PC on it. The Chair added that Combe Estate has proposed a choice of two sites where 8–10 houses could be sited: the old estate office and land opposite Clysthayes, both of which are outside the conservation area.

Members agreed that it would be important to assess whether or not the PC had a mandate to take this forward to the stage where the community housing trust takes over. The Chair agreed to draft some copy to put in the gazette, asking if there is still support for development on a small scale within the village.

Members noted that the scale of the response would inform whether or not it would be worth developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish at a later date. The clerk said she would invite Janice Alexander to October's meeting, as the CCD has said it will provide support to organise the housing needs survey.

63/15 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The Chair thanked members and parishioners for their help on the working day on 11th July to tidy up the play area. Cllr Walker said she would continue to research costs for an outdoor ping pong table, as proposed by a former resident. Cllr Hayman said it was time to make progress on plans for the wild area, and Cllr Trumper agreed to speak to Bill Griffiths about drawing up a design for a structure.

64/15 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

Members heard that Len Abbott had attended the Chapter 8 training required by DCC to maintain drains and ditches, so he is now considered qualified. This was an undertaking of 12.5 hours, for which he will be paid (cf 58/15). He has also purchased equipment and kit for the work, for which he will also be reimbursed this month. Once he has retired at the beginning of next year, Len Abbott is expected to be available for two days a month for clearing hedges, ditches etc. Cllr Walker said she would speak to him about his assessment of what needs to be done.

Cllr Wright left the meeting.

65/15 To consider a footpath closure in the parish for future Honiton shows

The clerk had received a message from Honiton Town Council's deputy clerk, asking if the PC would support a permanent sign indicating a footpath within the parish would be closed for one day every August for the duration of the Honiton Show. Members agreed there was no demonstrable need for something permanent, but had no objections to a temporary sign of some kind each year.

66/15 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk said that the cost of hiring of the village hall for meetings would be rising to £83 pa from January 2016.

67/15 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Bond agreed to the Chair's request to investigate the situation with ragwort in a field on the Heathfield estate and find out who owns the land.

68/15 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include lengthsperson, limited residential development, EDDC Local Plan, play area, and Honiton Neighbourhood Plan on the next agenda.

69/15 Clerk's Report

Members noted the date of the DALC AGM on 15th October, and DCC Highways town and parishes conferences on 14th and 21st October. The clerk informed members that the Annual Canvas for the EDDC Electoral Roll was taking place.

70/15 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 2nd September and Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2110 hrs.

Chairman.....

2nd September 2015