

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

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr R Hayman (vice chairman)

Cllr Ms Maggie Walker

Cllr Ms S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

In attendance; Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk), Cllr Roger Giles, PC Clive Vickery

Apologies for absence: Cllr D Fallows, Cllr E Underdown, Cllr M Edmonds

Prior to the start of the meeting resident Russell Hayman exercised his right to bring appropriate matters to the notice of the Council, and raised the subject of the delisting of his former home, Gittisham Farm. Mr Hayman said his family welcomed any progress on the delisting and expressed a desire to see the situation resolved properly for future generations.

153/11 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

154/11 Minutes

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

155/11 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

PC Vickery reported there had been one crime since the last meeting: three outbuildings by the old A30 were broken into and property stolen between 20th and 23rd January.

PC Vickery left the meeting.

156/11 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 10, the de-listing of Gittisham Farm.

157/11 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Members noted the action taken regards the resurfacing of various roads in the parish. Cllr Giles explained that the county council would set its budget by 16th February and that it was being urged by Government to accept an additional grant of £8.2 million on the condition of no council tax increases in 2012/13. He also warned that further cuts would be likely.

158/11 To approve the February payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0509	F J Clampin	£176.53	Clerk's fee and expenses
0510	HMRC	£31.20	PAYE

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £10,952.49.

159/11 To receive a report on the Local Plan meetings at EDDC to date and to consider future input

Members noted that the date for submitting representations to EDDC had passed on 31st January. Cllr Valentine explained that he and Cllr Fallows had sent a letter on behalf of the parish council, reiterating briefly the council's objections to development west of Hayne Lane. EDDC's Local Plan panel will resume meeting in March once the responses to the plan have been analysed. By the end of June the panel will have prepared the proposed local plan which will be open to further public consultation in

August.

160/11 To consider the formulation of a strategic plan to cover the period 2012-2015 including a village flood risk plan

Cllr Valentine reported that he and Cllr Fallows had met Carol Hall, and that her links with the Environment Agency were beneficial to the process. She has given them a template to work from to draw up a flood risk plan. This will eventually be digitized and put onto a larger scale plan. At a later date it will need input as regards identifying areas where the council may wish to store sandbags and where roadside ditches require further maintenance. This flood plan can also be extended to encompass an emergency plan for the parish. Cllr Valentine asked Cllr Hayman to mark where drainage ditches could be maintained.

Cllr Trumper raised the issue of a visit last year by EDDC regarding flooding. The clerk agreed to request the report that was likely to have been drafted following this visit.

161/11 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area including renewal of the maintenance contract, annual inspection and to note the current play area finances

Members heard that the roundabout is due to arrive in the first week of February, and Carol Hall has agreed to inform residents who may be affected by the installation. Members resolved to pay for the annual inspection by DCC, as well as a risk assessment and disability assessment amounting to £68.50 + VAT. The clerk agreed to check whether the council would receive a copy of the subsequent report. The clerk reported that registering the extended area with the Land Registry was underway. As regards outstanding funding, Nick Agg-Manning had agreed to speak to the Deerpark Hotel the weekend of 4th February. Cllr Valentine said he would contact the Chair to secure a copy of the lease agreement with signatures and dates to help him pursue the planning application.

The clerk outlined four bids submitted for the maintenance contract:

1. Grounds Maintenance SW £550
2. Laps Lawns £800
3. Andy Willett £1,320
4. Chris Drake, Garden & Countryside Maintenance £1,500

Due to a member of the clerk's family requiring an emergency visit to hospital, she had been unable to meet the representative of Ground Maintenance SW as scheduled. She agreed to contact him to rearrange a visit so he could quote, having seen the extent of the play area. Members have asked for confirmation as to whether this figure will include removal of mowings, strimming and the extended play area.

162/11 To consider the de-listing of Gittisham Farm

Cllr Hayman left the meeting.

Members heard that Cllr Fallows had received a letter from Savills, asking if the parish council would be prepared to write a letter to EDDC and English Heritage to support the de-listing of Gittisham Farm in order to expedite the process. Cllr Fallows has also spoken to the conservation officer at EDDC, who does not think the property can be delisted because the walls are believed to be structurally sound. An engineer will look at the farm again after the winter freeze is over. Members agreed to write to English Heritage and EDDC in support of de-listing the farmhouse, in the hope that work can start on its reconstruction.

Cllr Hayman resumed the chair.

163/11 To consider the parish boundary signs

The clerk reported that most of the Vale land belonged to DCC, which has said it will not support a boundary sign on its land. The land owned by EDDC (which might consider a parish boundary sign) is at the far end of the Vale, and Mr Joy (the resident who raised the issue) has said the location would be inappropriate. Honiton Town Council had agreed to report back to the clerk on a similar issue, although it was thought that a licence from DCC had been issued for a parish noticeboard, not a boundary sign.

164/11 To consider the state of the village bus shelter roof

Cllr Walker reported that work would start after the end of the shooting season on 1st February.

[Clerk's note: this has now been completed.]

165/11 To consider distribution of the Gittisham Gazette

Members noted the enlarged distribution to 200 Vale residents, and agreed to discuss the parish council's support for the gazette's printing costs at the next meeting. Cllr Walker agreed to check potential costs of printing with Exeter College.

166/11 To consider the responsibilities of snow wardens, the replacement of salt bins and to note insurance

Members noted that under DCC's scheme, volunteer snow wardens are not covered for personal injury incurred during snow clearance. The parish council's current insurers will only cover personal injury claims from snow wardens if the accident occurred clearing a pavement, and this on payment of £50 + IPT / admin per volunteer.

The clerk reported that the new bin for Old Elm Road was in the pipeline. DCC's John Hopkins has requested for the broken empty bin on the road out from Gittisham to Gittisham Farm to be renewed and filled but he had told the clerk the part-demolished one on the Honiton Road to The Forge had never been recorded on the council's system, and had been placed on the verge by the farmer. Cllr Hayman took issue with this and the clerk agreed to check with DCC.

167/11 To consider parish activity for the Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Giles reminded members that any street party involving road closures would need to be passed to DCC with 3 months notice. The clerk asked members to nominate an 'unsung hero' to attend the Lord Lieutenant of Devon's garden party in honour of the Diamond Jubilee on 27th May in Exeter. The clerk agreed to approach Cliff Wensley + guest. Members discussed the installation of a commemorative bench and resolved to allow £500 for some kind of structure.

168/11 To consider the creation of a parish website

To be discussed at the next meeting.

169/11 To consider any late entry correspondence

Members supported the parish council's participation in a cluster group set up by Honiton Town Council of adjoining parish councils. Cllrs Valentine and Hayman had attended a meeting to discuss the advantages forming a group might have.

170/11 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

None.

171/11 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include the play area (including renewal of the maintenance contract), parish signs, gazette, snow wardens, website, Gittisham Farm de-listing and Strategy 2012-15 in the next agenda.

172/11 Clerk's Report

The clerk had received some correspondence regarding the presence of Himalayan Balsam in the parish. She agreed to circulate this to members. She also asked if members would be interested in a presentation on recycling provided by EDDC, but they declined. Cllr Walker agreed to remove the bunting and empty the bin in the play area, following a request by a resident.

173/11 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 7th March 2012 and Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2110 hrs.

Chairman.....

7 March 2012