

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 6th March 2019
in the Parish Room, Gittisham

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (Chair),
Cllr R Hayman (Vice Chair)
Cllr C Hall

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine
Cllr R Pratt
Cllr A Wilkins

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Walker, PCSO Darren England

204/18 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

205/18 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 1st February 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

206/18 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

The police website has not been updated since the last meeting.

207/18 To receive declarations of interest

None.

208/18 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

DCC Budget

Cllr Twiss said a legally required balance budget was passed by DCC at a very long meeting on the 21st of February 2019 where full details can be downloaded at

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s24092/Devon%20County%20Council%20Budget%20Book%2020192020.pdf>.

For 2019/20, for an average band D property, the Council Tax charge from DCC will be £1,384.29 (£1,331.19 in 2018/19). This is an increase of 3.99% or £53.10. However, in 2019/20 government funding (core funding) for the County Council will reduce by £13.5 million from £115 million in 2018/19 to £101.5 million in 2019/20.

Cllr Twiss explained that Council Tax is collected by EDDC and distributed across a number of local public authorities:

- Devon County Council uses Council Tax to provide education, roads, care for older people and people with disabilities, child protection, youth services, libraries and recycling centres and waste disposal.
- EDDC uses Council Tax to provide refuse collection, kerbside recycling, housing, planning, street cleaning and leisure.
- Devon & Cornwall Police Authority uses Council Tax to provide law and order and crime reduction.
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority uses Council Tax to provide fire prevention and fire and rescue services.
- Gittisham PC uses Council Tax to provide local amenities.

Council Tax bands are decided by the listing officer from the Valuation Office and is based on the open market value of a property on 1 April 1991. All properties are placed into one of eight bands and the band for your home will be shown on your bill. In some cases, a Council Tax bill is decided on the number of

adults living in the household.

Devon County Council charge for each band

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£922.86	£1,076.67	£1,230.48	£1,384.29	£1,691.91	£1,999.53		
	£2,307.15	£2,768.58					

The total amount residents will pay includes taxes payable to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, EDDC and Gittisham parish council. Even with a balanced budget this can be easily and adversely affected by unpredicted demand on children's services, adult services and social care demands, which are ever increasing with limited resources, Cllr Twiss said.

Highways

Now that the DCC budget for 2019/20 is agreed by full council, Cllr Twiss said he would be meeting DCC Neighbourhood highways Officer Mike Brown to discuss the specifics of what needs to be and more realistically can be done to repair and maintain Highways in the Feniton & Honiton Division, where we have an additional £61,000 from central government that had not been forecast and this will help.

Cllr Bond said the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is still causing concern as there is a lack of openness and transparency in the process. The representatives for East Devon on the GESP panel are Cllrs Diviani and Skinner. A consultation on draft policies and site options will be done in June 2019. The first draft of GESP will be out for consultation in November this year, with a view to adoption in April 2022. Meanwhile, the Local Plan review will be under way in June with the GESP strategic policies replacing the LP policies following adoption. GESP will provide the overall spatial strategy and level of housing and employment land to be provided up to 2040.

- Meanwhile, EDDC is intending to take out a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at 3% to the tune of £20,000,000 to invest in commercial property. This is intended to mitigate the impact of cuts to central Government funding which are in the pipeline. There are serious concerns at Government level about this strategy (several councils have gone down this route, including Spelthorne DC which is currently servicing a debt of £1 billion). The strategy was approved at full Council on 27 February.
- Another proposed investment which is causing concern is the investment of £50,000 in a new regional bank.
- Successful Communities Together bids will be decided at the New Homes Panel at EDDC on 19 March. The scheme will be replaced with a new Crowdfunding scheme next year. Bids are considerably less than the pot of money available which is a hopeful sign. Gittisham PC supported the bids from Honiton Dementia Action Alliance (to fund transport from the rural areas to the Honiton memory café), Ottery St Mary Help Scheme (to fund the setting up of OSM Dementia Action Alliance and providing roving memory cafes in rural areas) and West Hill football club (to supply mobile goal posts which would be used by pupils of Kings School, OSM).

209/18 To consider the following planning application:

- a) 19/0259/VAR The Barn Goldcombe Farmhouse, Gittisham, EX14 3AB - Variation of conditions 5 and 6 of planning permission 84/P0792 to allow The Cider Barn to be occupied as an unrestricted dwelling and retain the other building as a holiday let

Councillors had no objections to the above application. Two members of the public left the meeting.

210/18 To note the latest planning decision notices

- 18/1155/FUL – Rapshayes Farm, Gittisham EX14 3AB – Conversion of barn to holiday accommodation. **Refusal.**
- 18/1156/LBC – Rapshayes Farm, Gittisham EX14 3AB – Conversion of barn to holiday accommodation. **Refusal.**
- 18/2806/VAR - Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton EX14 3PD - Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (restriction on sale goods) of planning permission 17/1053/FUL (Proposed

garden centre) to facilitate a restaurant/cafe use within the building. **Approval with conditions.**

211/18 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

Cllr Twiss said he had met CDS project manager Phil Roberts again on 1st March to check where the revised delivery plans for the CDS/Gigaclear were, following hibernation of the contract due to service delivery issues which are well-documented. Mr Roberts was hopeful that a revised schedule will be published by the end of March 2019, and members echoed Cllr Twiss's wish that Gittisham features positively.

Members agreed to pursue the public meeting suggested by Voneus.
Cllr Twiss left the meeting.

212/18 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall

Cllr Hall said she would be approaching three builders for quotes for the village hall, as specified in the schedule of works. She explained that the hall committee had expressed an interest in solar panels and a covered area at the back of the hall to accommodate parties and barbecues. She agreed to investigate further funding sources with the clerk to assist in writing applications. Cllr Bond said she would forward details of the Community Building Fund for the new financial year. Members agreed it would be important in future to consider creating space for a further meeting room, and increase the options for the hall to bring in revenue.

213/18 To receive an update on the defibrillator in Gittisham Vale

Cllr Wilkins said the Vale defibrillator was now installed and operational. He added that he has yet to receive an invoice and safety certificate from the electrician. He agreed to forward to the clerk a copy of the article which had appeared in The Paper for Honiton. Cllr Hall added that the light in the village 'phone box had been fixed.

214/18 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

Cllr Wilkins told members that marketing the first batch of affordable homes had begun. The clerk said she had not yet received a reply from Baker Estates regarding how many homes were now occupied, but she would forward details to Vale councillors when known.

215/18 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Cllr Valentine reported that a meeting would be held on 21st March to elect the board of the Gittisham Community Land Trust. This is a legal requirement and has to be done within six months of incorporation. He said all members of the public would be welcome, but only members of the CLT could cast their vote. The clerk agreed to set up a link on the Gittisham parish website to the CLT's pages www.gittisham-clt.org.uk.

216/18 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106

Members discussed options for new equipment in the play area. Cllr Hall has received three quotes for this. Cllr Bond advised that a formal consultation of parish children was a requirement (the district council has agreed to do this), and the Chair offered to leaflet the entire parish in a few weeks' time when he delivers information about the annual flower and produce show. However since the meeting, it has emerged that there is a lack of certainty within the district council as to what funds are available.

Members heard that money raised from the Hayne Lane development can be spent on sport only, and a climbing wall would meet this criterion. Cllr Hayman reminded members that sports provision should go some way to incorporate all ages of the parish. Members said of the available funds - some of which will be passed to Honiton Town Council - around £35,000 should be sufficient. However Cllr Hall agreed to investigate the costs for a climbing wall, improvements to the petanque court and adult fitness equipment to confirm the desired amount.

The clerk agreed to inform Combe Estate when the plans are more fully realised.

217/18 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and

regular safety inspections

As above.

218/18 To consider logistics of a parish litter pick

Cllr Valentine said this had been deferred, owing to inclement weather. To be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Bond advised members that EDDC could help with any equipment and also dispose of the rubbish. Cllr Pratt added that Hayne Lane was being used to dump litter.

219/18 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

The Chair reported that he had spoken to Len Abbott about moles in the play area. Members heard that Len had chopped up part of the fallen cypress in the play area, but that the owners of Eveleigh’s would need consent to fell the tree completely. The clerk agreed to ask the lengthsman to scope out work for repairing the roof of the Vale bus shelter. She also agreed to contact The Pig regarding debris from trees and shrubbery which is blocking the flood channel near Curlditch, and to contact Combe Estate again to remind them about the blocked ditch at Catshayes and the rookery seat.

220/18 To approve the March payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0936	HMRC	£41.46	Tax
0937	F J Clampin	£162.04	Clerk’s salary & expenses
DD	NEST	£11.19	Clerk’s pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £20,104.52 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account). The clerk advised members that workplace pension contributions would be rising by law from April 2019.

221/18 To consider any late entry correspondence

Members discussed the latest situation with school transport, and heard there are measures in place in case of any eventuality. Stagecoach bus drivers will not be allowed to drop pupils by the Iron Bridge.

Cllr Valentine described an incident involving a van which carries out bottle recycling at The Pig. He agreed to speak to the manager, and added that the problem with fat in the sewer appeared to be improving.

222/18 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

The Chair said he had mentioned the derelict tree guards to Cllr Twiss in the hope they can be tidied up.

223/18 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include parish litter pick, village hall capital works, Vale defibrillator, Hayne Lane, limited residential development, broadband, lengthsman work, play area maintenance contract, and CIL / S106 expenditure on the next agenda.

224/18 Clerk’s Report

Members noted the forthcoming election on 2nd May 2019 and the Chair’s decision not to stand for re-election. There will therefore be a vacancy for a councillor which will be mentioned in the gazette.

225/18 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 3rd April 2019 (annual parish meeting) and Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2110hrs.

Chairman.....

3rd April 2019