

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5th December 2018
in the Parish Room, Gittisham**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward
Cllr D Fallows (Chair)
Cllr R Hayman (Vice Chair)
Cllr C Hall
Cllr M Walker

Gittisham Vale Ward
Cllr D Valentine
Cllr R Pratt
Cllr A Wilkins

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Harry Bonnell (Devon Communities Together), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), PCSO Darren England

133/18 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

134/18 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

135/18 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

- 1) Anti-social behaviour, Aspen Close, Gittisham Vale in October.

136/18 To receive declarations of interest

None.

137/18 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

In his absence, Cllr Twiss sent the following report:

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

A national programme to help GPs identify patients experiencing domestic abuse and/or sexual violence and refer them to specialist support services is being rolled out across Devon and Torbay. The first of its kind in Devon and Torbay, it will see domestic abuse and sexual violence specialists (known as Advocate Educators) work in partnership with local clinical leads to deliver training and support in up to 50 general practices across Devon and Torbay. The IRIS programme is aimed at helping clinicians to identify women aged 16 years and over who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse from a current or ex-partner or adult family member and to offer them a referral to an Advocate Educator. It also helps to ensure that men who are affected by domestic abuse can access support.

Care issues – Proud to care Campaign

DCC has enough places in care homes (not always in the right places), but the issue remains recruiting enough staff to service the care packages people bring with them when the transfer of care goes from an acute hospital to the social care one. The council has other initiatives operating with care providers, such as offering guaranteed hours by front-loading payments to them and better working practices. The council is working in a variety of ways with the 'Proud to Care' campaign which is having a real effect, including use of radio advertising, trying to raise the profile of social care and encouraging people to make it a career.

Estates – 'joined up services'

There is currently a project underway to co-locate the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and DCC Adult Social Care Commissioning roles in to part of County Hall called 'The Annexe' so that the merger of the functions, including staff better suits the needs of people in Devon, not least the operational efficiencies this brings.

Scams

The rise in scams across Devon often targeting elderly and vulnerable people is alarming and growing. Some older people have been robbed this way in excess of £100,000 and another by £400,000. Trading Standards can offer advice as to how local communities can help combat this invidious trade.

Cllr Bond said the Strategic Planning meeting of 27th November discussed future housing needs in East Devon (given the GESP process and a review of the Local Plan). Members also received a Housing Monitoring Update, which shows housing delivery currently stands at 5.71 years. There is a Government requirement for district councils to show a 5-year land supply, so this looks to be a healthy figure. Nevertheless it is lower than previous updates as building has slowed in the West End of the district. However, building in other parts of East Devon is coming forward, so we are expecting to see housing land supply increase. There was a lengthy debate on how the future housing needs are arrived at, given a number of differing reports, in particular one written on behalf of CPRE, which provides a very different picture to the ONS figures. A member workshop is being set up in the new year, ahead of the draft Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and will look at housing levels, type of housing being supplied (currently not enough bungalows nor assisted housing units).

138/18 To receive a presentation from Devon Communities Together regarding smart meters

Harry Bonnell delivered a presentation about how smart meters work to members. He explained that for those properties where there is a poor mobile telephone signal, the meters will not work effectively. He said that nobody would be obliged to take one. They have proven to be of use in changing users' habits, as when they observe the meter, users realise how much energy they are consuming unnecessarily. There is no risk, said Mr Bonnell, of under- or over-estimate of bills, as usage is sent directly to the supplier. A meter can also benefit those who use pre-paid tariffs, as it allows the user to budget more effectively.

Members said it was disappointing that suppliers could not use the same meter, and that users would be obliged to change meter if they switched supplier. There was also some concern over cyber-security, which Mr Bonnell agreed to investigate. He advised anyone wanting to switch to a smart meter to wait until February 2019 when the second generation of meters is introduced. Members cautioned that some vulnerable people may use smart meters, and decide not to put the heating on when they realise how much they are using. Mr Bonnell agreed this had been observed in some places, but added that if people were having trouble paying their fuel bills there was help available.

Harry Bonnell left the meeting.

139/18 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 18/2308/COU - Catshayes Farm Gittisham EX14 3AE (amended plans) – Change of use from C3a – Dwelling to Sui Generis: large House of Multiple Occupancy, creation of new WC within current bathroom area, removal of ensuite to Bedroom 5 including external uPVC foul waste pipes, insertion of internal door opening to Bedroom 1, refurbishment of kitchen and bathroom areas
- b) 18/2590/FUL - The Bakery Gittisham EX14 3AF- Conversion of former bakery to holiday accommodation, including alterations to external elevations, formation of terrace, low level timber gates and landscaping
- c) 18/2591/LBC- The Bakery Gittisham EX14 3AF – as above

Members agreed to have no objection in principle to a), providing it meets with the approval of the conservation officer (LBC). Members asked EDDC to remind the applicant for a) that any future change of use from staff accommodation would have to go back to Planning.

As regards b) and c), members agreed to have no objection in principle. However, they asked for it to be noted that the building is in flood zone 3, and for that reason there was concern over this application being granted.

140/18 To note the latest planning decision notices

- 18/2172/TRE 7 Honeysuckle Drive Honiton EX14 2YL - To carry out a crown reduction via thinning on that part of the canopy overhanging our driveway. No more than 20% of the live foliar area will be removed from any one branch and pruning will be limited to the making of target pruning cuts predominantly no greater than 50mm but where necessary up to 75mm in diameter, to remove branch end lengths of up to 2m maximum length. To make safe any dead wood through either reduction or if necessary removal. **Approval with conditions.**

141/18 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

In his report, Cllr Twiss said he had met Phil Roberts from Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) to discuss the current state of play with Gigaclear. He asked when a review of the current progress will be completed and a revised schedule of delivery will be published. Mr Roberts was only able to say that he hoped it would be in December. Following due diligence on whether this is achievable, Cllr Twiss said we should have a clearer direction of travel in the New Year, as many communities in Devon and Somerset remain without superfast broadband.

Cllr Hall added that Voneus would be plotting 75 addresses within the village, which will help the company assess whether it could potentially install superfast broadband. It would be likely to cost homeowners the initial installation, and then the price is comparable with other providers, she explained.

142/18 To consider measures to reduce traffic speeds in Gittisham village

Members heard that DCC's speed monitoring device had been removed, after a two-week period. There was some concern over the siting of the device, and whether this would reflect the true nature of the problem. Cllr Wilkins said with luck the results would be ready in the New Year. He added that he had received a reply to his FoI request regarding the department's performance targets.

143/18 To consider fundraising for a defibrillator in Gittisham Vale

Cllr Pratt told members the training day had gone ahead in November, and had raised an additional £25. The Chair thanked the community for their attendance and generosity, and Stella Adamson for the training. The clerk said she had sent the completed forms to the Community Heartbeat Trust. Cllr Wilkins agreed to insert some text into the deeds of his house explaining the presence of the defibrillator on the wall of his house. He will also write to the parish council to give his consent for the device to remain there as long as he owns the property.

144/18 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

The Chair agreed to write to Baker Estates to advise them to include clearing the gullies on their maintenance schedule. Cllr Wilkins said he had met the first resident, who had received a copy of the Gittisham Gazette. He agreed to speak to the sales office at the site to find out if they had the welcome letter included in the pack, as well as copies of the gazette. He said he would let Mr Sellick know about the new resident.

145/18 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Cllr Valentine reported that a public meeting would be held on 13th December to encourage the public to become actively involved and find out more. This includes purchasing shares, with a minimum of £1 / share, which would help fund administration costs for the next 12 months. A preferred site has been chosen.

146/18 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy

The Chair explained that as a result of development in the parish, there were various pots of money that had been allocated to the parish, with more to come, as follows:

- CIL 28,012.41 (of which £2,100.93 received already)
- S106 £7,395.73 (of which £3,634.44 must be spent on play provision and £3,611.29 on sports provision)
- Projected £210,000 must be spent on sport, and £2,348.76 on allotment provision, sport provision, formal park provision or youth play.

A document from EDDC outlining this was circulated. N.B. EDDC has confirmed to the clerk that £150

(normally) goes into a consultation budget to help pay for hall hire, newspaper adverts, refreshments etc.

There are restrictions on how the money is used, the Chair explained, and any decisions must have an element of public consultation, or the monies may have to be returned to the developers. There is a five-year limit on expenditure. Some members expressed frustration that some of this money had been allocated with developments built several years ago. It was agreed that a questionnaire should be drawn up (building on work done by Cllr Walker), asking the parish children's wishes for the play area and attached to a future edition of the Gittisham Gazette.

Members heard there is a degree of uncertainty over the criteria for spending CIL money, and EDDC is seeking legal advice. The levy is designed to mitigate the effects of any development on the parish. Members agreed it was vital to have more clarity until decisions can be made on expenditure, and to reflect carefully about how this could enhance what is already in the parish.

147/18 To consider capital works on Gittisham Village Hall

Cllr Hall said she had received three quotations for a chartered surveyor to look at what work needs doing and produce a schedule of works. Members agreed to select Luxton Chartered Surveyors for £495 + VAT. There may be a requirement in future for the services of an architect, Cllr Valentine added.

Cllr Hall left the meeting.

148/18 To consider drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors expressed little enthusiasm for this, despite the fact that 40 other communities have done them in East Devon.

149/18 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections

The clerk said that a new bearing for the spinner to make it work again was on order. The Chair said this should be paid from the Business Reserve account (allocated for depreciation of items).

150/18 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

None.

151/18 To appoint an internal auditor for 2019-20

It was resolved to appoint Alison Marshall for a two-year period.

152/18 To approve the December payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0920	HMRC	£41.46	PAYE
0921	HMRC	£41.46	PAYE
0922	F J Clampin	£166.22	Clerk's salary & expenses
DD	NEST	£11.19	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £22,985.70 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account). The clerk said a VAT rebate for 2016-17 had been received, totaling £120.59.

Cllr Valentine left the meeting.

153/18 To consider neighbouring Communities Together bids

Cllr Bond explained that Communities Together would replace the old Parishes Together scheme, which is now a competitive process. It was resolved to support all three bids:

- 1) New football goals for West Hill Wasps. These would be located at the Kings playing field in

- Ottery and used by The Kings School during school hours and used by West Hill Wasps at weekends for training and matches
- 2) Honiton Dementia Action Alliance; £5000 to help people especially in the most rural parts of our community access all the alliance's dementia friendly services
 - 3) Ottery Help Scheme; to set up a sustainable Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) across the Ottery St Mary district and deliver 'roaming' memory cafes in the surrounding rural parishes.

The clerk agreed to write to all three project leaders before Christmas.

154/18 To consider any late entry correspondence

Members heard that a tree had fallen down unexpectedly in the garden of The Lodge, causing extensive damage to a greenhouse and one of the village hall sheds. The Chair agreed to write to Combe Estate to ask if they were carrying out a review of the safety of trees on their land.

155/18 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

None.

156/18 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include village hall capital works, Vale defibrillator, Hayne Lane, limited residential development, broadband, lengthsman work, speed limits for Gittisham village and play area on the next agenda. The budget and precept for 2019-20 will also be discussed.

157/18 Clerk's Report

None.

158/18 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 9th January 2019 and February tbc 2019 at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the Chair wished all members and parishioners a very happy Christmas, and the meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

Chairman.....

9th January 2019