

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1ST APRIL 2015

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr E Underdown

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), Richard Pratt (member of the public), Cate Dandridge (member of the public), Justin Lascelles (Combe Estate, item 203/14 only), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Edmonds, Cllr M Walker, Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), PCSO Phil Anning, PC Clive Vickery

195/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

196/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

197/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

Two crimes:

- 13th March, drink and drive: after road traffic accident, male driver arrested
- 25 /26th March, Non-dwelling burglary: attempted burglary to garage, nothing stolen.

198/14 To receive declarations of interest

None.

199/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Randall Johnson said she is trying to track down maps which will show the land owned by DCC that will definitely be cleaned as part of highways maintenance, and the land which belongs to landowners for which they should have responsibility. In the past, she explained, DCC has been cleaning ditches which it owns, and also those of landowners. Gullies under the road are still DCC's responsibility. Cllr Randall Johnson said that looking long term, it seemed likely that more than 60 per cent of DCC's budget would be spent on children and adult services, and there would be very little budget to continue the type of road maintenance it has done up to now for land it does not own. Cllr Valentine asked for copies of these maps, as it may help the parish council understand what DCC's responsibilities are.

Cllr Bond said the figures from the SHMAA report had finally been made available, and the recommendation is for EDDC to build 950 houses per year in the district for the next 18 years. She said the figure was higher than previously estimated, but now stretched over a longer plan period. The revised Local Plan will now go before the planning inspector, and if approved there will be an 8-week public consultation. Cllr Bond explained that the plan would therefore be adopted by December 2015, following this timetable. Members agreed it would be important to contribute to the public consultation in view of the 15ha of employment land proposed near Hayne Lane.

Cllr Bond added that challenges were already presenting themselves. EDDC's Development Management Committee has approved this week an application for 900 houses between Cranbrook and Exeter. EDDC

can now demonstrate a five-year land supply, which was one of the issues with a previous iteration of the Local Plan. Cllr Valentine questioned where the 900 houses would go, and said that there was now considerable competition for developers between district councils. Mid-Devon District Council, for example, is keen to expand Cullompton. He argued that it is becoming easier for developers to not contribute towards infrastructure, and this risks putting far too much pressure on services such as health and education over the next five years.

Cllr Bond reported that EDDC's move from Sidmouth would go ahead, and the district council will have to borrow £2 million for this.

200/14 To approve the April payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0674	F J Clampin	£226.78	Clerk's fee and expenses
0675	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0676	Nick Adams	£71.70	Annual play area inspection
0677	DALC	£113.44	Annual membership fee
0678	34SP	£59.40	Annual web hosting and domain name

Members were informed that the first installment of this year's precept had been received, and the current bank balance stands at £15,497.67.

201/14 To approve the creation of a direct debit to pay Gittisham Parish Council employee salaries and tax

Members resolved to approve this to make payments to HMRC easier.

202/14 To nominate a contact to receive communications on new legal duties regarding pensions

The clerk explained that from 1st January 2017 the parish council would be obliged automatically to enroll its employees who are eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. The Pensions Regulator has therefore asked the council to nominate a contact who will be kept updated with the progress towards this date. Members resolved to approve this by nominating the clerk.

203/14 To consider limited residential development in the parish

The Chair said the parish council had supported the principle of limited residential development, as outlined in the parish plan of 2010. Previous discussions with Combe Estate had established that this was a shared goal to help stem the increase in second homes and allow the community to evolve. Justin Lascelles (Combe Estate) said that if the parish council felt that low cost, small scale housing would be of benefit to the village, the estate would pursue this on a partnership basis. Cllr Trumper questioned this, and Mr Lascelles explained that elsewhere in the county there were examples of where landowners had developed a site and parish councils have a say in who the homes are let to, with a score system related to the tenants' connection to the area. Mr Lascelles said the estate did not envisage these properties being for sale, unless there is a need or desire for a certain number to be sold. He suggested there was a need for a neighbourhood plan and the estate could put some money towards this, but members felt this would be too costly, time-consuming and unnecessary for the small number of dwellings proposed. Cllr Randall Johnson said if a housing needs survey was carried out, there was help available for this through the Community Council of Devon.

It was agreed that the best way forward would be for the parish council to arrange a meeting with EDDC and Mr Lascelles in the next few weeks to look at the options. Cllr Bond agreed to facilitate this. The estate has two preferred sites: the Dutch barn opposite Clyst Hayes and the old estate yard by Talbots.

The Chair asked Mr Lascelles if, in the light of the development approved west of Hayne Lane on estate land, a footpath could be created from the west end of the site to the village.

Justin Lascelles and Cllr Randall Johnson left the meeting.

204/14 To consider the following planning applications:

a) 15/0606/FUL 3 Bracken Close Honiton EX14 2YS Raising of roof over garage and replacement rear extension

Members had no objections.

205/14 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair said Honiton Town Council had been in touch, but only to say that no progress had been made as yet with neighbourhood planning. However, details have now been released of the new funding arrangements and HTC will be able to apply for a larger amount if it works with other parishes (Awliscombe and Gittisham). The three parishes will need to get together after the elections to discuss practicalities regarding consultation, budgeting and setting up a steering group. HTC's deputy clerk had also suggested that the disparity in the number of voters between the three parishes should be discussed.

Cllr Valentine said the importance to Gittisham of a neighbourhood plan rests with the 15ha of employment land proposed. The Chair asked Cllr Bond if she could get in touch with Natural England about its position on the proposed employment land.

206/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The clerk said the annual safety inspection had been carried out, and agreed to circulate the report to members.

207/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The clerk reported she had put Len Abbott's name forward for Chapter 8 training, which DCC requires to carry out this work. Mr Abbott has agreed to find out what work needs to be done in the parish.

208/14 To consider the future uses of the telephone box in Gittisham village

The Chair said there was no update on this. Members felt there was a need in the near future to nominate a person to drive this campaign forward.

209/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

210/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

The clerk said she was waiting to hear from Cllr Wright as regards the flood gauges.

211/14 Matters for the forward agenda

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

212/14 Clerk's Report

None.

213/14 Date of next two meetings. Tuesday 12th May and Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman.....

12th May 2015