

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2015

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr E Underdown

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), PCSO Phil Anning, Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Edmonds, Cllr S Trumper, Cllr M Walker

154/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

155/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

156/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

Two crimes:

- 16th Jan, public order: Verbal argument in the Vale between a motorist and a dog walker on a country lane
- 20th Jan, common assault: verbal argument in the village between ex-partners, leading to an assault

157/14 To receive declarations of interest

The Chair declared an interest in item 7(a) as his is the neighbouring property and 7(b), as his wife is a member of the village hall committee.

158/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright said DCC would soon be meeting to discuss budget cuts of £50 million this year. The two most likely areas to be affected are school crossing patrols and bus routes. There are changes proposed to routes which serve the Vale and also the F5 serving the village. Cllr Wright added that grass cutting was also due to be affected. At a joint scrutiny meeting at the end of January, it was agreed to cut only one million square metres, rather than the previous nine million. Cllr Wright expressed concern that with such cuts, her pilot project on wildflower verges would fall by the wayside. She hinted that town and parish councils could be taking on more responsibility for this kind of maintenance. As regards Ottery hospital, Cllr Wright said she was hopeful it could be saved from closure.

Cllr Bond said she had spoken to EDDC's planning officer today regarding land west of Hayne Lane. Welbeck have requested the draft decision notice which means that the final decision notice should be issued within two weeks. There have been no discussions about non-viability of the site and this would not be expected until the decision is made final. Any changes (e.g. in the affordable housing element, contributions to education or contributions to improvements at Turk's Head) would have to come before DMC. She added that there were currently no planning applications in and no pre-application discussions have been had for land east of Honiton.

Cllr Bond expressed her frustration that EDDC is still waiting for the SHMA report which will identify the numbers of houses required over the Local Plan period. No time-frame has been given for this, despite repeated requests.

Regarding the traveller site at Weston, Cllr Bond said more caravans have been moved on to the site and EDDC has yet to issue an enforcement notice, although it is imminent.

Cllr Bond reported back from EDDC's Overview and Scrutiny meeting last month regarding the proposed relocation to Honiton and Exmouth. Cllr Halse is strongly opposed to the move and said that EDDC had 'fallen flat on its face'. The central argument for the move was the energy cost at the Knowle which was forecast as being 10 per cent above inflation for the next 20 years. The relocation team has been urged to reconsider the figures.

The Chair added that his complaint regarding the Hayne Lane development had been halted because the ombudsman had told him he is not empowered to consider a complaint from a parish council. A Vale resident is now pursuing the complaint. The Chair, supported by members, said he would write to Neil Parish MP to ask who a parish council could complain to, if not an ombudsman, in the event of maladministration.

159/14 To approve the February payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0667	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0668	F J Clampin	£190.35	Clerk's fee and expenses
0669	DALC	£25	Preparing for Elections course
0670	P Sellick	£60	Gazette distribution in the Vale
0671	Honiton PCC	£72	Gazette printing costs (paper)

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £12,377.31.

160/14 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) **15/0035/LBC Winsor Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AS Change of roof materials from wheat reed to water reed**
- b) **14/2760/TCA Village Hall Gittisham T1- Lime: Reduce height to approx 10m, crown clean remaining canopy making target pruning cuts of between 25mm and 100mm. T2 - Lime: 20% Crown reduction via thinning and crown cleaning removing branch lengths up to 5m making target pruning cuts of between 25mm and 100mm**

The Chair left the meeting.

Members had no objections.

The Chair returned to the meeting.

- c) **15/0065/FUL Land At And South Of Crowpits Covert Putts Corner Sidbury (adjoining parish) Installation of point of connection cable route associated with solar photovoltaic park (subject of planning application 14/2423/FUL)**

Members had no objections.

161/14 To consider limited residential development in the parish

The clerk agreed to send another invite to Justin Lascelles to a future meeting to discuss this.

162/14 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair said Honiton Town Council had been in touch, asking if Gittisham PC would want the whole parish to take part in the Neighbourhood Plan, or just the Vale. The clerk had replied the whole parish.

163/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The clerk agreed to fix up a time for Nick Adams to visit for his annual safety inspection and risk

assessment. There is still no news from the supplier of the seesaw regarding the crushing hazard.

The Chair said a resident had offered to source a living willow seat, at a cost of around £200 or £300. He explained that the seat is built, and then the willow greens up around it. Members agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting. The Chair said he would fix up a visit to Blamphaynes with Hamish Hall and Bill Griffiths to consider what they might need to build a structure. Hamish has the BS standard required to build the equipment.

164/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The clerk said that Awliscombe Parish Council would not be joining up with other parishes this year to contract a lengthsperson under the Parishes Together fund. She had tried to get in touch with somebody at Luppitt, but no response so far. Members thanked DCC for work clearing ditches, but drains still needed clearing at Westgate. Cllr Wright agreed to check whose responsibility this is, as Cllr Hayman said two are on the road side of the hedge. Cllr Wright also agreed to chase up the flood gauges. The clerk said Chapter 8 training required for clearing drains and ditches would be provided free until the end of March, so the Chair said he would speak to the resident who had expressed an interest in maintaining these.

165/14 To approve a supplier for the parish amenity area maintenance contract, 2015-16

The clerk had received three bids:

- Halcyon Landscapes – £792 (no VAT), roughly £39.60 per cut
- P Landscape – £49.50 (ex VAT) per cut (approx. £990 + VAT in total)
- K Thulborn – £217 (ex VAT) per cut (approx. £4,340 + VAT in total)

The clerk agreed to negotiate a reduction with the preferred supplier.

166/14 To consider the future uses of the telephone box in Gittisham village

The Chair said there was no update on this.

167/14 To consider the recruitment of volunteer snow wardens

The Chair said there was no update on this.

168/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk had received a letter from EDDC regarding Section 106 agreements and the district council's need for data. She agreed to write back to explain there was no demand for community sports pitches or allotments, and also to inform EDDC that the play area is now leased to the community.

169/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Valentine expressed his concern regarding parking issues along Devonshire Way, which he felt were likely to increase dramatically with the Hayne Lane development.

170/14 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include limited residential development, Honiton Neighbourhood Plan, play area, telephone box, parish lengthsperson and snow warden recruitment on the next agenda.

171/14 Clerk's Report

Members noted the increase in the hire of the village hall, which rises to £82 next year.

172/14 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 4th March and Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman.....

4th March 2015