

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019  
in the Parish Room, Gittisham**

**Present:**

**Gittisham Village Ward**

Cllr R Hayman (Chair)  
Cllr C Hall (Vice Chair)  
Cllr M Walker  
Cllr D Valentine

**Gittisham Vale Ward**

Cllr Rhiannon King  
Cllr Peter Orchard

**In attendance:** Six members of the public, Fiona Clampin (clerk)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr A Wilkins, Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), PCSO Darren England

Prior to the start of the meeting, one member of the public exercised their right as parish resident to speak regarding the height of the hedge at the back of Marker Cottages. The resident asked if the hedge could be cut to the same level as before.

Mike Dawes proposed measures to mitigate the impact of the slide & tower in the play area and increase safety. He suggested removing the flag poles to reduce the height and potential visual intrusion, and planting a hedge between the slide & tower and the top gate. He felt this would reduce some of the privacy issues raised by some residents, and improve safety by reducing the risk of children climbing over the gate and straight onto the road. He offered to pay for said hedge.

Two residents said they were hoping to arrange a meeting with EDDC before putting in a planning application to convert one of two holiday cottages to a permanent residence. They said that recent years had been challenging and the market was more crowded than when they began providing holiday accommodation in the 1990s. They hoped that by generating income from the permanent rental, they could invest this in improving their other holiday property in the village. They said they would welcome the parish council's support in creating more homes for rent in the parish for permanent residents.

Two members of the public left.

**100/19 To accept and approve apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted.

**101/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**102/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report**

No crimes recorded in August 2019.

**103/19 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**104/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives**

Cllr Bond sent the following report in her absence: "Work is pressing ahead on our Climate Change agenda, specifically how we can respond to the emergency, working alongside Devon County Council. We are currently looking at measuring our carbon footprint as a basis against which we can establish how well we are doing. There are likely to be 'quick wins' in the early years of the process, but decisions are likely to get more difficult (and expensive) towards 2040 and beyond.

The Council has just granted the first licence for an electric taxi and we expect this to be the first of many. We are also starting a project to install electric car charging points in our major car parks. The initiative is led by Devon County Council with funding from the European Regional Development Fund.”

Cllr Twiss sent the following report in his absence:

#### Potholes

“I am pleased to report that recorded numbers this year are down from last year and are below the monthly average since 2016, heading in the right direction.

August 2019 was 1826, September 2019 month to date 1910,

2016 figures for comparison, 3872 and, 2150

2017 figures for comparison, 3320 and, 2760

2018 figures for comparison 4384, 3312

In short well down on previous years. As the nights begin to draw in final preparations are being made for winter, with delivery of 8500 tonnes of salt due in the next few weeks to ensure by early October the salt barns are fully stocked at 23,500 tonnes. The gritters and snow blowers are all serviced and ready for action, but as always I am hoping they won't be called upon for use.

#### Spending Review

In the September Spending Review the Chancellor announced an extra £1.5 billion extra for social care. This breaks down as £1 billion in grants and a further £0.5 billion would come in the form of powers to raise 2 per cent from council tax as a social care precept. Depending on the distribution formula used for the grant element, Devon can expect around £15 million with the possibility of a further £7 million potential raised through a social care precept.

#### Children's Services and Schools

We have 771 children in care, and pressure remains high on the system. The availability of placements and the right sort of placement is a continuing challenge. Foster Carer recruitment has improved. Over the last two years we have recruited 50 new Foster Families and lost no Foster Carers following our re-structuring of allowances.

#### School Funding

Following many months of campaigning by parents, schools, local authorities and F40, government announced a three-year settlement for education: -

The school's budget will rise by £2.6 billion in 2020-21, £4.8 billion in 2021-22 and £7.1 billion in 2022-23, compared to 2019-20 funding levels.

Per pupil funding to rise, at least in line with inflation to a minimum of £3750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools, including Devon. £700m more funding to support children with Special Educational Needs. £400m for FE provision including £190m to increase core funding for 16-19-year olds and £210m for target interventions such as English and Maths re-sits, T levels, the Advanced Maths Premium and workforce investments. There is clearly political uncertainty at the moment, but these announcements are a good baseline for next year, whatever happens.”

#### **105/19 To note the latest planning decision notices**

- a) 19/1208/FUL 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Construction of single storey extensions and reinstatement of first floor side-facing window. **Approval with conditions.**
- b) 19/1209/LBC 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Demolition of shed to rear and construction of single storey extensions, reinstatement of 1<sup>st</sup> floor side facing window re-rendering and alterations to interior layout. **Approval with conditions.**

#### **106/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village**

Cllr Hall reported that two Voneus representatives had given a presentation in the village hall on 17<sup>th</sup> September, which was well attended. She felt the meeting and the opportunity to question Voneus had resolved a number of issues. Cllr Valentine said that if the company could overcome some of the technical challenges, it could be a viable option. Cllr Hall encouraged members and residents to indicate their interest via the Voneus website, which does not require any financial commitment at that stage. There is a

one-off installation cost of £149 (inc. VAT), but if residents have download speeds of 2MB or under, it is possible to have this cost covered by Building Digital UK. She added that Voneus had also discussed a free wifi site in a community building within the parish. The company is intending to visit the village again within the next two weeks, and they will be carrying out site surveys.

**107/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall**

Cllr Hall said there was no progress on this.

**108/19 To consider maintenance for the two defibrillators**

Members heard that Stella Adamson would review the paperwork for the village defibrillator, and she believed the contract signed with the parish council would include replacement pads which are due to be changed in November. The clerk reported that Cllrs King and Orchard were signed up to the CHT system, and Cllr Orchard added that he had carried out his first check of the Vale defibrillator successfully.

**109/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development**

Members heard that just over 50 homes are now occupied on the site, and by the end of this calendar year Baker Estates expects this to rise to approximately 90 in total. These figures include affordable housing, delivered in partnership with Baker Estates and Sovereign Housing. The first affordable homes were handed over in April 2019, with another in September which includes the first apartment block. The development as a whole is likely to be complete in 2023/24, subject to the volatile state of politics and its effect on the economy. Regarding the traffic signs, members heard that Cllr Wilkins had still not received an update following the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit, and he would submit a FoI request by mid-October.

The clerk said she had forwarded two possible designs for the noticeboard to Graham Hutton for his approval.

Mike Dawes left the meeting.

**110/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish**

Cllr Valentine said the drop-in session with Devon Communities Together representatives was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> October, 3-7pm, to give people who have expressed an interest in any development to find out how they can establish their need with Devon Home Choice. He encouraged councillors to let others know who may have a connection to the village to come forward, so the GCLT can understand the need for affordable housing. He added that he would be distributing a leaflet about the session, and had submitted an article to the Midweek Herald.

**111/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106**

Cllr Valentine suggested that in the absence of any clarity over the criteria for spending CIL money, the parish council should draw up a wishlist and then present it to EDDC to see if it meets the criteria. Members agreed to canvass residents, and to come back to the next meeting with suggestions.

**112/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections**

Members understood that some residents had raised concerns over safety in the play area, following the installation of the balance beam and the slide & tower. Some residents felt children playing in the upper area on the slide could be using the gate which gives directly onto the road. Members resolved to purchase some mesh as a temporary measure to add to the existing gate, as well as some permanent 'no entry' signs and a padlock for the gate. Cllr Walker said she would speak to Len Abbott regarding his design for a new, secure gate. The clerk agreed to contact the play area safety inspector to seek advice on safety measures for the gate.

Members said they were happy with the location of the two new items. They discussed the height of the roadside hedge, as the parish council had received a number of differing requests. Members resolved to keep the roadside hedge height at its current level, and cut as usual for road safety. The inner side of the hedge will be left to grow wild, in keeping with the aspirations for that part of the play area.

The parish council had received proposals from some residents whose properties give onto the play area to reduce the visual impact of the slide / tower. Members discussed these at length, and resolved to arrange a site meeting to consider the proposals and other possibilities in situ, before making a decision as to the most appropriate way forward. Members agreed that a proposal to cut off the yellow flags and posts on the slide & tower had not received widespread support. They agreed that the tower frame would weather over the next 12 months.

The clerk said a broad range of views on the new equipment had been received. Members welcomed Cllr Valentine's suggestion that some signs could be installed asking users to keep noise levels down out of respect to residents. The clerk agreed to draft a press release to acknowledge the Lottery funding.

One member of the public left the meeting.

**113/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish**

The Chair said Len Abbott had installed a drain at Sewer Field corner, with Combe Estate providing the manpower for digging. The clerk reported that the Environment Agency was happy for somebody to clear any Himalayan Balsam in the River Gitt, but asked to be contacted if any spray was to be used. Members agreed to form a working party next year to clear this weed before it seeds. Cllr Walker said she would seek Len Abbott's advice on the matter.

Members heard that former councillor Richard Pratt had raised the issue of an overgrown hedge along Old Elm Road towards the end of the south side in the past with DCC, and a contractor had been out to trim the hedge. It was agreed to follow this up with Cllr Twiss.

**114/19 To consider the installation of a park bench in Gittisham Vale**

Members heard that there are currently two benches in the Vale, both between the stream and the path from Old Elm Road and Ferndale Close. Some residents had requested an additional bench be provided in the field between Hayne Lane and Laburnum Close. The clerk agreed to contact Cllrs Bond and Twiss to find out who owns the land.

One member of the public left the meeting.

**115/19 To consider climate change measures within the parish**

Cllr Hall proposed the parish council should have a green agenda, and said that other councils were looking at this. The clerk agreed to contact DALC, to find out if they had any advice. Members agreed to discuss this at the next meeting, and to reflect in the meantime on where the greatest carbon emissions are in the parish. Cllr Wilkins is due to attend the DALC AGM in October, where there will be a climate change workshop.

**116/19 To approve the October payments and to note the current bank balance**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0980	RhinoPlay Ltd	£5,321.40	Final instalment payment for new play equipment
0981	RhinoPlay Ltd	£1,357.20	Final instalment payment for new play equipment
0982	F J Clampin	£220	Clerk's salary & expenses
0983	Blamphayne	£234.30	Shingles and tiles for Vale bus shelter
0984	Michael Poll	£60	Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 581/19/11)
0985	Peter Sellick	£20	Gazette distribution (remaining amount following agreed increase)
0986	Len Abbott	£256.50	19 hours lengthsman work, Sept 2019
0987	Len Abbott	£73.87	Expenses, Sept 2019
DD	NEST	£17.50	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £21,902.06 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency). Members heard that Mr Sellick had agreed to the offer of an additional £20 every six months to cover the increased number of properties to which he is delivering

Full Council minutes are draft minutes until they are approved at the next Full Council meeting.

the Gittisham Gazette. He requested however for the situation to be renewed on a six-monthly basis, which was approved by members. The clerk said she would ask Cllr Wilkins to ask if Mr Sellick is happy to continue.

**117/19 To consider any late entry correspondence**

Cllr Walker said several residents were concerned over the state of certain trees in the village, especially following the fall of a lime earlier in the week by the village hall. The trees causing concern are a lime by the village hall and a fir opposite Garlands. The clerk agreed to contact Combe Estate to draw their attention to the matter and offer any assistance, and to ask Cllr Bond for the details of EDDC's tree consultant; Cllr Hall said the village hall committee had done the same, and had also been in touch with EDDC. The Chair thanked the estate for clearing the fallen tree and debris away quickly the following day.

The clerk reported that Baker Estates had welcomed the idea of a 'meet the parish council event' at the Hayne Farm development sales centre; she agreed to contact Graham Hutton to suggest one evening in January 2020 for this.

The Chair discussed the request from two residents for the parish council's support for the application they are due to resubmit to EDDC to convert holiday accommodation to permanent residence. Members agreed there was a shortage of permanent rental accommodation, and that encouraging this would be consistent with the parish plan. Members resolved unanimously to support the change of use.

One member of the public left the meeting.

**118/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC**

The clerk agreed to pass on Cllr Wilkins' concerns over the temporary barrier constructed past the entrance to Bartlett's Farm Shop which has itself fallen into the ditch.

Cllr King asked if a pavement could be installed from the emergency gate at the bottom of Old Elm Road up to Bartlett's farm shop. Cllr Orchard also requested a 'keep clear' sign painted on the road on either side of the emergency gate.

See also 113/19 and 114/19.

**119/19 Matters for the forward agenda**

It was agreed to include climate change, superfast broadband, village hall capital works, play area, Hayne Lane, limited residential development, broadband, lengthsman work, CIL / S106 expenditure, defibrillator, emergency plan and bench opposite Hayne Farm on the next agenda.

**120/19 Clerk's Report**

The clerk agreed to speak to James Fuller regarding the play area lease.

**121/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the parish room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2145 hrs.

**Chairman.....**

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2019**