

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2016**

**Present:**

**Gittisham Village Ward**

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

**Gittisham Vale Ward**

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr R Pratt

Cllr E Underdown

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

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Walker, Cllr S Trumper, PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

Prior to the start of the meeting, Genevieve Evans exercised her right as parish resident to speak regarding speed restrictions in Gittisham village. She said she was concerned that traffic would speed through the village once the hotel had re-opened. The Chair added that people were increasingly using the village to avoid the Turks Head roadworks. Cllr Wright said she would investigate whether it was possible for the village to have a 20mph speed limit. However, she explained there are strict criteria and the parish may not be eligible. Cllr Randall Johnson said councillors should investigate asking the police to do a speed check. The clerk agreed to write to the new owners of the hotel to ask them to discourage contractors from speeding whilst driving through the village.

**157/15 To accept and approve apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted.

**158/15 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**159/15 To receive the Beat Manager's Report**

No crimes reported since the last meeting:

**160/15 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**161/15 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives**

Cllr Wright reported that the review of Devon's electoral boundaries had been completed, and Gittisham will no longer fall under Ottery Rural. It will be part of Feniton & Honiton. Cllr Wright said she would continue to represent the parish at county level for another year before the changes take effect. Cllr Randall Johnson said Devon is slashing £28 million from its budget this year, with the arts and school crossing patrols particularly affected. However, there will be an increase in funds for social services and children's services. Susie Bond said EDDC now has a Local Plan, which aims to build 950 new homes across the district each year.

Matt Barrow from DCC's broadband team updated councillors on the roll-out of superfast broadband, which is being delivered by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS). (Superfast is defined as anything with speeds in excess of 24Mbps in line with the Government's definition.) He explained that there are three phases to the project, with Phase 1 currently developing the fibre infrastructure capable of delivering superfast services to 90 per cent of premises by the end of 2016. The Feniton exchange (which serves a large number of Gittisham postcodes) has been identified as 'live' and enabled for superfast, meaning superfast should be available. However, it emerged that some premises – especially those in the centre of Gittisham - are too far away from the cabinet for it to be technically possible to deliver a fibre service. The optimum distance is 1.2kms, and beyond 2.2kms the service drops. Matt Barrow thought it would be

unlikely that a commercial solution could be found in Phase 1, as it would not represent optimum value for money for the contractor, BT. He suggested that Gittisham could either put together a commercial bid for satellite or wireless, which would be very expensive, or wait until 2017 when an uplift to the broadband speed looked more likely under Phase 2. He asked councillors to let him know the speeds they were getting with postcodes of premises. Currently some in the parish are getting as low as 0.69Mb per second.

Matt Barrow and Cllr Randall Johnson left the meeting.

**162/15 To approve the February payments and to note the current bank balance**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0715	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0716	F J Clampin	£164.43	Clerk's salary and expenses
0717	F J Clampin	£28.93	Fee & expenses for electoral canvassing from EDDC
0718	P Sellick	£60	Gazette distribution
0719	Len Abbott	£231.25	Lengthsman work in August 2015 and Jan 2016

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £10,744.61.

**163/15 To consider the following planning applications:**

- a) 16/0008/TCA Olive Tree Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AF – T1 Bramley apple – fell
- b) 16/0128/TRE 7 Ferndale Close Honiton EX14 2YN - T1 Oak , T2 Oak – 10 per cent crown reduction via thinning, making natural target pruning cuts of up to 50mm in diameter; removing branch lengths of up to 2m; lift crown to 4m above public footpath

Members had no objections to the above.

**164/15 To consider limited residential development in the parish**

Cllr Valentine told members that he would be generating publicity aimed at people with a connection to Gittisham (but currently living outside the parish), who could be interested in being part of the housing needs survey. He reported that Yarcombe, which is one year further down the line in the process, had been very helpful in providing advice. Janice Alexander from Devon Communities Together would like the survey to be undertaken in May this year. Members discussed how the survey would be distributed, although it does not need to be picked up by the same people once completed. Members thanked Cllr Valentine for his work on this area so far.

**165/15 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan**

There was no update on this.

**166/15 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections**

The clerk circulated a spreadsheet on the current balance of play area finances, which total £238.54. The quote from Sovereign Playgrounds for the ping pong table was noted but considered unaffordable.

**167/15 To approve a supplier for the parish amenity area maintenance contract, 2016-17**

The clerk said she had approached four contractors to invite them to bid for the annual maintenance contract, but had received two bids. Members resolved to appoint the most cost-effective supplier, provided he could confirm his bid in writing.

**168/15 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish**

The Chair agreed to send Cllr Wright a further email with map references of areas where roadside verges and gullies need clearing. Members supported the Chair's view that there was a marked improvement since the lengthsman had started work. Cllr Hayman said he would buy a bag of sand for filling sandbags, and also reported that the British Heart Foundation has some funding available for defibrillators. The clerk agreed to check the foundation's website for further details.

**169/15 To approve an application for Parishes Together funding**

The clerk had circulated a draft application, which was approved with some minor amendments. Members heard that Farway parish was interested in using the Gittisham lengthsman's services, and the clerk agreed to enquire if this would be attractive to him.

Cllr Wright left the meeting.

**170/15 To consider any late entry correspondence**

None.

**171/15 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC**

Members discussed equipment and material at the Forge which is encroaching on the highway, and agreed to bring it to the owner's attention.

**172/15 Matters for the forward agenda**

It was agreed to include limited residential development, lengthsman work, play area, Honiton Neighbourhood Plan and bus shelter maintenance on the next agenda.

**173/15 Clerk's Report**

The clerk said she would respond to DCC's request for the location of unauthorised gypsy and traveller sites in the parish.

**174/15 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

**Chairman.....**

6<sup>th</sup> April 2016