

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 7TH MAY 2014**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr Maggie Walker

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr E Underdown

Cllr M Edmonds

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Jan Sutcliffe (member of the public), Barbara Mullett (member of the public / Gittisham Gazette), Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr S Trumper, Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

1/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

2/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

The police did not send a report this month.

4/14 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in planning application 14/0798/FUL - Shermans Farm as his is the neighbouring property, and also in item 9/14 Land West of Hayne Lane, as he is a tenant of the landowner making the application. Cllr Fallows declared an interest in item 7/14 as he is due to be reimbursed by the council for the domain hosting of the parish website.

5/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright reminded members that the public consultation on the future of children's centres in the county is open until 6th June and the consultation for library services closes on 17th July.

Cllr Bond explained that the following day EDDC's planning officer would be outlining how the district council would be revising the Local Plan, which was previously declared unsound by an inspector. There is no target date yet when this might be ready. The council has however agreed to consider housing supply figures every six months, and there is the possibility of the plan period being extended to 2033. Cllr Bond said the Premier Inn application at Turk's Head in Honiton had been approved. The Gleeson application for land east of Hayne Lane has been refused, although it's possible there will be an appeal.

6/14 To adopt the 2013/14 accounts and to approve the annual governance statement

A copy of the 2013/14 accounts is attached to these minutes. It was resolved to adopt these accounts and to approve the annual governance statement. The clerk outlined the main items of expenditure in 2013/14:

Salaries £2,252.64, of which £449.28 is tax

Insurance £407.22

Gazette £341.16

Maintenance £651
Feniton fighting fund £500

In January 2014 it was predicted the council would end the financial year on 31st March with £9,000. The actual figure is £9,991.78. There is VAT to be recovered, totaling £44.28. The Chair reminded members that there is a year's depreciation already banked for the play area, and members should be aware that any balance includes depreciation earmarked for this. Cllr Hayman asked for this to be identified in a balance sheet, which the clerk will circulate at a later date. The clerk said the internal audit had been carried out that afternoon and no issues were identified. She circulated

7/14 To approve the May payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0624	DALC	£114.59	Annual membership subscription
0625	Nick Adams	£91.50	Annual play area safety inspection

Cllr Fallows left the meeting and Cllr Hayman took the Chair.

0626	David Fallows	£69.40	Reimbursement for domain name hosting
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Cllr Fallows returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

0627	Community First	£60	Insurance until 31 st May 2015
0628	PLandscape	£70.80	2 x grass cuts (maintenance of play area)
0629	Ken Abraham	£125	Annual internal audit of parish council accounts
0630	F J Clampin	£171	Clerk's fee and expenses (April)
0631	F J Clampin	£171	Clerk's fee and expenses (May)
0632	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0633	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE

Members were informed that half of the annual precept had been received and the current bank balance stands at £12,434.78.

8/14 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 14/0470/FUL - Rectory Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AB Replacement shed, installation of domestic heating oil tank, and change of use of land from agricultural to domestic curtilage
- b) 14/0762/LBC - Kings Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AS Internal works to include new floors and underfloor heating, reinstatement of window, opening up of fireplaces, new doors and other internal works

Members resolved to approve the applications.

Cllr Hayman left the meeting.

- c) 14/0798/FUL - Shermans Farm Gittisham EX14 3AU Free standing building over yard between two existing buildings

Members resolved to approve the application.

Cllr Hayman returned to the meeting.

9/14 To consider residential development in the parish, including land west of Hayne Lane

Since the March parish council meeting the application put forward by Welbeck to develop a site west of Hayne Lane had been approved. Members discussed their disappointment and anger over the way the application was approved and said they felt the decision was flawed. They felt the committee had given too much weight to land supply figures and were surprised at how the site could be considered sustainable, especially given the Gleeson application has been turned down although it is closer to Honiton and related community services.

Barbara Mullett proposed issuing a vote of no confidence in the parish council, but the Chair said there were other ways in which residents could show how they felt about the application being approved. The Chair said some in the parish were calling for a judicial review, but advised members that going down this route would incur costs. Cllr Wright reminded members of the protected costs order, and the Chair added that this would have to be arranged through a parishioner with no assets. Cllr Valentine explained that a judicial review questions matters of law in a planning decision, such as if there has been a miscarriage of justice. It is, he said, very different to an appeal. Any action of this nature would need to be lodged with the district council by 6th June.

Cllr Bond said that when Feniton launched its appeal, it received pledges of a total of £2,000 on the first day and Feniton parish council had not initially pledged its own funds. Members resolved to ask a counsel for planning issues to review the case and give legal guidance as to how strong the case may be. Cllr Valentine said that if the barrister advised there was not a case to answer, it would be difficult to proceed with a judicial review.

Cllr Walker proposed holding a public meeting, which was approved by all members. A date was set of 21st May in Gittisham church. Members also approved the Chair's proposal to write to the Chair of EDDC's Development Management Committee, Cllr Helen Parr, to express the feelings that had been sparked in parishioners by the district council approving this application.

In terms of small-scale development, the Chair said the Combe Estate manager had asked for the parish council's preferences on suitable sites within the village. The Chair had replied to say the parish council would be compromised if it recommended one site over another, but there was some disagreement about this position. Cllr Valentine reminded members that this was ultimately premature, as any proposal should start from a housing needs survey which needs to be undertaken by the applicant.

10/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections and the annual schedule of inspection

The Chair thanked members and residents for helping tidy up the play area on Easter Monday and seeing to any items identified in the annual safety inspection, which was carried out at the end of March. This also identified a crushing hazard with the rocking mechanism of the seesaw. The clerk agreed to follow this up with the manufacturer.

11/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The clerk said she had tried to get in touch with Luppitt-based A R Tucker to see if this highways contractor could potentially carry out some remedial work. She had been told that he does this as he is a councillor for Luppitt parish. She agreed to keep pursuing this, and members agreed to investigate whether somebody in the parish would also take on any remedial work. It should be noted however that said person would have to have all necessary insurance in place themselves.

12/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

None.

13/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Wright agreed to send a link to the website where anybody can report potholes, which is the most effective way of informing the county council. Cllrs Hayman and Fallows said they would also identify whether certain roads with potholes were rat runs or ones which serve the community. Cllr Wright said she would find out what is happening regarding the flood gauges, and she added that she has been pursuing DCC's transport and Stagecoach about formal stops on Hayne Lane and Ironbridge.

14/14 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include play area, parish lengthsperson, snow warden recruitment and judicial review on the next agenda.

15/14 Clerk's Report

None.

16/14 Date of next two meetings. Tuesday 10th June and Wednesday 2nd July at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2055 hrs.

Chairman.....

10th June 2014