

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4TH JANUARY 2017**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (Chair)
Cllr R Hayman (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Trumper
Cllr M Walker

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine
Cllr R Pratt
Cllr E Underdown

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk), John Adamson (member of the public)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

138/16 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

139/16 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

140/16 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

The police did not send a report.

141/16 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 145/16 as public rights of way cross the land he farms.

142/16 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond said that Baker Estates had acquired the site west of Hayne Lane for development. They will be bringing forward detailed proposals for the first phase, which will be for around 100 homes. Cllr Bond said 23 per cent of these in the first phase would be affordable. The company has requested a meeting with Cllr Bond, the parish council and the clerk; Cllr Valentine said he would check his diary. Members asked Cllr Bond to speak to EDDC's planning officers about a way to achieve a pedestrian link between the development and Gittisham village.

Regarding the footbridge connecting the staff car park and The Pig, Cllr Bond said the applicants need land drainage consent as well as planning permission. The latter is moving through the system.

Cllr Wright sent a report in her absence, which is reproduced here: there are plans for a government funding shake-up of local schools. Unfortunately, despite Devon schools being virtually at the bottom of the funding table, around one third are set to lose money as a result of the redistribution of funds. In addition to new government induced pressures driving many into deficit, including introduction of the living wage and greater costs for pensions and national insurance. There are also more children needing education in Devon due to high levels of house building and more children with special educational needs. King's is set to lose £123,000 by 2020 if the plans go ahead and Honiton Community College would lose £19,000 a year. Feniton Primary School will gain slightly if the plans go ahead, by around £8,000 a year. Colyton Grammar is set to lose around £80,000 a year and the picture is similar for Sidmouth College and Exmouth Community College. Cllr Wright said there appears to be no sense, no rhyme and no reason to the new proposed funding arrangements. I have written to Hugo Swire MP asking him to fight hard on our behalf for schools to receive significant increases in funding. Firstly, to compensate schools for recent additional costs and secondly to level the unfair funding playing field. I have yet to hear back from Mr Swire, however, I have seen from press reports that he intends to act on this issue.

If you wish to make representations on behalf of Kings School, you may be best emailing Neil Parish as your MP and Hugo Swire as the MP for Ottery St Mary. The address for responding to the consultation is: HighNeedsFundingReform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk A formal consultation on the plans ends on 22 March.

143/16 To approve the January payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0780	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE (Month 8)
0782	F J Clampin	£164.35	Clerk's salary and expenses
0783	Gittisham Village Hall	£83	2016 hall hire
0784	Arthur J Gallagher Ins	£183.73	Public liability insurance for lengthsman
0785	Gittisham Parish Council	£3,000	Contingency & depreciation for business reserve account

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £18, 831.20 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency & depreciation).

144/16 To note the latest planning decision notices

There were no planning decision notices to report.

Cllr Hayman left the meeting.

145/16 To consider public Rights of Way

Following last month's presentation by DCC's Rights of Way officer, the clerk agreed to check if he would be free to attend a public meeting at the end of January or early February.

Cllr Hayman returned to the meeting.

146/16 To consider limited residential development in the parish

No further updates.

147/16 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Pratt said the public consultation is due to be published this month.

148/16 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The clerk agreed to ask Len Abbott to install the two signs to deter people from bringing dogs into the play area. A cheque for £400 from the village fete was received.

149/16 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

Members advised the clerk to purchase public liability insurance from the lowest quote, and to check the excess. Cllr Walker agreed to speak to Len Abbott about molehills in the play area. Cllr Bond agreed to contact the clerk with details of the criteria for another Parishes Together application, as it's thought it may be possible to pay for the lengthsman's services from this. The deadline is 8th February 2017.

150/16 To agree the budget for 2017-18

The clerk outlined likely expenditure for the rest of the current tax year, and circulated a spreadsheet showing forecast expenditure for 2017-18. It was resolved to set budget expenditure at £12,829.00 which includes contingency and depreciation of play area items. The forecast expenditure details are attached in a spreadsheet.

151/16 To set the precept for 2017-18

It was resolved to increase the precept by 2 per cent to £8,160.00, the balance of the budget to be taken from reserves.

Cllr Bond left the meeting.

152/16 To consider employers' pension contributions towards parish council employees

Members agreed to write to the clerk explaining the council's position on pension contributions, with the possibility of opting into the NEST scheme.

153/16 To consider any late entry correspondence

None.

154/16 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Pedestrian link at Hayne Lane for Cllr Bond as per item 142/16 above. The clerk agreed to write to Cllr Bond as regards Devon Home Choice and a couple from Gittisham who need alternative housing. Cllr Hayman encouraged members to report any green laners causing damage, especially in the woods above the village.

155/16 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include footpaths, employee and contractor pay, S106 grants, future projects, limited residential development, lengthsman work, play area, 2017 maintenance contract and Honiton Neighbourhood Plan on the next agenda.

156/16 Clerk's Report

The clerk agreed to check the current pay scales.

157/16 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 1st February and Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2100 hrs.

Chairman.....

1st February 2017