

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

In attendance: One member of the public, Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Peter Orchard, PCSO Darren England

147/19 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

148/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 6th November 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

149/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

In October 2019 the following crimes were recorded:

- 1) Other theft (x2) on or near Parsonage Lane (investigation now complete; no suspect identified)

150/19 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 153/19 as he is a tenant of the landowner.

151/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Twiss said the three new funding initiatives launched in May to replace the old Town & Parish funds are progressing:

The DCC Doing What Matters Community Grants Fund is on the DCC website at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/doing-what-matters-communities-grants-fund/> This scheme features an intervention rate of 75 per cent (25 per cent match required) – offering one-off grants of between £5k to £20k to successful community project applicants. This grant is open to legally constituted and registered as not-for-profit organisations. This includes voluntary, community and social enterprises, town and parish councils, charities and businesses. Applications can also be made by a combination of these groups working together. From a standing start DCC have received some 30 submissions with over £150k provisionally allocated, this goes alongside an additional £55k of matched funding from bidders; clearly assisting DCC funding to go further.

Crowdfund Devon (extra funding for Devon) – details are on the Crowdfunder website:

<https://welcome.crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-devon/> This was set up to support community groups, start-up businesses, charities and individuals across the county to raise money from the crowd and unlock extra funding from our partners. The project leaders say that if you have a project that makes an impact to your community, supports well-being, works towards a better environment, rewards innovation or supercharges business ideas, then we want to hear from you. Cllr Twiss said this leading pilot is growing and developing with Torbay Council recently requesting to join the six District Councils and D&C Police partners – for every DCC pound invested £6.13 has been added by the wider crowd – a 613 per cent amplification!!

The third grant funding scheme is Making the Connection grant fund at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant> The scheme provides small, one-off non-repeatable, grants of up to £300 to support community-led ideas and initiatives across Devon. Just over 50 per cent of the fund has already been allocated to some 80 schemes covering a wide range of small community-led initiatives across the county.

Libraries

Cllr Twiss said the summer Reading Challenge seems to go from strength to strength from when DCC started the initiative some seven years ago. He outlined some statistics:

- 12,703 children took part in the challenge (11,162 last year);
- 7,811 children completed the challenge (6,661 last year)
- 1,366 children became library members in order to take part
- 169 young volunteers helped to deliver the challenge in 41 libraries

The resources used to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge cost £10,390 which equates to 83 pence per participating child. DCC considers the challenge to be very important to bridge the gap during the long summer school holiday and library staff collaborated with 197 primary schools to promote the challenge (160 last year). Nationally, visits to libraries and book lending has been in decline. Cllr Twiss said he was delighted that the latest data has seen Devon bucking the trend with a 4 per cent increase in lending.

Community Transport

Cllr Twiss said there was still no 'white smoke' from the Department for Transport (DfT) on the future of Community Transport such as our very own TRIP, based in Honiton. A court case is due to start around now with the DfT in the dock over their handling of what is called Section 19 and 22 permits that differentiate between commercial and not for profit transport operators, In the meantime the message to CT providers is the usual 'keep calm and carry on'.

South West Energy and Environment Group (SWEEG)

Devon County Council is a member of the SWEEG collaborative partnership between public sector organisations which shares information and research on use of energy and environmental issues in the built environment and Cllr Twiss explained that he is one of three DCC representatives that sit on this group. He said the annual report for 2019 (circulated to members) won't be everyone's cup of tea, but one of the highlights of it is the benefit to DCC that this forum brings, particularly in respect of the work it does on climate change and getting DCC to a position of zero net carbon much earlier than its previous target date of 2030. Clearly it would be excellent if other large scale employers and businesses could achieve this position too, he said.

Cllr Twiss said the Highways team had carried out a site visit to Devonshire Road to consider whether a bus stop was necessary at the junction with Hayne Lane; a temporary stop has been installed outside Combe Garden Centre.

Cllr Bond said EDDC's recycling rates continue to rise and are currently at 62 per cent. She added that EDDC is first nationally in the league table of councils for keeping non-recyclable waste low.

Cllr Bond reported that the work being undertaken on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan was put on hold after the May election to gauge the appetite of the five councils (East Devon, Mid-Devon, Teignbridge, Exeter City and Devon County) to continue with the process, given the changed political make-up of all the councils. It has now been agreed to continue with formulation of the Plan which will seek to address housing employment land provision (through allocation of sites) up to 2040.

152/19 To note the latest planning decision notices

- a) 19/2028/LBC 2 Mitchells Cottages - Remedial works and refurbishment of 3no. windows at ground floor and 2no. windows at first floor on front (south) elevation and 1no. window at ground floor and 2no. windows at first floor on rear (north) elevation and the installation of secondary glazing to 4no. windows on front (south) elevation and 1no. window on rear (north) elevation. **Approval with conditions.**
- b) 19/2150/VAR Unit 5 Weston Park Devonshire Road Heathpark Industrial Estate - Variation of

condition 3 of application 17/0428/FUL (change of use of building from B1/B8 (light industry/storage) to D2 (health club and gymnasium) together with the insertion of a first floor and associated external alterations) to permit extended opening hours. **Approval with conditions.**

The clerk added that the gym hours would be extended to 2200hrs Mon-Fri and until 1800 at the weekends. Cllr Hayman left the meeting. Cllr Hall took the chair.

153/19 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 19/2366/VAR Combe Garden Centre Gittisham Honiton EX14 3PD - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (restriction on sale of goods) of planning permission 18/2806/VAR (garden centre with restaurant/cafe) to facilitate the sale of a wider range of goods within part of the building

Councillors had no objections in principle to this application. However, they expressed disappointment that the latest application appeared contrary to the original application for a garden centre alone (rather than other retail items), and could potentially undermine other retail opportunities elsewhere - especially Honiton town centre. Had these developments been raised in the original application, rather than applying for them retrospectively, consultees might have expressed a different attitude, so councillors were concerned over the potential erosion of the planning process.

Cllr Hayman returned to the meeting.

- b) 19/2077/FUL 1 Hamlet Cottages Weston Gittisham Honiton EX14 3PB - Single storey workshop unit (use class B1(c)) (Retrospective application)

The clerk provided councillors with the history regarding this property, following a request at the last meeting. Councillors had no objections to the application.

154/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

Cllr Hall reported that there had been a few issues as regards properties which are not in the line of sight to receive the wifi signal from Voneus. The company is discussing the possibility of installing other boxes, perhaps on the church to improve the signal. Cllr Hall added the installation in the village hall wifi was imminent. Councillors thanked her for her work in bringing this option to the village. Cllr Valentine said he understood that BT was obliged to provide superfast broadband by 2020, and those communities who could not get it would be compensated.

Cllr Twiss left the meeting.

155/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections

Cllr Walker said she would ask David Fallows if he had the template form for safety inspections. Cllr Hall reported that a site had been chosen with Mike Dawes for the cherry tree and 'instant' hedge, which would be planted in the new year. The Chair agreed to lend his services and equipment, and to invoice the parish council at a later date for this work. Councillors heard that the flags on the slide & tower had been painted green on one side.

The clerk agreed to contact Western Power Distribution regarding a fallen tree in the corner of the play area. She reported that a press release had gone out to local media to recognise the National Lottery funding for the play equipment and support from the East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund. She said the parish council would have to research a new play area safety inspector.

156/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall

Cllr Hall said she would be contacting three contractors to bid for the work which needs doing. Cllr Bond suggested a breakdown of each quote would be advisable, particularly if the committee would be applying for grant funding. She added that the guidelines on using CIL money had been relaxed, and she also advised the hall committee to apply for EDDC's Community Building Fund which can offer financial support up to £5,000 which is match-funded. Councillors agreed with Cllr Valentine's suggestion that there

should be a five-year plan for the village hall and a detailed analysis of what could bring in more community benefit, as it is a great asset to the parish.

157/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

The clerk said the noticeboard was now on order.

158/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Cllr Valentine said the CLT would be appointing solicitors to act on its behalf, and he had also been researching suitable architects and housing associations to express their interest.

159/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106

Cllr Valentine said it was time to discuss with Cllr Twiss how the £35,000 from S106 funds could best be spent in Honiton, and councillors asked if they could be consulted on how this is delivered. Cllr Bond agreed to speak to the respective officers at EDDC also.

160/19 To consider the parish emergency plan

Cllr Valentine said there was no progress on this.

161/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

Cllr Valentine said the drain by Clysthayes is still partly blocked, despite remedial work by EDDC earlier in the year. He agreed to discuss a way forward with Cllr Bond. Cllr Walker added that Len Abbot had done some work outside Gorse Cottage, and she agreed to ask him to maintain a watching brief on the situation outside Clysthayes.

162/19 To consider the installation of a park bench in Gittisham Vale

Cllr Twiss having clarified the ownership of the land at the end of Old Elm Road, members heard that the site earmarked for the bench would be on land belonging to EDDC. The clerk agreed to contact EDDC to get permission to install a bench, and said she would contact Cllr Orchard to see what type of bench was required and how it will be fixed. Cllr Bond said she would forward the contact details of the correct department to the clerk.

163/19 To consider climate change measures within the parish

Members had a lengthy discussion on climate change, including an article put forward for the Gittisham Gazette. Councillors agreed to endorse the Devon Climate Declaration (led by DCC), which sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers the whole county, including those people who live, work in and visit Devon, and those businesses which are based or operate here. Cllr Hall suggested the next stage would be to put together an action plan at parish level.

164/19 To consider updating the register of snow wardens

The clerk said David Fallows had indicated he was happy to continue as a contact.

165/19 To approve the December payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0996	Community Heartbeat Trust	£162	Annual membership (Vale defibrillator)
0997	F J Clampin	£230.20	Clerk's salary & expenses
0998	Len Abbott	£40.50	3 hours lengthsman work, Nov 2019
DD	NEST	£17.50	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £20,545.93 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency).

166/19 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk said she would speak to Carol McCann to see if a coffee morning could tie in with a visit from Devon Communities Together for their energy-saving presentation.

167/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cf 159/19 and 161/19. Members agreed with Cllr Valentine’s comments that traffic along Devonshire Road is increasing, as well as the amount of parked cars obstructing the free flow of traffic. Cllr Valentine said the potential for accidents has risen, especially where the road narrows. Cllr Twiss had made known before leaving the meeting that the parish council should request double yellow lines as far as the gym through the appropriate channels, and said a parking order restricting cars would take around one year to come into operation.

168/19 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, emergency plan, budget, precept, casual vacancies and bench opposite Hayne Farm on the next agenda.

169/19 Clerk’s Report

The clerk said the ‘meet the parish council’ event at the Hayne Farm development would be scheduled for one evening in February 2020.

The clerk said Cllr King had tendered her resignation, so there are now two vacancies for parish councillors in Gittisham Vale. She said they would be advertised by EDDC in the appropriate manner, and if ten residents did not request a vote, the parish council could proceed to co-option. Members agreed to canvass any potential candidates.

170/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 8th January and Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2130 hrs.

Chairman.....

8th January 2020