

# **GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, GITTISHAM ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

**Present:** Cllr D Fallows (chairman), Cllrs D Valentine, R Hayman (vice-chair), S Trumper, Susie Bond (EDDC), Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllrs E Underdown, R Pratt, Claire Wright (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

### **1. Introduction by Council Chairman**

Cllr Fallows welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were accepted and approved.

### **3. To confirm the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Report on the Council's activities over the past year**

The Chair thanked all members for their work and the wider community in 2015/16. He highlighted the support of Cllr Hayman as Vice-Chair and Cllr Valentine for guidance on planning matters. He expressed his sadness at the death of former parish councillor Mike Edmonds, and Barbara Mullett, Richard Saunders and Nick Agg-Manning as active members of the community.

Cllr Fallows said that the proposal for small-scale development in Gittisham village was gathering pace, and he hoped to see more progress in the coming year.

He noted that the parish council was starting to take on more responsibilities in the face of budget cuts at county council level, and had increased its financial resources as a result. This would help to cover things such as flood alleviation and the play area. He praised the work of Len Abbott in maintaining ditches and drains in the parish. Members agreed that contracting Mr Abbott's services under the community road warden scheme had made a huge improvement to the appearance of the parish. Having secured funding from EDDC's Parishes Together scheme, the council would purchase the necessary equipment and clothing for Mr Abbott to do his job, including a wheelbarrow and strimmer.

The Chair said work on reopening the former Combe House hotel was continuing, and the parish council would keep a watchful eye on developments. Members agreed with the Chair's wish that the hotel should be an asset to the parish.

In conclusion the Chair wished everybody in the parish well, and said he was confident members would pursue the parish council's business and the interests of residents in the year ahead.

Members thanked the Chair.

## **5. Annual Police Report**

The police report outlined the annual crime list for the parish, which stands at six. (The full list is attached to these minutes). For the whole of rural Honiton, there were 120 reported crimes across 23 villages, the lowest total crime figure in 10 years.

## **6. County and District Council Representatives Reports**

Cllr Randall Johnson said the process of funding the county council's work was changing, and there would be new grant formulae in future.

### Highways

Cllr Randall Johnson said £86 million needed to be spent in maintaining the 12,850kms of Devon's roads, but central Government provided just £24.5m. This, she said, is where the parishes can help in seeing to minor road repairs under the road warden scheme.

### Libraries

From 1<sup>st</sup> April libraries are being run by a community-owned social enterprise called Libraries Unlimited. There is a board of 11 people overseeing this new business.

### Boundaries

Ward boundaries are due to change, and the number of county councillors will reduce from 62 to 60.

### Housing

Cllr Bond said more than 1,000 new homes had been built up to September 2015, which was ahead of schedule. West End completions have slowed down. She explained that the Community Infrastructure Levy had been brought in to replace S106 payments; the aim is to simplify and speed up the process for developers to contribute towards infrastructure projects.

The Chair thanked both councillors (and Cllr Wright in her absence) for the work they'd done for people in the parish, including keeping residents informed about broadband.

## **7. Reports by Village Organisations**

No reports had been received.

## **8. To consider any matters raised by residents**

Members said there was concern about the licensing proposal at The Pig. This was due to be discussed on the main agenda. Cllr Walker said there was activity at the old Devon Violets site, and it was agreed to monitor any developments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1945 hrs.

**Chairman.....**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**