

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Present:**

**Gittisham Village Ward**

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr Ms Maggie Walker

Cllr Ms S Trumper

Cllr E Underdown

**Gittisham Vale Ward**

Cllr M Edmonds

Cllr D Valentine

**In attendance:** Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), PCSO Phil Anning, Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr R Hayman, Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), PC Clive Vickery

**47/13 To receive and accept apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted.

**48/13 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**49/13 To receive the Beat Manager's Report**

There had been no reported crimes since the last meeting. However the police explained there had been a spate of break-ins in rural areas nearby and warned parishioners to be vigilant. Residents are advised to maintain their alarm systems, if they have them.

**50/13 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**51/13 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives**

Cllr Randall Johnson said DCC was obliged to make further cuts to its budget, which equates to £60 million over the next two years. This would be likely to affect front-line services. She reminded councilors that looking after roads is not one of the council's statutory duties; the only requirement of the county council is to make sure the roads are safe.

Cllr Bond reported that Cllr Diviani (EDDC) has asked for a petition to be signed on the cut in funding from central Government, which is likely to affect rural communities more than it will urban. She also reminded members that EDDC's Local Plan had been submitted for examination, but had to be reviewed on 53 points. These are now out for public consultation (cf item 57/13).

**52/13 To approve the September payments and to note the current bank balance**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0599	HMRC	£31.20	PAYE
0600	F J Clampin	£163.80	Clerk's fee and expenses
0601	Laps Lawns	£80	Play area maintenance

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £6,849.17

**53/13 To consider the following planning application:**

- 13/1796/FUL – 22 Cypress Close Honiton EX14 2YW First floor side extension and rear single storey garden room extension

Members objected to this application, which they felt was an unnecessary intrusion on the neighbouring properties. Members did not however object to the proposed garden room at the rear of the property that replaces an existing conservatory.

**54/13 To consider a potential meeting with representatives of Welbeck Strategic Land**

The clerk had been contacted by a representative acting on behalf of Welbeck Strategic Land, a company which is proposing an employment and residential development in Hayne Lane. There are few details at present, and the company would like to meet the parish council to present its proposals and masterplan. It has also contacted Honiton Town Council on this matter, although the proposed development is entirely in Gittisham parish: a 40-hectare (100-acre) site either side of the railway line west of Hayne Lane, the northern part being allocated for employment and the southern part as a reserve housing site in the latest draft Local Plan.

Members discussed the possibility of arranging a public meeting for the representative, Mr Dan Bramwell, to present his client's case. Mr Bramwell had already accepted the clerk's invitation to the next parish council meeting in October. It was agreed eventually that the clerk would suggest to Mr Bramwell that the public consultation planned should be held at two sites in Gittisham parish. This was also agreed as the course of action for Gleeson Developments and their Heathfield Manor proposals to develop in the East Devon AONB. Cllr Valentine warned against amalgamating the two proposals, and advised members to think of them as quite separate entities. Members agreed the parish council's position on developments in these locations was already in the public domain. Cllr Bond urged every parishioner to complete a questionnaire at the examination in public, and members agreed to draw up a leaflet to be distributed to parishioners at a later date, encouraging them to attend any public consultation on these two proposals.

N.B.: since the meeting, Mr Bramwell has been in touch to say that the technical survey work for the company's proposals is taking substantially longer than anticipated and thus it will not have a masterplan ready for presentation at the next parish council meeting on 2nd October.

**55/13 To consider parish involvement in the Active Villages project**

Members agreed that the village hall committee should be encouraged to offer the hall hire for free for parishioners to take advantage of the table tennis bats and balls from Leisure East Devon. The Chair reported that the free Pilates classes were proving successful.

**56/13 To consider limited residential development in the parish and affordable rural housing provision**

The clerk had been contacted by EDDC, which is writing to all parish councils where there has been no recent affordable housing provision and/ or no up-to-date housing needs survey to establish whether a parish wishes to consider this issue further. Members discussed whether this was required, but agreed at this stage it was not necessary. The clerk will respond to EDDC.

**57/13 To consider representation on the proposed post-publication changes to EDDC's Local Plan**

EDDC is inviting representations on the 53 proposed amendments to its Local Plan. As none are relevant to the parish, members agreed there was no need to respond.

**58/13 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including safety inspections**

The clerk circulated the RoSPA checklist for weekly inspections. Cllrs Fallows, Walker and Valentine agreed to take turns to carry these out.

Cllr Fallows added that the profits from a Christmas Fair to be held in the village hall on 7<sup>th</sup> December would go to the play area, which was welcomed by members.

**59/13 To consider the provision of broadband in the parish**

Cllr Bond said the Feniton exchange (which serves Gittisham) would be fibre-enabled by June next year.

She agreed to find out from Cllr Wright the location of the green boxes in the parish. She added that the provision of broadband and available speeds was a hot potato within EDDC.

**60/13 To discuss the status and future of the telephone box in Gittisham village**

Members expressed surprise that the telephone box did not already belong to the parish council. The clerk however had received correspondence from BT that it still belonged to the company. Members resolved to purchase the box for £1 and invite suggestions for its use from parishioners.

**61/13 To consider support for the latest round of Parishes Together fund**

The clerk agreed to contact both Honiton and Ottery Town councils to understand any proposals they might have for the forthcoming deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September for Parishes Together, in case the parish council could contribute in any way.

**62/13 To consider any late entry correspondence**

The clerk agreed to order an additional 300 sandbags from EDDC. She also reported that Balfour Beatty had been in touch regarding the incorrect signage at the Iron Bridge. Connect has spoken to the Highways Agency and it has agreed the sign for Gittisham can be covered over on the slip road. When the sign comes up for renewal in the future it will put Gittisham on the other side of the sign. However there appears to be no definite timescale for this.

**63/13 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC**

None.

**64/13 Matters for the forward agenda**

It was agreed to include Active Villages, Parishes Together, play area and residential development on the next agenda.

**65/13 Clerk's Report**

None.

**66/13 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm.**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 1810 hrs.**

**Chairman.....**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**