

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 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 Peter Orchard

In attendance: Four members of the public, Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Rhiannon King, Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), PCSO Darren England

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mike Dawes exercised his right as parish resident to speak regarding the visual impact of the slide & tower on his property. He asked for the flag poles to be removed to screen the equipment from the road, and offered to pay for the installation of a hedge and tree between the slide & tower and the top gate.

Two members of the public suggested that the flagpoles were used as handholds for older, taller children, and added that the slide & tower was a focal point for the children's imagination.

122/19 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

123/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 2nd October 2019

Cllr Orchard pointed out that the 'keep clear' sign indicated in 118/19 was to be painted on the road on either side of the emergency gate. The clerk agreed to amend this item. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2019 were then confirmed and signed by the Chair.

124/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

In September 2019 the following crimes were recorded:

- 1) Other theft on or near Parsonage Lane (investigation now complete; no suspect identified)
- 2) Violence or sexual offences on or near Sidmouth Road (under investigation)

125/19 To receive declarations of interest

Cllrs Hayman and Hall declared an interest in item 141/19 as they are due to be reimbursed by the council.

126/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond said that given the reduction in central Government funding, EDDC is looking at ways of bridging the gap in its finances to avoid cutting discretionary services. One of these initiatives was a review of EDDC car park charges, which have remained the same since 2010. A report to Cabinet recommending a public consultation with a proposal to increase charges by 20 per cent (from £1/hour to £1.20/hour) in its most popular car parks, resulted in a storm of protest from district councillors. The decision has been called in and a taskforce will be established to look at EDDC's car parking strategy in its entirety.

EDDC's new Council Plan is going through the committees and there is hope it will be adopted at the December full Council meeting. This sets out the Council's priorities for the next four years, with a strong emphasis on the climate change agenda.

A further working group has been set up to consider the Council changing from the Cabinet system to the Committee system. With the support of the LGA, the group must first consider why they are proposing a

change in governance, given that any new system will remain in place for five years.

On a lighter note, Cllr Bond added, if residents have an Alexa, they can now ask EDDC a question, starting with the phrase, “Alexa, ask East Devon District Council ...” followed by (for example) “when are my bins collected?” Equally, for users of a Smart phone, the EDDC app provides similar information.

Cllr Twiss sent the following report in his absence:

A public consultation is due to run until 10th December, ahead of undertaking a fresh procurement to find contractors to provide superfast broadband for those areas of Devon and Somerset without access to it. (This follows the cancellation of the contract between Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) and Gigaclear, due to a number of performance and other issues.) CDS, which is responsible for rolling out publicly-funded broadband across the two counties, is establishing the remaining area where there are no current or credible future plans to deliver Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure capable of download speeds of at least 30Mbps. Nearly one million homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset now have access to superfast broadband thanks to the Government supported CDS programme and stimulation of the commercial market which is an important element of CDS’s role. Of these, more than 300,000 homes and businesses have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS. More information can be found here: <https://www.devonnewscentre.info/superfast-broadband-public-consultation-launched/>

Cllr Twiss said that having had some time to read through the supporting documents, it appears that yet again Gittisham is being overlooked as a result of companies submitting their proposals during the Open Market Review in the summer, who are not prepared to cover the area. He said therefore that Voneus was the only viable option at present for village residents. He added that Jurassic Fibre [www https://jurassic-fibre.com/](https://jurassic-fibre.com/) now has an operations base established on Heathpark and will be working up the A30 towards Dorset and South Somerset after completing their first phase delivery. Cllr Twiss said he understood that the company’s fibre offer will include Gittisham, but he couldn’t see this being for at least 18 months, probably longer.

DCC Highways

Cllr Twiss said he would be meeting the Neighbourhood Highways Officer in the next couple of weeks to agree work in the Feniton & Honiton Division, where clearly Hayne Lane remains high on his list of remedial work that needs to be undertaken in the parish, among others!

127/19 To note the latest planning decision notices

- 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. **Approval with conditions.**
- b) 19/1209/LBC 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham EX14 3AE – Demolition of shed to rear and construction of single storey extensions, reinstatement of 1st floor side facing window re-rendering and alterations to interior layout – **Approval with conditions.**
- c) 18/2308/COU Catshayes Farm Gittisham EX14 3AE – Change of use from C3a - Dwelling to Sui Generis: large House of Multiple Occupancy. Replacement of some internal doors with fire doors, installation of cowled vent on exterior wall, refurbishment of kitchen and bathroom areas and associated works. **Approval standard time limit.**
- d) 18/2309/LBC Catshayes Farm Gittisham EX14 3AE – Change of use from C3a - Dwelling to Sui Generis: large House of Multiple Occupancy. Replacement of some internal doors with fire doors, installation of cowled vent on exterior wall, refurbishment of kitchen and bathroom areas and associated works. **Approval with conditions.**

128/19 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 19/1757/LBC 2 Riverside Cottages Gittisham Honiton EX14 3AE - Replacement of the cement based render and re-rendering of south east elevation in lime render
- b) 19/2207/FUL 1 Hamlet Cottages Weston Honiton EX14 3PB - Single storey workshop unit (use class B1(c)) (Retrospective application)
- c) 19/2028/LBC 2 Mitchells Cottages - Remedial works and refurbishment of 3no. windows at ground floor and 2no. windows at first floor on front (south) elevation and 1no. window at ground floor and

2no. windows at first floor on rear (north) elevation and the installation of secondary glazing to 4no. windows on front (south) elevation and 1no. window on rear (north) elevation.

d) 19/1662/FUL 1 Riverside Cottages Gittisham Honiton EX14 3AE - Alterations to front garden including construction of new wall to allow for off road parking (amended plans)

e) 19/2150/VAR Unit 5 Weston Park Devonshire Road Heathpark Industrial Estate - Variation of condition 3 of application 17/0428/FUL (change of use of building from B1/B8 (light industry/storage) to D2 (health club and gymnasium) together with the insertion of a first floor and associated external alterations) to permit extended opening hours

Regarding a) and c) councillors had no objections. Regarding b) the clerk agreed to supply more information on the previous case history before a decision could be made. Regarding d) members expressed concern that the development does 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. Regarding e) members raised concerns over the proposed extension of opening hours, as the building adjoins residential housing. They would prefer the current opening hours to be maintained.

129/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections

Cllr Valentine said it was important to keep abreast of the rota of safety checks, to which Cllr Walker said the lengthsman was monitoring the situation. Cllr Hall said that a site visit had taken place to consider the various options for reducing the visual impact of the slide & tower. Members discussed Mike Dawes's proposals to screen the equipment from the top road. It was agreed after some deliberation to accept his donation to plant a cherry tree and install some instant hedging close to the equipment. The tree is expected to grow to between three and four metres, and will also require rabbit guards. A working party will install these items, as the conditions are difficult for planting. Cllr Hall said she would liaise with Mike Dawes over this. The clerk agreed to contact the RPII inspector first to ensure the position was acceptable.

There was a lengthy discussion over the flagpoles and flags. The Chair proposed removing them, but his proposal was not seconded. Cllr Valentine proposed painting the flags green and reviewing the situation in six months' time, which was seconded by Cllr Orchard. Members resolved to approve this course of action. The clerk reported that there are now permanent 'no entry' signs and a padlock on the entrance to the upper part of the play area, to deter users from entering and exiting directly onto the road.

130/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

Cllr Hall reported that Voneus had installed a superfast connection in her property that week, and agreed to write a short item for the gazette in case other village residents are interested in signing up. Members discussed whether in principle the Voneus solution would work for all residents. The BDUK voucher only lasts until the end of November; Cllr Hall agreed to follow up with Voneus regarding the community hub. Cllr Valentine reminded members that Cllr Twiss had indicated that Gittisham is not on the schedule of works to be undertaken in any future programme. He said the village should have access to full fibre, not just a wifi connection, but because the village had been identified as connected to the enabled exchange at Feniton the lack of connectivity was being ignored. Members agreed Cllr Twiss should continue to pursue the cause on behalf of the village. In response to a resident's query, the properties on Hayne Lane have access to fast speeds

131/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall

Cllr Hall said there was no progress on this.

132/19 To consider maintenance for the two defibrillators

Members heard that the contract signed between the Community Heartbeat Trust and the parish council for the village defibrillator did not include the annual membership, which would automatically provide replacement pads as part of a four-year contract. This is not the case with the Vale defibrillator. Members resolved to sign up for the annual membership at a cost of £162 / year, and agreed it would provide peace of mind that the equipment would be in working order. There was a suggestion the Beaumont Trust might be able to pay for this.

133/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

The clerk said Graham Hutton had approved the double door design for the noticeboard.

134/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Cllr Valentine said the CLT had celebrated its one year anniversary, with significant progress achieved. He said the drop-in session with Devon Communities Together on 10th October had shown that there was an ongoing need for affordable rented housing in the village. He added that the next period would be a busy one, with approaches to housing associations and architects, and he would be hoping to negotiate some changes to the allocation policy.

135/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106

The clerk said she had not received any suggestions to draw up a 'wishlist'. Cllr Walker reminded members that the hall is being used for activities including yoga and pilates, and it was therefore essential to have a decent space. Cllrs Walker and Hall agreed to meet to look at what needs doing next. Cllr Bond said the village hall committee might be able to apply for the Community Building Fund.

136/19 To consider the parish emergency plan

Cllr Valentine said there was no progress on this.

137/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

Cllr Valentine said that leaf fall would start to clog up drains etc, so members agreed to keep an eye on anything that would require the lengthsman's intervention. Cllr Walker agreed to speak to Len Abbott regarding the play area maintenance.

138/19 To consider the installation of a park bench in Gittisham Vale

The clerk agreed to contact Cllr Twiss; members agreed that if DCC is maintaining the grass area at the end of Old Elm Road, the county council could be approached about a new bench.

139/19 To consider a casual vacancy in Gittisham Vale

The clerk said Cllr Wilkins had tendered his resignation. Members agreed he had made a positive impact on the parish, and the clerk said she would arrange a card to thank him for his input. Cllr Orchard agreed to find out if anyone would be interested in filling the vacancy.

Mike Dawes and one member of the public left the meeting.

140/19 To consider climate change measures within the parish

Members discussed ways in which the parish council could encourage the community to consume less and share transport. Cllr Hall proposed using templates from other authorities as to climate change reduction measures at parish level. The clerk said she would forward emails from DALC's climate change workshop. Cllr Walker agreed to write a short piece for the gazette. The clerk said representatives from Devon Communities Together were proposing to host an event for people to find out more about using energy such as heating more efficiently. She agreed to get in touch to ask DCT to hold an event in the parish

141/19 To approve the November payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0988 F J Clampin £260.20 Clerk’s salary & expenses (play area items)

The Chair left the meeting; the Vice Chair took the Chair.

0989 Russell Hayman £75 Reimbursement for Honiton Rd maintenance materials

The Chair returned to the meeting. The Vice Chair left the meeting.

0990 Carol Hall £75.93 Reimbursement for bug houses

The Vice Chair returned to the meeting.

0991 Michael Poll £60 Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 588/19/12)

0992 Community Heartbeat Trust £104.40 Replacement defibrillator pads

0993 Combe Estate £110.40 Operator and diggers for 2 hours drainage work

0994 Len Abbott £40.50 3 hours lengthsman work, Oct 2019

0995 Community Heartbeat Trust £162 Annual membership (village defibrillator)

DD NEST £17.50 Clerk’s pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £20,996.13 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency).

142/19 To consider any late entry correspondence

The clerk said Mr & Mrs Sellick are happy to continue delivering the gazette in Gittisham Vale and Hayne Lane. Cllr Walker said the couple looking to convert one of two holiday cottages to a permanent residence were due to submit a planning application. Cllr Orchard suggested a response to the consultation on Devon County Council’s draft Traffic Management Permit Scheme Order. Item P he proposed should add “including impact on local facilities such as hospitals, schools and community centres” and there should be an additional item ‘q’, to read: “Priority use of temporary traffic signals with an inclusive pedestrian facility when pedestrian crossings are closed, or if footways are blocked.”

143/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

The clerk agreed to contact Cllr Twiss regarding the possibility of a new bench in Gittisham Vale, and also to mention the need to maintain awareness of the paucity of options for Gittisham village to access superfast broadband.

144/19 Matters for the forward agenda

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

145/19 Clerk’s Report

None.

146/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 4th December 2019 and Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

Chairman.....

4th December 2019