

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 12TH MAY 2015**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr M Walker

Cllr S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr E Underdown

Cllr R Pratt

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

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

Prior to the start of the meeting each Councillor signed their Acceptance of Office form.

1/15 To elect a Chair

Cllr David Fallows was elected Chair for 2015/16 by a unanimous decision.

2/15 To elect a Vice Chair

Cllr Russell Hayman was elected Vice Chair for 2015/16 by a unanimous decision.

3/15 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

4/15 Minutes

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

5/15 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

1 crime: 1st – 11th May 2015, 1 assault: male member of staff assaulted by unknown male at music festival

6/15 To receive declarations of interest

The Chair declared an interest in one item of expenditure in 9/15.

7/15 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright said the Boundary Commission had released its draft recommendations on proposed changes to Devon's electoral boundaries. Currently the parish is split between Honiton St Michael's and Ottery Rural. The recommendations propose the creation of one ward called Feniton & Honiton, which includes Buckerell and Gittisham. Residents can submit comments on this proposal until 6th July by visiting <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4141>. Members resolved not to make any further submissions. Cllr Wright also reported there was finally some progress on the two flood gauges which are due to be installed either side of the railway bridge by the forge. Cllr Wright agreed to locate a copy of the map that sets of ownership of land and responsibility for drains and ditches.

Cllr Bond outlined the make-up of the new East Devon District Council, which has a Conservative majority.

8/15 To adopt the 2014/15 accounts and to approve the annual governance statement

A copy of the 2014/15 accounts is attached to these minutes. It was resolved to adopt these accounts and to approve the annual governance statement. The clerk outlined the main items of expenditure in 2014/15:

Salaries £2,457 of which £450.45 is tax

Charlie Hopkins (planning consultant fees) £1,950
Insurance £411.81
Gazette £181
Maintenance £552.25
Feniton fighting fund £500

In terms of additional income, donations for the Hayne Lane campaign totalled £1,148.09.

The clerk said the internal audit had been carried out that afternoon and no issues were identified. She circulated the auditor's report.

9/15 To approve the May payments and to note the current bank balance

The clerk explained that cheque no.0678 for £59.40 had been made out to the Chair as reimbursement, as the annual web hosting and domain name could only be paid for by card and not cheque.

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0679	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0680	F J Clampin	£199.55	Clerk's salary and expenses
0681	Community First	£414.66	Insurance until 31 st May 2016
0682	Ken Abraham	£90	Annual internal audit of parish council accounts
0628	PLandscape	£106.80	Grass cuts, April (maintenance of play area)
0628	PLandscape	£53.40	Grass cuts, March (maintenance of play area)

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £14, 636.59.

10/15 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 15/0825/VAR – The Laurels, 1a Hayne Lane Gittisham EX14 3PD Variations in condition 4 of planning permission 03/P1818 to allow the annexe to be used as a unit of holiday accommodation
- b) 15/0704/LBC – 2 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE Side and rear single storey extensions to include restoration and blocking up of existing windows and re-positioning of internal door
- c) 15/0751/FUL - 2 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE Side and rear storey extensions

Members resolved to approve the applications.

11/15 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Members discussed at length whether there was a need for small-scale housing in the village, with the Hayne Lane development now approved. It was felt there was a desire among village residents for a small number of properties. Cllr Walker argued the population of the village was dwindling, and this had an impact on activities. Members agreed it was important to understand the aims of Combe Estate with respect to small-scale development, and that the parish council should remain in the loop. The clerk agreed to change the date of the meeting between EDDC, Combe Estate and representatives of the parish council and will also ask for a planning specialist from EDDC to be present. The Chair proposed that two should go to the meeting, making it clear that the PC is looking for evidence for housing need and that the PC would support affordable housing for rent. There may also need to be some for sale.

12/15 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

There was no update on this.

13/15 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The Chair said members should attend to the low to medium risk aspects highlighted in the annual safety inspection. Cllr Pratt said he had got hold of some logs to make stepping stones in the play area, and was hopeful of getting these delivered in the next few weeks. The Chair agreed to contact people to organise a working party to install the logs.

14/15 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The Chair said Len Abbott’s name can go forward as a paid volunteer to carry out this work, once he has had the required training.

15/15 To consider future uses of the telephone box in Gittisham village

There was no update on this, although members noted that it would soon need a new coat of paint.

16/15 To consider any late entry correspondence

The deadline for submissions to the latest version of EDDC’s Local Plan is 12th June. Cllr Valentine agreed to work with the Chair on the parish council’s representation regarding the 15 hectares of employment land proposed at Hayne Lane. They will present this at the next parish council meeting. The council has already objected to the proposal in a previous iteration of the plan, but the visibility from the AONB will be more of an issue. Cllr Wright added that research suggested that the recommendations for employment and housing growth were lower than previously anticipated.

17/15 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Wright agreed to send a link to the website where anybody can report potholes, which is the most effective way of informing the county council. Cllrs Hayman and Fallows said they would also identify whether certain roads with potholes were rat runs or ones which serve the community. Cllr Wright said she would find out what is happening regarding the flood gauges, and she added that she has been pursuing DCC’s transport and Stagecoach about formal stops on Hayne Lane and Ironbridge.

18/15 Matters for the forward agenda

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

19/15 Clerk’s Report

None.

20/15 Date of next two meetings. Tuesday 9th June and Wednesday 1st July at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2050 hrs.

Chairman.....

9th June 2015