

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

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr S Trumper

Cllr R Hayman

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr R Pratt

Cllr E Underdown

In attendance: Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk), Janice Alexander (Devon Communities Together)

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Walker, Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

88/15 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

89/15 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

90/15 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

No crimes since the last meeting.

91/15 To receive declarations of interest

The Chair declared an interest in item 7 (minute ref. 94/15) as he owns the neighbouring property.

92/15 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Wright explained that DCC's health and wellbeing scrutiny committee had met on 14th September to examine the decision by the local Clinical Commissioning Group to close some hospital beds, including at Ottery. It was agreed at that meeting to launch an investigation into the decision, but the committee has not met yet. Cllr Wright added that three troubleshooters have been appointed to work with the CCG to come up with proposals to reduce the group's financial deficit.

Cllr Bond said the inspector, Anthony Thicket, was due to report back next week regarding EDDC's Local Plan, and in particular how it has responded to Natural England's concerns. All being well, EDDC says it's on target to publish the Local Plan in January 2016.

93/15 To approve the October payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0700	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0701	F J Clampin	£174.60	Clerk's salary and expenses
0702	PLandscape	£106.80	August grass cutting x 2

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £12,469.09.

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

94/15 To consider the following planning applications:

- a) 15/1915/ADV Combe House Hotel Gittisham EX14 3AD Erection of new sign at entrance to Combe House with illumination.

Members had no objections to the above, but asked that the sign be illuminated between the hours of dusk and midnight / closing time only.

Cllr Fallows returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

95/15 To consider limited residential development in the parish

The Chair reported that he had received further responses indicating the preferences of people regarding small scale development in the village. He said that on the basis of the survey, it would appear the parish council had a mandate to take this further, as long as a group of people could be found who will eventually deliver the housing needs survey.

The Chair welcomed Janice Alexander from Devon Communities Together, who is the DCT's Rural Housing Enabler specialist in affordable housing in rural Devon. Ms Alexander said that she had met some members of the parish council at a previous meeting with EDDC and Combe Estate. She explained the process of carrying out a housing needs survey, which is in three parts:

- 1) general questions
- 2) questions specifically for older people (the issue of older people downsizing is a pressing one, she added)
- 3) questions to identify the level of need.

The parish council would make sure the survey was delivered to all parishioners, and if approximately four households can demonstrate a need for affordable housing, a development is viable to progress to the next stage. As Gittisham is considered an 'unsustainable' village, without this level of response and proven need, no planning permission would be granted.

The Chair said any administration would be the responsibility of a newly formed community land trust, which should include some representation from the parish council but is separate from it. Members agreed that an energetic group of people would be essential to steer this. (Cllr Valentine added that a group had been formed at Yarcombe, and in West Dorset, whose members might be in a position to advise.) An agreement would then be formed between the landowner and the trust, with a 100-year lease the most likely and on the basis of 33 per cent open market, 66 per cent affordable. Ms Alexander explained that the affordable housing landscape was in flux at the moment, due to recent Government announcements on the Help to Buy scheme. As a result, housing associations are remodeling their business plans. However, the picture should become clearer fairly soon.

Members agreed the survey should cover the wider parish, as this would indicate the needs of people living in the parish but not necessarily in the village of Gittisham itself. Respondents are given a month to send back the form, postage paid. DCT also has to consult people on the Devon Home Choice register.

Janice Alexander agreed to speak to EDDC's Paul Lowe (Housing Enabling Officer) to see if he would agree to put Gittisham into next year's programme. Otherwise, the cost would be approximately £2,500; councils elsewhere have successfully applied for Lottery funding to support housing needs surveys.

The Chair thanked Janice Alexander for a stimulating and helpful discussion, and agreed to keep the dialogue open. Members agreed to find people to take the process forward, and thought a piece in a future edition of the Gittisham Gazette would be a good place to start.

Janice Alexander left the meeting.

96/15 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

There was no update on this.

97/15 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

Members heard that the village fete had raised around £1,500 – part of which would go towards additional development of play area facilities. The clerk agreed to invite offers for a ping pong table from a company which had been in touch with Cllr Walker. The Chair said he would forward the name of the person who cuts the grass for the church and village hall, for the next tendering process.

98/15 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

The Chair reported that Len Abbott had carried out some work clearing ditches. The Chair said he had also been speaking to him about water on the road below Truances Dairy.

Cllr Bond left the meeting.

99/15 To consider any late entry correspondence

None.

100/15 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Wright agreed to report a pothole in the village by the Dower House which appeared to have resulted in a parishioner being injured. Members discussed the problem of fly-tipping; any instances should be reported to the police. The Chair asked Cllr Wright to pass on the parish council’s thanks that the drains had finally been cleared in front of the village hall. Cllr Underdown promised to send Cllr Wright details of a hedge which is overhanging the road in the parish. DCC says that only grass verges on bends and junctions will be cut in future.

101/15 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include limited residential development, lengthsman work, play area, and Honiton Neighbourhood Plan on the next agenda.

102/15 Clerk’s Report

Members noted EDDC’s consultation ‘Moving and Improving’, as well as the dates of DCC’s Highways conference. The clerk noted the details of Cllr Fallows as snow warden, following a request by DCC. The clerk has received a Freedom of Information request, asking why Cllr Trumper’s register of interests were not available on EDDC’s website. It has since been agreed to include the details, with the address redacted, and all register of interest forms can now be viewed on www.eastdevon.gov.uk The clerk will respond to the FoI request.

103/15 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 4th November and Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2050 hrs.

Chairman.....

4th November 2015