

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2014

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr M Walker

Cllr S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr E Underdown

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr M Edmonds

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

Prior to the start of the meeting, Jan Sutcliffe and Barbara Mullett exercised their right as parish residents to speak regarding the planning application under discussion later in the meeting, 13/2744/MOUT - Land West of Hayne Lane. They wish to organise a demonstration against the development and asked if the parish council would support it. The Chair explained that if members wanted to lend their support they could do so on an individual basis, and it was every resident's democratic right to peaceful protest. He suggested the march might have more impact if it objected to unsustainable developments planned for East Devon as a whole, rather than this particular site. The date is yet to be confirmed. Barbara Mullett added that she intends to start an e-petition.

83/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

84/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

85/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

One crime this month: a dog escaped from a private address into a field in Gittisham and started attacking livestock.

86/14 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 8/14 Land West of Hayne Lane, as he is a tenant of the landowner making the application. Cllr Valentine declared an interest in item 7/14 as he has advised the church on the application.

87/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright reported that North, East and West Devon Clinical Commissioning Group had announced its intention to close all inpatient beds at Ottery St Mary (12) and Axminster hospitals in East Devon. The minor injuries unit at Ottery will also shut if plans go ahead. The minor injuries unit at Sidmouth is also set to close. A 12-week consultation has been launched on these and other proposals across Devon, which NHS managers say is intended to move care closer to people's homes. As a member of Devon County Council's health scrutiny committee, Cllr Wright has requested the associated financial case for the bed closures, as previously health managers suggested that the plans would save money. She said she was entirely unconvinced of the savings and actually believed that it would cost MORE money for a range of health staff to visit people's homes, with all the necessary equipment.

Cllr Wright, along with Cllr Roger Giles, has called a public meeting to discuss the plans and what should be done about them, on Tuesday 7 October, starting at 7.30pm, at the Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery St Mary.

On a more positive note, said Cllr Wright, the church was set to take over responsibility for the youth centre. There was no update on what will happen to the library in Ottery. BBC Inside Out is producing a programme on the service cuts proposed for Ottery and how the community can work together under the circumstances. A public meeting on Saturday 4 October, 10am-1pm in the Institute, will explore how residents can help Ottery move forward amid the cuts.

Cllr Randall-Johnson added that beds would remain in Honiton inpatients. She said that those with a stake in social care were awaiting the introduction of the Better Care Fund with interest. At Honiton youth centre, it looks as if the building will run on a three-year lease with the community college, which should enable all current users to continue going there.

Cllr Randall-Johnson also reported back from a positive meeting in Musbury regarding footpaths, which is part of a series of meetings on this subject across the county. The aim is to encourage local wardens to do an annual audit and move to electronic record-keeping. She said DCC was encouraging people to put themselves forward as 'community highway volunteers', to share road and bridleway maintenance. It's believed parishes will get more involved in what happens in their community. Cllr Walker said insurance was a grey area for this type of work.

Cllr Bond explained that Matt Dickins at EDDC had told her the SHMA report should be published around Christmas. This document is important, as it assesses how many houses are needed in the district. Cllr Valentine added that if figures show the need for housing is not as high as previously presented, the five-year land supply will reflect this and this could be a material consideration which would have to be reconsidered by the committee. If the SHMA is published before EDDC has sorted out the headings for the Section 106 agreements, the parish council can ask for the decision to be reconsidered. (The S106 means EDDC has to go through the question of education, health issues and whether or not there are financial contributions. It's not clear what the timescale is on this.)

Cllr Randall-Johnson left the meeting.

88/14 To approve the October payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0651	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0652	F J Clampin	£171.90	Clerk's fee and expenses
0653	PLandscape	£70.80	2 x grass cuts in August (maintenance of play area)

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £14,164.67.

89/14 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 14/1260/FUL – St Michael's Church Gittisham Installation of bunded central heating oil tank (amended plans)

Cllr Valentine left the meeting.

Members had no objections.

Cllr Valentine returned to the meeting.

90/14 To consider the review of the planning application 13/2744/MOUT land west of Hayne Lane

Cllr Hayman left the meeting.

The Chair reported that he had lodged a complaint with EDDC's monitoring officer, and thanked Cllrs Trumper and Valentine for their help in drafting this. The complaint has also been copied to Neil Parish MP, along with a statement for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) asking it to call in the application. Cllr Valentine explained that this complaint letter is the first step in a process that

potentially ends with the local government ombudsman. EDDC has to respond, and if the parish council is not happy with its response it can go to the ombudsman. If the ombudsman judges that EDDC did not follow procedures correctly or reasonably, it can find maladministration. This would not affect the decision to grant the application approval but could result in compensation.

Cllr Hayman returned to the meeting.

91/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The Chair said he had not yet spoken to Bill Griffiths and Hamish Hall about designing a structure of some kind, possibly a fort. Cllr Walker said this would have the approval of the children, and added that she was up to date with safety inspections.

92/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The clerk agreed to contact neighbouring parishes to see if they would be interested in putting together a bid for a lengthsperson for the next round of Parishes Together. This follows having seen the successful bid by Chagford and surrounding parishes.

Jan Sutcliffe and Barbara Mullett left the meeting.

93/14 To consider the future uses of the telephone box in Gittisham village

The Chair said the public meeting on 20th September had produced a number of good ideas for the telephone box, the defibrillator and the oral history centre having the most potential. These two could co-exist. Cllr Walker proposed supporting both, seconded by Cllr Valentine. Due to the cost of the defibrillator, members agreed money should be raised through community events for part of it. The cost is thought to be in the region of £2,500. Cllr Wright said she would be happy to put some of the county budget towards it. Cllr Underdown said he'd heard on the national news that children were being trained to carry out CPR, and members supported Cllr Walker's suggestion that the defibrillator training should also include some general first aid. Cllr Hayman said with increasing numbers of older people living in the parish, and only 12 ambulances based in East Devon, the service would be under pressure. Therefore, he argued, a defibrillator had the potential to save lives.

94/14 To consider the recruitment of volunteer snow wardens

Cllr Edmonds said the possible volunteer in Cypress Close would be unavailable for the foreseeable future, so the Chair agreed to ask Richard Pratt, and Cllr Edmonds said he would enquire around the Vale.

95/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk circulated details of EDDC's draft playing field strategy as requested by the district council, but this is not applicable to the parish.

96/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Wright agreed to chase up the flood gauges for the road under the railway bridge. In response to Cllr Underdown's question regarding a caravan settlement at Weston, Cllr Bond said it was working its way through the planning enforcement system.

97/14 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include planning application 13/2744/MOUT Land west of Hayne Lane, play area, telephone box, parish lengthsperson and snow warden recruitment on the next agenda.

98/14 Clerk's Report

None.

99/14 Date of next two meetings. Tuesday 11th November and Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2035 hrs.

Chairman..... 11th November 2014