

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

Cllr A Wilkins

**In attendance:** Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), Peter Orchard & Rhiannon King (councillors to be co-opted) two members of the public, Gavin Palmer (Voneus), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), PCSO Darren England

Prior to the start of the meeting, one member of the public exercised their right as parish resident to speak regarding concerns over the siting of the new play equipment. The resident said the location of the tower was unsuitable, and increased noise levels were also of concern. The resident expressed disappointment about a perceived lack of consultation by the parish council. The Chair explained that the intention had always been to develop the far section of the play area as a wild area, which would also include play equipment. Cllr Hall said she was sorry to hear of the resident's concerns, and added that the far section was designed for more adventurous play, as well as the trees and environmental projects. This had been discussed at previous parish council meetings over a number of years. Cllr Walker said that the tower filled a gap for play equipment for older children, and now that funding had come through from the Lottery it was possible to realise this goal. Members heard that messages of support had also been received, and welcomed Cllr Valentine's suggestion that some signs could be installed asking users to keep noise levels down out of respect to residents.

**77/19 To accept and approve apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted.

**78/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**79/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report**

Six crimes recorded between 01/06/2019 and 31/08/2019:

3 x violence without injury

1 x shoplifting

2 x criminal damage

**80/19 To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**81/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives**

Cllr Bond sent the following report in her absence: "At EDDC, we are currently in the period of service plans and budget setting, and this is the first year in which there is no funding coming from Central Government, so there are significant challenges.

A great deal of work is being done by officers to address the Climate Change emergency and how we, as a Council, can reduce our carbon footprint. The aim is to become carbon neutral by 2040 and we have linked up with Devon County Council, which has instigated the Net Zero Task Force, led by an Exeter academic (Professor Patrick Devine-Wright), who will deliver Devon's Carbon Plan."

Cllr Twiss reported on the following:

Village survival guide

Possibly a little bit of re-inventing the wheel but I found the recently published village survival guide published by The Princes Countryside fund at <https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/research/read-vsg> a fascinating and helpful read where much of what it details our local communities are already doing in terms of community resilience and long term sustainability; a really good reference tool where one or more things might resonate in terms of improving quality of life, but clearly one size won't fit all.

RD&E NHS Hospital Trust

The provision of healthcare is a highly complex and challenging environment. This year there has been little difference for the RD&E between winter pressures and demand and any other time of year where e.g. June was a highly challenging month with what is called Operational Pressure Escalation Level (OPEL) being declared on all 30 days of the month due to capacity issues.

There was high demand for emergency cardiology procedures and an increase in the number of patients in acute hospital beds waiting for transfer to psychiatric units adding to pressures on bed capacity. Due to a highly challenging environment in the domiciliary and home markets, 'Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC)' for patients who were 'green to go' contributed to the pressure on hospital beds.

Parking remains a major issue at the RD&E with new dedicated Park & Ride being made available to staff at Digby, and a further one for patients and visitors at Sowton. In my view all the more reason for more treatment taking place locally in mothballed 'fit for purpose' hospital buildings. A review of the RD&E requirements of what space is needed in the future is currently taking place and due for completion towards the end of the year.

What is certain is that demand for services is only going to go up and the new 'MyCare' and EPIC IT platform due to go live in July 2020 (currently on time) can only improve working efficiencies for everyone's benefit

Schools funding

Whilst the devil will clearly be in the detail the recent news from Government of £7bn over the next three years towards the funding of schools is clearly welcome

Climate Emergency update

Devon County Council takes its responsibilities to addressing the climate Emergency very seriously. DCC is part of a much larger task force with multiple partners and stakeholders which include local authorities, Parish Councils and individuals. You may also find this link useful <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/devon-climate-emergency>

I have been asked by people as to what they can do at an individual level and a really good example of where to begin is to measure your own carbon footprint by taking the WWF carbon measure at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/> as the beginning of what you can do today to reduce it. Clearly this is intended at an individual level, rather than industrial but it really does make you think!

Cllr Twiss left the meeting.

**82/19 To note the latest planning decision notices**

- a) 18/2590/FUL The Bakery Gittisham EX14 3AF – Conversion of former bakery to holiday accommodation, including alterations to external elevations, formation of terrace, low level timber gates and landscaping (amended plans) **Approval with conditions.**
- b) 18/2591/LBC The Bakery Gittisham EX14 3AF – Conversion of former bakery to holiday let, including internal and external alterations (amended plans) **Approval with conditions.**
- c) 19/0638/FUL Beech Walk Gittisham EX14 3AB – Extension to estate office building **Approval with conditions.**

**83/19 To consider the following planning applications:**

Full Council minutes are draft minutes until they are approved at the next Full Council meeting.

- a) 19/1662/FUL 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Alterations to front garden including construction of new wall to allow for off-road parking
- b) 19/1208/FUL 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Construction of single storey extensions and reinstatement of first floor side-facing window
- c) 19/1209/LBC 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Demolition of shed to rear and construction of single storey extensions, reinstatement of 1<sup>st</sup> floor side facing window re-rendering and alterations to interior layout

Regarding a) parish councillors had concerns over this application. They felt the parking proposed will change the character of the area and impact on the setting of the two listed cottages at the approach to the village and conservation area. Councillors agreed they looked forward to the conservation officer's comments.

Regarding b) and c), councillors expressed concern that the development did not appear to meet the criteria of preserving and enhancing the qualities of the listed building, the setting or the conservation area. They also had concerns over parking; there is none on site or on the street, and additional access issues will be presented during the building work.

#### **84/19 To co-opt two councillors for Gittisham Vale ward**

There being no other candidates, Peter Orchard and Rhiannon King were automatically co-opted to the parish council (Gittisham Vale ward) and summoned to attend the next meeting. Cllr King explained that she had lived in Gittisham Vale for more than six years, and used to own her own business. She acts as treasurer for a variety of local groups, and takes a great interest in the local community. Members agreed that Cllrs Orchard and King could attend one of DALC's New Councillor courses if they wished, to be arranged by the clerk. Cllr Wilkins suggested it would be useful to organise an event on the Hayne Farm development for people to meet the parish council, perhaps in the marketing suite.

#### **85/19 To review the Gittisham emergency plan**

Cllr Valentine said the emergency plan was last updated in December 2012, and it was therefore due to be reviewed. Members agreed to grant Cllr Valentine the authority to amend the document, which will result in further actions. The clerk said she would investigate whether the current version is on the Gittisham website.

#### **86/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village**

Gavin Palmer from Voneus explained that the company is the process of confirming the location for a piece of equipment similar to a small satellite dish on one property in the village, which will allow those who sign up to one of its packages to receive superfast broadband. He estimated the date for work to start on this would be from 26<sup>th</sup> September, with a view to signing up new customers in October and beyond. There is a one-off installation cost of £149 (inc. VAT), but if residents have download speeds of 2MB or under, it is possible to have this cost covered by Building Digital UK. Ongoing costs are £20 / month for 20GB usage, and £35 / month for unlimited. Both are for superfast broadband only, not telephone, with a 25MB speed up and down guaranteed.

Members heard that properties along Nag's Head Road should also be able to receive this. Cllr Hall agreed to arrange a public meeting where people can ask questions of Voneus representatives. [NB Since the meeting this has been arranged for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 6-7pm in the village hall.]

Gavin Palmer, and two members of the public left the meeting.

**87/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall**

Cllr Hall said there was no progress on this.

**88/19 To consider maintenance for the two defibrillators**

The clerk agreed to ask John Adamson for an update, and to find out whether any of the pads need replacing.

**89/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development**

Cllr Wilkins reported that DCC's highways safety audit had been carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> June, but there had been no report published yet. The clerk said she had corresponded with Graham Hutton over a new noticeboard, and had also been in touch with Creative Solutions about a possible model, which will be confirmed in the near future.

**90/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish**

Cllr Valentine said the drop-in session was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> October, 3-7pm, to give people who have expressed an interest in any development to find out how they can establish their need with Devon Home Choice.

**91/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106**

Cllrs Wilkins and Valentine reported they had met Cllr Bond and EDDC officers to discuss the state of play with this, but there was still not much clarity. Cllr Valentine agreed to speak to Cllr Bond for advice on next steps. Cllr Wilkins asked if any of the £4,201.86 so far received could be spent on a bench on the open land opposite the Hayne Farm development, between Laburnum Close and Hayne Lane. Cllr Hall said that there is proof that the correct items had been chosen to qualify, and agreed to work on it further.

**92/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections**

Members welcomed the news that the tower and slide had been installed, and was being well used. Cllr Hall said it was time to publicise the new items of equipment and thank those who had funded it. The clerk said that RhinoPlay had given 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as the date to begin installing the rolling log, and they had requested a precise location from Cllr Hall. The Chair suggested Cllr Hall speak to residents whose homes border the play area to agree the location. He thanked Cllr Hall for her work on this.

**93/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish**

Cllr Walker said Len Abbott had asked whether the river should be cleared before the village event on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Hall added it is riddled with Himalayan Balsam, and the clerk agreed to report this to DCC for it to take action. However this is unlikely to be before the Gittisham Bash. Cllr Wilkins said Len Abbott had done a wonderful job with the Vale bus shelter. Cllr Walker agreed to ask Len to get in touch with Cllr Wilkins regarding weeds and the kerbsides.

**94/19 To approve the September payments and to note the current bank balance**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0968	RhinoPlay Ltd	£5,321.40	Down payment on new play equipment (2 items; remainder to be paid on completion)
0969	F J Clampin	£220.72	Clerk's salary & expenses
0970	F J Clampin	£218.79	Clerk's salary
0971	Michael Poll	£60	Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 567/19/8)
0972	Michael Poll	£60	Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 574/19/9)
0973	Michael Poll	£60	Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 579/19/10)
0974	Peter Sellick	£60	Gazette distribution
0975	Len Abbott	£398.25	29.5 hours lengthsman work, July 2019
0976	Len Abbott	£16.39	Expenses, July 2019
0977	Len Abbott	£135	10 hours lengthsman work, Aug 2019
0978	Len Abbott	£15.95	Expenses, Aug 2019

0979	Community First Insurance	£86.37	Additional items on policy
DD	NEST	£17.50	Clerk's pension (August 2019)
DD	NEST	£17.50	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the second part of the annual precept had been received. The current bank balance stands at £29,416.25 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency). Members approved Cllr Valentine's suggestion to offer Mr Sellick an additional £20 every six months to cover the increased number of properties to which he is delivering the Gittisham Gazette, and to review the situation on an annual basis.

Members welcomed the new bench around the rookery tree. The Chair agreed to write to the Beaumont Trust and Mark Mears to thank them for installing it.

**95/19 To consider any late entry correspondence**

The Chair discussed a letter from two residents requesting the parish council's support for the application they are due to resubmit to EDDC to convert holiday accommodation to permanent residence. Members agreed to put in a letter of support when the application comes forward.

**96/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC**

Cllr Wilkins reiterated concerns over the temporary barrier constructed past the entrance to Bartletts Farm Shop which has itself fallen into the ditch. Members agreed that Hayne Lane is now busier with traffic, and said the road condition needed to be looked at.

Cllr Valentine reported that the bridge in the centre of Gittisham village needs attention, as it has lost three of its corners and is in a precarious state. It should be reported as a safety defect.

**97/19 Matters for the forward agenda**

It was agreed to include climate change, superfast broadband, village hall capital works, Hayne Lane, limited residential development, broadband, lengthsman work, CIL / S106 expenditure, defibrillator and bench opposite Hayne Farm on the next agenda.

**98/19 Clerk's Report**

None.

**99/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the parish room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2125 hrs.

**Chairman.....**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**