

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2015

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr S Trumper

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Edmonds, Cllr M Walker, Cllr E Underdown, Cllr Claire Wright (DCC)

134/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

135/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

136/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

17-18 December 2014: non-dwelling burglary, forced entry to secure shed in Gittisham and quad bike stolen.

137/14 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 7/14 Land West of Hayne Lane, as he is a tenant of the landowner making the application.

138/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond said that the closing date for the latest round of Parishes Together funding would be 13th February. The clerk agreed to investigate the group of parish councils (including Awliscombe and Luppitt) which had successfully bid last time for funding for a lengthsperson.

According to Cllr Bond, the independent group on EDDC's full council has challenged the proposal to relocate its offices to Honiton Business Park and Exmouth. The independents argue that the decision should be left until after the election in May, or until such time as proposed changes in local government are known.

The SHMAA report, due to be released at the end of December 2014, has not yet appeared, said Cllr Bond. There is therefore no clarity yet on the number of homes needed in the Local Plan.

139/14 To approve the January payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0662	Village hall	£80	Hall hire (2014)
0663	Honiton PCC	£20	Gazette printing costs
0664	Gittisham PCC	£29	Gazette printing costs
0665	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0666	F J Clampin	£179.63	Clerk's fee and expenses

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £12,765.61.

140/14 To consider the review of the planning application 13/2744/MOUT land west of Hayne Lane
Cllr Hayman left the meeting.

The Chair said he had received a letter that day from EDDC's monitoring officer (MO). The MO is satisfied there is no case to answer, although he advises that the complaint can be referred to the local government ombudsman. The Chair said he had already done this.

Cllr Hayman returned to the meeting.

141/14 To consider the review of electoral arrangements for Devon County Council

Cllr Hayman, the Chair and clerk met at the end of December to discuss how to respond to the formal consultation regarding DCC's electoral boundaries. Currently the parish is split between Honiton St Michaels and Ottery Rural. Members agreed it would be more efficient to be treated as an integrated unit under one ward, which would mean Cllr Wright's ward gaining an additional 200 electors. The clerk said she would respond, and members encouraged residents to do likewise as all views are welcome.

142/14 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair said he had attended a meeting in December held by Honiton Town Council (HTC) where neighbouring parishes were also present. HTC is writing a Neighbourhood Plan and has asked if local parishes want to be involved in a plan that goes wider than the town. There was some discussion among members as to the merits of this and how much it could realistically affect decision-making. But councillors eventually agreed it would help them to contribute towards addressing the infrastructure failures of the town. Cllr Valentine argued it was a way of identifying what scale of expansion would have to be put in place to deliver the infrastructure that is missing in Honiton and the infrastructure necessary to support any growth. He added that this would be a lengthy process and potentially costly, as HTC would need to engage consultants. The Chair agreed to go to further meetings and keep members briefed.

143/14 To agree the budget for 2015-16

The clerk outlined likely expenditure for the rest of the current tax year, and circulated a spreadsheet showing forecast expenditure for 2015-16. It was resolved to set budget expenditure at £12,427.00 which includes contingency and depreciation of play area items. The clerk said she would discuss with Nat West moving the depreciation funds into a separate account. She also agreed to draw up a list of what the depreciation fund was designed for. The forecast expenditure details are attached in a spreadsheet.

144/14 To set the precept for 2015-16

It was resolved to increase the precept by 2 per cent to £7,650.00, the balance of the budget to be taken from reserves.

145/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The Chair said there was no update on this. The clerk agreed to Cllr Hayman's request to check how much money was remaining in the play area funds.

146/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The Chair said somebody from the parish had expressed an interest. Members agreed with Cllr Valentine's suggestion that the parish council should put together a package of work which needs to be carried out on a six-monthly basis, so the person coming in could see at a glance what was required and where. The list will include Westgate, Dark Lane, Willys Wood, Town Farm Buildings and Honiton Lane marlpit. Cllr Valentine said he would circulate a map that everybody could mark up, and then EDDC could be called upon to provide larger scale maps of those areas.

147/14 To consider the future uses of the telephone box in Gittisham village

The Chair said there was no update on this.

148/14 To consider the recruitment of volunteer snow wardens

The Chair said he would be getting in touch with Roy Bird again.

149/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

Members agreed to postpone the May parish council meeting because of the general election. It was agreed to move this to Tuesday 12th May. [This is the annual parish meeting]

150/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

None

151/14 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include limited residential development, Honiton Neighbourhood Plan, play area, telephone box, parish lengthsperson and snow warden recruitment on the next agenda. .

152/14 Clerk's Report

None.

153/14 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 4th February and Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2030 hrs.

Chairman.....

4th February 2015