

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4TH APRIL 2012**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr Ms Maggie Walker

Cllr E Underdown

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

In attendance; Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk), Cllr Roger Giles, Barbara Mullett (gazette)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Ms S Trumper, Cllr M Edmonds, Cllr R Hayman, PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

195/11 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

196/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

197/11 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

Three crimes reported in the parish this month:

1. 10-12 March, Gittisham Vale, forced entry to house and property stolen.
2. 22 March, A30, Male offender threatened female driver.
3. 28 March, A30, Diesel stolen from lorry parked in layby while driver asleep.

198/11 To receive declarations of interest

None.

199/11 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

None.

200/11 To approve the April payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0521	F J Clampin	£175.90	Clerk's fee and expenses
0522	HMRC	£31.20	PAYE
0523	Laps Lawns	£40	Maintenance of playing fields
0524	Laps Lawns	£40	Maintenance of playing fields
0525	Honiton PCC	£40	Gazette printing costs March & April

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £13,281.98.

The clerk said £3,500 of the annual precept had been received at the end of March. The membership of the Devon Playing Fields Association being up for renewal, Cllr Valentine questioned the benefit to the council of belonging. The clerk agreed to check with Carol Hall whether she had ever used its services. As members had agreed at a previous meeting to pay $\frac{3}{4}$ costs of printing the Gittisham gazette, Barbara Mullett proposed the council be billed for three editions out of every four, which members accepted.

The clerk reported progress on updating signatories at the bank, and members resolved to add Cllrs Valentine and Walker once the appropriate forms had been received. Members noted the requested statements from the bank were still outstanding. They resolved to pursue these in order to complete the annual return.

201/11 To consider planning application 12/0659/LBC Rapshayes Farm Gittisham Replacement door and windows etc.

Members had no objections.

202/11 To consider the formulation of a strategic plan to cover the period 2012-2015 including a village flood risk plan

The Chair said he would be writing a snow plan in order to obtain some salt. Cllr Underdown advised using 25kg bags. Members noted a handful of salt will cover a square metre and it does not need to be spread liberally.

The clerk had received an email from Richard Rainbow of DCC, who visited the parish last year to assess flood risk. The Chair explained that the email says the points raised during that visit have been passed to relevant parties at EDDC and DCC, but it gives no feedback from those contacts.

203/11 To receive a report on the Local Plan meetings at EDDC to date and to consider future input

The Chair had sent members a link to Cllr Claire Wright's blog, in which she outlined heated discussions at a recent Local Plan meeting. There was concern as a result that the housing allocation west of Hayne Lane would be reinserted into the Local Plan by EDDC, despite a lack of evidence to support the need for this and the 15ha of employment land. Members resolved to reassert the parish council's position, and agreed there would be a number of opportunities throughout the next six months to do so. Cllr Valentine pointed out that calling the area a 'strategic allocation' was important, as if inspectors at a Local Plan enquiry find it is unreasonable this could jeopardise EDDC's entire document. He has also asked for a copy of a 'viability study' which is mentioned in a letter to EDDC by Savills. Members resolved to write to Cllr Brown, reminding him of the pledge he had made at last year's annual meeting to oppose the development. The letter will ask him if he knows how the homes have reappeared in the Local Plan.

Cllr Valentine reported that the draft Local Plan will go to EDDC's development management committee on 8th May, and on 25th July the final agreed plan goes to council, followed by public consultation in August and September. The proposed submission document will be forwarded to the planning inspector, and this is the point at which the parish council should reiterate its position. There will be a short informal consultation on policy boundaries for towns, and Cllr Valentine hoped that Gittisham could be involved in that. The clerk agreed to contact Honiton Town Council about this.

The Chair thanked Cllr Valentine for his work so far regarding the Local Plan.

204/11 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area including depreciation and to note the current play area finances

The clerk reported that Nick Adams had visited to carry out the annual play equipment safety inspection, and he would be sending his findings by email. However he had telephoned to say the shackle fittings on one side of the bird's nest swing were very worn and would need to be replaced immediately. The clerk said she had been in touch with Carol Hall who would contact the supplier as a matter of urgency.

The clerk read out correspondence between Carol Hall and the roundabout suppliers, concerning its apparent stiffness. Safe and Sound Playgrounds had suggested the council hold back 20 per cent of the cost until the roundabout is working properly, and pay the remaining amount. Members resolved not to pay for the new roundabout until the parish has a roundabout that works as it should. They noted that as a great deal of effort had gone into the fundraising, and as the cost of the item involved public money, members would not be fulfilling their duties to the parish by paying for something that doesn't currently function. The clerk agreed to respond with this resolution to the company.

Cllrs Hayman and Fallows have not yet met to discuss timing for putting topsoil in the play area.

205/11 To consider the creation of a parish website

Members resolved to allow the Chair to sign the agreement with Websites Ahoy to set up the parish website. Barbara Mullett questioned the value for money to the council tax payer of a parish website, as she argued that a large number of parishioners would be unable to use it as they did not have computer access. The Chair explained that the running costs were minimal (£50 / year) and that there was no risk of other forms of communication between parishioners and council being sidelined in favour of the website. The Chair agreed to request short biographies from members that can be posted on the site. Members agreed to consult on what an appropriate fee for small businesses to advertise on the site would be. They encouraged Cllr Underdown to request an occasional blog or such like from his daughter for the site, detailing her experiences abroad.

206/11 To consider distribution of the Gittisham Gazette

Barbara Mullett reported Mr Sellick had been on holiday and therefore unable to distribute copies to the Vale, so this had been undertaken by others. The clerk agreed to place a copy of the gazette on the Vale noticeboard immediately with details of church services highlighted.

207/11 To consider parish activity for the Diamond Jubilee

The Chair agreed to talk to Cllr Hayman to form a jubilee committee. Members noted Nick Agg-Manning had also been talking about this. Cllr Walker said she had requested a price for constructing a barbecue from Julian Rowe, but had not yet received a quote. Barbara Mullett was pleased to report a recent event in the village hall organized by herself and Jan had raised £170, and people who came along voted to spend the money on jubilee mugs for children in the parish. She agreed to add something to the next edition of the gazette at Cllr Walker’s suggestion, asking those parents who wanted a mug for their child to get in touch.

208/11 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk had received correspondence asking if the parish council would consider purchasing a defibrillator. Members agreed the cost (£1,000+) was currently prohibitive, but said in future years it would be considered.

209/11 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Giles agreed to investigate with DCC highways department the following:

- the situation on the link road from the forge to Honiton, where old tree guards have been blowing onto the tarmac.
- state of Dark Lane, following a request by a resident
- state of road near Weston by Pippins, RH side.

210/11 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include the play area, website, Local Plan and Strategy 2012-15 in the next agenda.

211/11 Clerk’s Report

None.

213/11 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 2nd May and Wednesday 6th June at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman.....

2nd May 2012