

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2013**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr Ms S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr M Edmonds

Cllr D Valentine

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), PC Clive Vickery, Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Ms Maggie Walker, Cllr E Underdown, Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), PCSO Phil Anning

17/13 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

18/13 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

19/13 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

There were two reported crimes between 1st May and 11th June 2013:

1. Non-Dwelling Burglary – Forced entry to commercial premises and quantity of cash stolen
2. Theft – Mobile 'phone stolen at private party

PC Clive Vickery left the meeting.

20/13 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Fallows declared an interest in item 22/13 as he is due to be reimbursed for materials purchased.

21/13 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond asked if the parish would be interested in receiving additional rock salt, as Buckerell PC has some spare. However, members said the parish had a surplus for the moment. Cllr Bond also asked if the parish had a problem with dogs fouling the area, as EDDC has introduced a new scheme where wardens will stencil a temporary message on the road or path where dog mess is a problem. The image washes away after three weeks. Members did not consider dog mess to be a significant enough issue to warrant this, and the type of road surface where dog owners let their dogs defecate would not support the stencil.

Cllr Bond updated members regarding ex-EDDC councillor Graham Brown. Specialist officers within the Devon & Cornwall Police are now considering the matter.

22/13 To approve the June payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0584	HMRC	£31.20	PAYE
0585	F J Clampin	£178.27	Clerk's fee and expenses
0586	Honiton PCC	£60	Gazette printing

Cllr Fallows left the meeting.

0587	David Fallows	£42	Reimburse for payment to Rufus Lyle, cost of play area wall materials
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Cllr Fallows returned to the meeting.

0588	Ken Abraham	£125	Annual internal audit
0589	Laps Lawns	£200	Play area maintenance

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £8,400.07

23/13 To consider parish involvement in the Active Villages project

The clerk said she was still waiting to receive the report from Leisure East Devon. [N.B. Since the meeting, LED has been in touch to say it is in the process of setting up a Pilates/Yoga/Body Balance type of class which will be free to the community for 6-8 weeks. Should it prove popular, a small charge will be made subsequently to keep the activity sustainable. There may also be a multi-sports session over the summer.]

24/13 To consider limited residential development in the parish

A meeting took place in May with Justin Lascelles and Richard Marker from Combe Estate, attended by the Chair, Cllr Trumper and the clerk. The report issued by Justin Lascelles has since been circulated to the parish council. The Chair restated the parish council's commitment to supporting limited development of 10-12 properties, as outlined in the parish plan and said the council would do anything to support a planning application along these lines. He also underlined the parish council's desire to see the greater proportion of any potential homes for rent rather than sale, as this would guarantee residents with a year-round commitment to the parish. Members discussed potential qualifying conditions for occupying such properties, and any covenants that would prevent the purchase of houses as second homes. Members agreed there had been a rapid increase in empty properties in recent months in Gittisham village.

Cllr Edmonds circulated a leaflet from Gleeson Developments that has done the rounds of the Vale, outlining a proposal for 180 houses at Heathfield. Cllr Valentine explained it was part of a process to show that the company was engaging with the public. The clerk agreed to contact the company to ask why it had not yet consulted the parish council, and to outline the PC's objections.

Cllr Bond explained that although EDDC Cllr Diviani announced at the April full council meeting that EDDC 'should' be able to prove their 5-year land supply figures by June, it now appears that this was overly optimistic. She has been in email contact with him about this.

25/13 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including safety inspections

The Chair explained that progress had been made in various areas outlined in the annual safety inspection report, and thanked Cllr Hayman for removing the free-standing gate. Thanks were also extended to Rufus Lyle for rebuilding the wall and Nick Agg-Manning for sourcing the bricks.

The clerk said that internal auditor Ken Abraham had advised that in future the play area equipment should be inspected on a weekly basis to comply with insurance. The clerk will draw up a rota, and examine the RoSPA website for examples of documentation to use and then circulate. Members discussed the problem of molehills, and agreed they would in future be levelled. Councillors agreed to meet at the village barbecue on Sunday 16th June to discuss how to proceed with repairing the wall, as the recent removal of ivy has revealed damage to the stonework on one side, possibly both.

Cllr Hayman said he had found the gate to the wild area open; in future it should be kept shut. The Chair agreed to mention to certain residents who might wish to use it as a general entrance point.

26/13 To consider any late entry correspondence

Cllr Valentine reported that EDDC's development management committee would receive a report on 16 July with a summary of comments received for the Local Plan. He said he did not anticipate any further

changes to the plan. The document will be formally submitted to the planning inspectorate and the parish council must then consider how to formulate its representations. Cllr Bond said the timetable for submission of the Local Plan had slipped and the Examination in Public will start later this year. The plan will be submitted in 2014.

The clerk agreed to put the emergency plan onto the parish website. Cllr Valentine will send Cllrs Wright and Bond a copy.

27/13 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

The clerk will remind Cllr Wright that a request for a flood gauge is in the system. Cllr Hayman said the road to Sherman's Farm was badly potholed, and the road around Truances Cottage has collapsed. Cllr Edmonds said at the Vale end of Old Elm Road the road surface was also suffering.

28/13 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include Active Villages, play area, broadband connection and residential development on the next agenda. Cllr Bond will investigate the status of the rural broadband application.

29/13 Clerk's Report

Members heard that the rent for the village hall will increase to £80 /year from 1st January 2014, payable in arrears. As regards the signage at the Iron Bridge, the clerk is awaiting a response from Balfour Beatty. The clerk reported that the stretch of old A30 from the Iron Bridge to Roebuck Farm would now be called Nag's Head Road, following a consultation she had carried out with residents of that road. The clerk agreed to pursue BT regarding the status of the telephone box in the village; Cllr Trumper said the parish council had agreed to buy the structure as long as the apparatus was decommissioned.

There is Japanese knotweed growing in the gardens of Bakery and Olive Tree Cottages, the clerk reported. Members said it was the responsibility of the property owners to deal with this invasive species in the correct manner.

30/13 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 3rd July and Wednesday 7th August at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2040 hrs.

Chairman.....

3rd July 2013