

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2020
in the Parish Room, Gittisham**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward
Cllr R Hayman (Chair)
Cllr M Walker

Gittisham Vale Ward
Cllr Peter Orchard

In attendance: Two members of the public, Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), Dan Langworthy-Smith & Edward Shuttleworth (Jurassic Fibre), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr C Hall, Cllr D Valentine, PCSO Darren England

Prior to the start of the meeting, one member of the public exercised their right as parish resident to speak regarding concerns about the overflow duct underneath the bridge outside Eveleigh's Cottage. They said that with December's persistent rain, even at its highest point the water was 2-3 inches below the top of the wall in front of the overflow duct. They concluded that the wall restricting the excess water flow is potentially too high, and the overflow duct is likely to come into operation when it is already too late. Cllr Twiss said he would ask county highways to take a look. The chair advised the resident to take some pictures.

171/19 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

172/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 4th December 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 were amended to include a reference in item 151/19 regarding publicity for the temporary bus stop outside Combe Garden Centre. The minutes were then confirmed and signed by the Chair.

173/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

In November 2019 the following crimes were recorded:

- 1) Anti-social behaviour on or near Parsonage Lane

174/19 To receive declarations of interest

None.

175/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

HMRC & other telephone scams

Cllr Twiss said the issue of telephone scams is being highlighted at this time of year, with tax returns for many due by 31st January. DCC staff have been picking up reports of scam calls where people impersonating HM Revenue and Customs staff usually state that a sum of money is owed to HMRC and request personal and bank details. He warned people not to give any details of this type out to people over the telephone and if in any doubt terminate the call and contact HMRC yourself. The advice is to treat calls of a similar nature requesting your confidential information in the same way.

Economy

With the general election done and dusted and whatever your view of the outcome, said Cllr Twiss, we clearly need to move on from a period of stagnation where much important 'day to day' legislation potentially has been sat on the back burner and this needs to be addressed. The Chancellor has confirmed March 11th as the date for a tax-and-spend budget designed to begin a promised "levelling up" of economic performance across the UK. It's understood that Sajid Javid will announce a shake-up of the way the

Treasury allocates investment in an attempt to even up spending between the regions, with northern England and the Midlands expected to benefit. Cllr Twiss remarked that while it is nice to slice up the national 'cake' a little more fairly, individually as County Councillors and collectively as Devon County Council we will be lobbying our MPs throughout Devon and the wider South West at every opportunity to make sure that we get a more proportionate amount of it. A small fraction of the infrastructure money amount being mooted for other parts of England would fund a massive amount of pothole repairs, carriageway resurfacing, better funding for schools and our infrastructure needs for starters!

A railway passing loop to the west of Exeter enabling a half hourly service on the Exeter-Waterloo line would bring huge economic benefit to the wider Greater Exeter sub-region and reduce carbon emissions at the same time.

2020/21 budget

Cllr Twiss reported that while DCC waits to hear the delayed announcement on the financial settlement from government for the next financial year, the DCC cabinet recently agreed a draft budget which will include inflation busting increases on spending for vital services, where there will be a rise of 6.4 per cent in spending on children's services, adult care and roads across the county, meaning an extra £16 million for adult care, £9 million for children's services and £1.7million for highways. This means that the council's spending will rise by £31.8million from £498 million in 2019/20 to nearly £530 million in 2020/21. Clearly with rising demand for all services there is no room for any complacency that this increase will solve all of the challenges faced by DCC and why more funding from central government is needed.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service have published its recommendations on how its services should be delivered in the future, following a public consultation exercise last year. The changes that the service is recommending for approval by the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority thankfully have no local impact for us in terms of our fire stations with the key recommendations below:

- a) Defer the decision to implement day crewing at Barnstaple, Exmouth and Paignton subject to a revised 24/7 crewing model being agreed with the Fire Brigades Union, including roving appliances, before the end of the 2019/20 financial year.
- b) Close Budleigh Salterton fire station and allow affected firefighters to respond from Exmouth fire station.
- c) Relocate Topsham fire station to Service Headquarters (Clyst St George) and relocate one of the fire engines to Middlemoor fire station (both fire engines to be relocated to Service Headquarters until an on-call crew can be established at Middlemoor).
- d) Remove the third fire engines from Bridgwater, Taunton, Torquay and Yeovil.
- e) Remove the second fire engines from Crediton, Lynton, Martock and Totnes.
- f) Introduce variable fire engine availability dependent on risk.

Cllr Orchard asked if there was any progress on having a bus stop along Devonshire Road. Cllr Twiss explained that he had asked for a review of this, and was pursuing a decision as to where the best place would be for any stop. The clerk added that she had been in touch with the Combe Garden Centre manager, and he had promised to let her know when the bus stop there was confirmed by Stagecoach as a timing spot. The cost of a single ticket from either Gittisham village or the Vale to the garden centre is £1.40.

The clerk said a number of residents had raised concerns over the safety of pedestrians along the Gittisham link road from the Vale to the garden centre, as the road is not very wide and it is difficult to hear approaching traffic because of the noise from the neighbouring A30. Cllr Twiss said it was very unlikely that a pavement or signage would be installed given the relatively low volume of traffic. However the Chair pointed out that this could change when the Hayne Farm development is complete.

Regarding the decrepit state of parts of Hayne Lane and the continuing absence of a safety barrier, Cllr Twiss said he had raised this with Highways as a safety issue. He said that this would be looked at by 21st January. Cllr Orchard asked if a pavement on the west side of Hayne Lane was a possibility between the new estate and the farm shop, but Cllr Twiss said this was unlikely.

Cllr Bond said EDDC's John Golding had led a workshop on climate change and he said a number of parish councils had asked for advice on what they could do to address the issue. She suggested that might be quite a good avenue for the parish council to take.

176/19 To note the latest planning decision notices

- 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. **Approval with conditions.**
- b) 19/2366/VAR Combe Garden Centre Gittisham Honiton EX14 3PD - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (restriction on sale of goods) of planning permission 18/2806/VAR (garden centre with restaurant/cafe) to facilitate the sale of a wider range of goods within part of the building. **Approval with conditions.**
- c) 19/2207/FUL 1 Hamlet Cottages Weston Honiton EX14 3PB - Single storey workshop unit (use class B1(c)) (Retrospective application). **Approval with conditions.**

177/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

Dan Langworthy-Smith from Jurassic Fibre outlined plans to deliver a superfast fibre service to Gittisham village by the closing quarter of 2020. As there is no pre-existing infrastructure, the company would consider installing a 'spur' by way of a new network underground along the road and then trial a micro-trench which is the same width as the duct carrying the fibre (10mm). As this is a trial, he said, he would need an element of support from the community, and so he encouraged residents interested in receiving the service to register their interest on the Jurassic Fibre website <https://jurassic-fibre.com/customer-registration> There is no obligation to sign up to Jurassic Fibre by doing this, he noted.

Mr Langworthy-Smith explained that there is a standard installation cost of £250 per property, although this is waived if you sign up for a two-year contract and if there were enough takers in the village, the costs could potentially be lower. Members heard that four different download speeds are offered, depending on the cost of the package: 50mb (£35 / month), 150mb (£50), 500mb (£75) and 1gb (£100). The upload speed would be 20 per cent of the download speed. Mr Langworthy-Smith said that if there was enough interest from parishioners wanting this type of connection, he would look to hold a public meeting in the village hall around June to answer any questions.

Cllr Twiss, Dan Langworthy-Smith and Edward Shuttleworth left the meeting.

178/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections

The clerk said Western Power Distribution would be attending to the debris at the substation and were aware of the broken fence surrounding it. She added that James Fuller was drafting a letter to the Land Registry.

179/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall

Cllr Walker said she and Cllr Hall had attended the previous evening's village hall committee meeting, and it was felt that refurbishment and redecoration was the priority before focusing on how the facility could be enhanced. Cllr Hall would be contacting three contractors to bid for the work which needs doing, which will be presented to the next parish council meeting. The clerk agreed to send one of these to Sulina Tallack at EDDC to check that it would be appropriate to use CIL funding for this work. She agreed to circulate Cllr Bond's summary on the use of CIL and S106 money, as well as a description of projects which had received support from EDDC's Community Building Fund to see if Gittisham Village Hall's proposals were similar.

180/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

The clerk said she had contacted the head of sales at Baker Estates to arrange a date for the 'meet the parish council' event. She promised to put Cllr Orchard in touch with them.

181/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish

There was no update on this.

182/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106

The Chair said that Cllr Twiss would like to use the S106 funding towards an artificial pitch at Honiton Community College; Honiton Town Council's clerk is aware of this. Members discussed using some of the S106 funding for a ping pong table and / or an updated boules pitch. Cllr Orchard agreed to investigate the possibilities for the boules pitch, and Cllr Walker said she would find out whether the village hall still had a ping pong table. Cllr Bond explained that using S106 would require a consultation exercise, but if there was a need for items such as new fencing or a new litter bin no consultation was necessary.

183/19 To consider the parish emergency plan

There was no update on this.

184/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

Cllr Walker said the lengthsman had identified the problem with the drain by Clysthayes. She agreed to speak to Len Abbot about the problem with leaves in the drains outside Talbots.

185/19 To consider the installation of a park bench in Gittisham Vale

The clerk reported she had contacted the EDDC officer to ask if it was possible to install a bench, and how it will be fixed. Cllr Orchard agreed to contact Cllr Twiss about this also.

186/19 To consider two casual vacancies in Gittisham Vale

The clerk said the period for parishioners to request an election had passed, and the parish council could now proceed to co-opt. The chair agreed to approach Andy Wilkins about joining the council.

187/19 To consider climate change measures within the parish

Members welcomed the news that a village carshare WhatsApp group had been set up by a resident. The clerk reported that she had asked for Gittisham to be added to the list of signatories to the Devon Climate Declaration (led by DCC). She circulated an article on climate change action sent in by Cllr Hall written by an Ottery councillor, and it was agreed that the parish council should invite somebody from OTC to attend a meeting to outline their climate change work. Cllr Bond said funding might be available for an electric vehicle charging point.

188/19 To approve the January payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0999	F J Clampin	£230.29	Clerk's salary & expenses
DD	NEST	£17.50	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £20,298.14 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account for contingency).

Two members of the public left the meeting.

189/19 To agree the budget for 2020-21

The clerk outlined likely expenditure for the rest of the current tax year, and circulated a spreadsheet showing forecast expenditure for 2020-21. It was resolved to set budget expenditure at £22,245.00 which includes contingency and depreciation of play area items, and refurbishment of the village hall. The forecast expenditure details have been circulated.

190/19 To set the precept for 2020-21

Councillors resolved to maintain the precept at its current level of £8,160.00 to help parishioners, the balance of the budget to be taken from reserves.

191/19 To consider any late entry correspondence

Cllr Orchard said he would compile a monthly Whats-On to put on the Vale noticeboard.

192/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

None.

193/19 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, lengthsman work, CIL / S106 expenditure, emergency plan, budget, precept, casual vacancies, play area maintenance contract and bench opposite Hayne Farm on the next agenda.

194/19 Clerk's Report

The clerk agreed to contact Honiton Town Council's clerk to outline the parish council's position regarding parking along Devonshire Road, as discussed at the December 2019 meeting.

195/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 5th February and Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2145 hrs.

Chairman.....

5th February 2020