

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1ST AUGUST 2012**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr Ms S Trumper

Cllr R Hayman

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr M Edmonds

In attendance: Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Ms Maggie Walker, Cllr E Underdown, Cllr D Valentine, Cllr Roger Giles (DCC), Cllr Graham Brown (EDDC)

44/12 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

45/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

46/12 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

Being unable to attend the meeting, the police sent an email the following week. There had been one reported crime this month, a male driver (not local) was stopped on the old A30 and found to be over the drink drive limit. He was also found to be a disqualified driver and only holds a provisional licence. He has been reported to court for all three offences.

47/12 To receive declarations of interest

None.

48/12 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

None.

49/12 To approve the August payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0543	HMRC	£31.20	PAYE
0544	F J Clampin	£182.45	Clerk's fee and expenses
0545	Laps Lawns	£80	Maintenance of playing fields
0546	P Sellick	£30	Gazette distribution in Vale
0547	Community First	£192.02	Play equipment insurance

The clerk said the VAT return had successfully claimed back £1,619.41 for the council. Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £12,006.65.

50/12 To consider the following planning applications:

- 12/1557/VAR - Barn Conversions, Nags Head Farm, Gittisham EX14 3AW variation of condition to allow for residential and holiday use
- 12/1543/FUL - Shermans Farm (land Adjacent) Gittisham Honiton EX14 3AU construction of agricultural workers' dwellings

Members had no objection to the variation of condition of the barn conversions at Nags Head Farm. Objections were raised to the construction of agricultural workers' dwellings at Sherman's Farm. Members agreed it is on a greenfield site with no access to the highway network, and they did not feel there was a strong case for exceptional agricultural need.

51/12 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Members discussed the issues raised by the meeting with Justin Lascelles from Savills (representing the Combe Estate) in July. There was some confusion over why the Combe Estate (having said in the meeting it was keen to build capital) would want to build residential properties for letting, having disposed of much of its property portfolio in the village in 2004. The Chair said he knew of several village residents who would be interested in moving into more modern accommodation suitable for their needs. Members agreed that the only organisation likely to provide housing on a small scale in the village would be the Combe Estate. They agreed that the Chair, along with Cllrs Valentine, Hayman and Trumper would try to talk to Richard Marker to clarify certain areas before the next parish council meeting.

52/12 To receive a report on the Local Plan meetings at EDDC to date and to consider future input

Members heard that Honiton Town Council had presented its objections to the Local Plan at a meeting on 17th July. Gittisham PC had been asked by HTC to outline its position before this meeting, so HTC could present its and Gittisham's objections to development at Heathfield Manor and west of Hayne Lane. Members continued to question the evidence of the need for 450 homes. In a close-run vote, EDDC's local development management committee voted to remove the proposal at Heathfield Manor, but keep Hayne Lane as a 'reserve site', which means if EDDC cannot find other locations to build new homes they will choose this. Members agreed that in some ways this was a worse proposition than Heathfield Manor, with the Chair warning that Old Elm Road and the lane past Bartlett's Farm risked becoming a through route. He asked Cllr Edmonds to keep Vale residents informed of any updates to the situation.

53/12 To consider the formulation of a strategic plan to cover the period 2012-2015

The Chair said the recent heavy rainfall had been disastrous for some village residents. Members heard how the sandbags had been put to good use, and these now need to be returned to Eveleigh's Farmhouse. The Chair agreed to ask Nick Agg-Manning if he would need help rounding them up and storing. Cllr Hayman agreed to order a dumpy bag of sharp sand as more is needed to fill the bags. This activity could be combined with the working party that is still to be formed to join the two parts of the play area. Volunteers are needed for this.

Members discussed blocked ditches, with Cllr Hayman pointing out the biggest problem was with a ditch running straight from the caravan park back to the sharp bend on the Sidmouth side of the road. It is also fairly full back towards Tommy Wax and has been this way for some years. The result is water running off down to the village instead of draining away. Cllr Edmonds also noted a blockage in the ditch by Bartlett's Farm. The clerk will pass this information on to Cllr Giles.

54/12 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, insurance cover and to note the current play area finances

The clerk reported that the roundabout supplier is still waiting for a part from the manufacturer. Members approved the additional payment for insurance cover for the play equipment.

55/12 To consider any late entry correspondence

The Chair had received a message from Transition Town Honiton asking if the council would be interested in strengthening ties to help groups by "sharing information on events, issues and celebrations with the aim of creating a well informed network which would hopefully raise awareness and popularity of all community groups involved." Members agreed to form part of its network.

56/12 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Members asked Cllr Giles to investigate blocked ditches (cf item 53/12) and also reminded him of the poor state of Dark Lane, which has been raised in previous meetings.

57/12 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include the play area, Strategy 2012-15, Local Plan and residential development in the next

agenda.

58/12 Clerk's Report

The clerk asked if any councillors were available to attend EDDC's August garden party, but members were otherwise engaged.

59/12 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 5th September (tbc) and Wednesday 3rd October at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2020 hrs.

Chairman.....

5th September 2012