

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8TH MAY 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 A Wilkins

In attendance: Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC), Fiona Clampin (clerk), one member of the public

Apologies for absence: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), PCSO Darren England

1/19 To elect a Chairperson and signature of Acceptance of Office
Cllr Russell Hayman was elected Chair for 2019/20 by a unanimous decision.

2/19 To elect a Vice Chairperson
Cllr Carol Hall was elected Chair for 2019/20 by a unanimous decision.

3/19 To accept and approve apologies
Apologies were received and accepted.

4/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 3rd April 2019
The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5/19 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

March 2019 2 crimes:

- 1) Anti-social behaviour, on or near Parsonage Lane
- 2) Violence and sexual offences, on or near Parsonage Lane

April 2019 2 crimes:

- 1) Violence without injury
- 2) Other sexual offences

The clerk agreed to seek advice from the neighbourhood officer as how to address the off-roading issue on parish footpaths.

6/19 To receive declarations of interest

None.

7/19 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Healthcare

Cllr Twiss said that the Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to write an annual report. This enables the Director of Public Health to make an independent judgement about the state of health of the local population and ensures that the report will be published and in the public domain.

The key recommendations from the report are as set out below:

- Communities in Devon to adopt a positive approach to mental health, recognising how common mental health issues are among the population.
- Promotion of mental health and wellbeing in schools and educational settings.
- Wider recognition of, and action to address, the inequality that exists for people with serious mental health issues in terms of physical health, employment and housing.

- Recognition of, and action to address the mental ill-health risks associated with poverty, poor housing and lack of decent employment.
- Ensuring that a ‘Health in all policies’ approach embraces mental health as well as physical health.
- Action to prevent, recognise and treat the symptoms of trauma (including as a result of adverse childhood experiences) to prevent inappropriate and/or ineffective use of resources, whether they be health, social care or criminal justice.
- Sufficient expert support available within community settings to complement national and local developments in home-based and community-based care.
- Recognition of the importance of formal and informal caring responsibilities at all ages and information and practical support for carers, particularly in the light of the potential impact of caring on carers’ own mental health and wellbeing.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the fifth annual MBRRACE-UK (‘Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries’) report, particularly those concerning maternal mental health and women from vulnerable groups.
- The Devon Health and Wellbeing Board continues to have mental health as one of its top priorities and to work, as a partnership, to achieve both measurable improvements in outcomes and also improvement in local authority comparator group rankings over the next five years.

RD&E

Cllr Twiss said the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a routine announced inspection at the in January and February this year. The Hospital has retained an overall CQC rating of ‘Good’. As the DCC appointed RD&E Governor, Cllr Twiss said this was a fantastic achievement and reflects well on the quality of the services provided to people and communities in East Devon considering increased pressures on the NHS as a whole. The report notes areas where there could be improvements but overall this is a tremendous result and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of every member of the RD&E team across all four corners of the Trust.

Some of the highlights in the report include:

- Renal services achieved an Outstanding rating on its first ever inspection. In other areas that were inspected for the first time we also did well:
Community Health Services (first inspection since RD&E started managing the services in 2016) – Good
Community Adults and Inpatients – Good
Honiton Hospital Minor Injuries Unit (first inspection since RD&E started managing the unit in 2016) – Good
Castle Place GP Practice, Tiverton (first inspection since the practice joined the RD&E in 2018) – Good
Use of Resources (first inspection under the new inspection regime) – Good
- Outpatients and Mardon Neuro-rehabilitation Centre were two areas that were re-inspected and they moved from Requires Improvement ratings in 2015 to Good thanks to the excellence of care, leadership and commitment of staff.

In all the areas re-inspected, the CQC team rated these higher than in 2015:

Medicine – Good (although rated overall as Good in 2015, improvement in the safety domain from Requires Improvement in 2015 to Good now).

Community End of Life Care was one of the areas inspected for the first time under RD&E management and this was rated as Requires Improvement.

Beavers

The DCC Feniton & Honiton Division covers part of the River Otter catchment, where the River Otter Beaver Trail, led by the Devon Wildlife Trust, is now in its fifth and final year. Here is a brief update:

- The beavers are currently thriving, with this winter’s survey having identified activity hotspots throughout the river, with at least 7 or 8 family groups present.
- The well-established presence of these beavers in various locations has enabled a significant programme of scientific monitoring to be undertaken through the University of Exeter and others. The results of this will be written-up as a full research report later this year.

- This beaver activity has given rise to some localised issues (i.e. a few cases of trees being damaged in gardens, plus one or two spots where dams have created waterlogging in adjoining fields) but, in virtually every case, the Project Team has ensured that such issues have been quickly dealt with.

The trial is due to end next spring. Preparations are now well advanced for providing the required information to Defra to enable a government decision to be reached on whether the beavers will be allowed to remain on the River. Critically, this includes a Beaver Management Strategy Framework, which outlines a series of principles and recommended approaches which should be adopted if the beavers are to remain. The intention is to ensure a managed approach to balancing the societal benefits and the localised problems, which will result from the presence of this species within the catchment.

In her absence, Susie Bond sent a message to say that following the election on 2 May, there has been an immense change in the make-up of the new district council with the Independents now the largest group with 31 seats.

Cllr Twiss left the meeting.

8/19 To note the latest planning decision notices

19/0280/LBC Eveleighs Farmhouse Gittisham, EX14 3AF - Replace 2no. windows on ground floor north elevation and 2no. windows on ground floor west elevation; replace glazing and insert window vent in 1no. window at first floor south elevation, block up 1no. window on ground floor north elevation, install flue in east elevation, partial removal of wall to create doorway and construct wall to create new bathroom at first floor, install flue on chimney on south elevation. **Approval with conditions.**

9/19 To consider the provision of superfast broadband for Gittisham village

Members heard there had been no communication from Voneus since the last meeting. The government's Better Broadband Voucher Scheme could potentially cover the installation cost of the appropriate infrastructure for homes with a download speed of less than 2 Mbps, and members agreed that if any resident had difficulty applying, the parish council could assist.

10/19 To consider capital works to Gittisham Village Hall

There was no update on this.

11/19 To receive an update on the Hayne Lane development

Cllr Wilkins told members that there were no up to date figures available on occupancy levels, and it was noted that the price of some of the properties had been reduced.

12/19 To consider limited residential development in the parish

Cllr Valentine said there would be a board meeting on 9th May, and a public meeting on 16th May where he and other board members will present the background to the choice of preferred site. This, he explained, will give the platform to appoint solicitors and choose a housing association partner, appointing consultants to look at the site and prepare details as necessary. He said the GCLT is making grant applications, and there is no burden on the community to find funding.

13/19 To consider plans for expenditure in the parish under the Community Infrastructure Levy & S106

The clerk said £2,100.93 had been received from EDDC last month as part of the CIL money owing to the parish council. Cllr Valentine suggested that another meeting with EDDC would be helpful better to understand what funds are available and how they should be spent.

14/19 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including fundraising and regular safety inspections

Councillors noted the annual safety inspection report, and resolved to replace the rotting benches with two new ones made from multi-coloured recycled plastic from VP Recycled Plastic. Members also resolved to purchase a new seat for the rookery from the same company. Cllr Walker agreed to ask the lengthsman to dispose of the benches, and review how the small gate in the play area closes. The lengthsman will also treat the timber of the wooden items. Cllr Hall said she had applied to the National Lottery Awards for All

fund for £10,000 for a slide and tower. Members thanked Cllr Hall for her work, and were delighted to hear that the parish council had secured £250 from the East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund to fund the cost of enhancing the wild play area. Cllr Hall said she would source bird, bug and bee houses.

Members noted that the bench around the tree in the rookery hadn't yet been replaced, and the Chair said he would contact the Combe Estate to enquire, as well as the Beaumont Trust.

15/19 To consider logistics of a parish litter pick

Cllr Valentine said this could be taken off the agenda. Cllr Wilkins added that Hayne Lane was now clearer, although some fly-tipping in the river was noted.

16/19 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman to maintain drains and ditches in the parish

Cllr Walker said she would follow up with Len Abbott regarding the bus shelter in the Vale. Members noted that the noticeboard outside the village hall was now secure, and thanked the lengthsman for his work.

17/19 To consider co-opting councillors for Gittisham Vale ward:

The clerk agreed to check whether the Hayne Farm development falls with the Vale or Village ward boundary, since new councillors should ideally be sourced from the Vale. Cllr Wilkins said he would put up some notices and posters in the area, and the clerk agreed to add the vacancies to the next Gittisham Gazette. The clerk said she would write to Richard Pratt to thank him for his service in the Vale.

18/19 To consider the criteria for meeting exemption from the annual limited assurance review 2018-19

Members agreed the criteria had been met, ie that during the financial year 2018/19 the higher of the parish council's gross income or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.

19/19 To approve the annual governance statement

It was resolved to approve the annual governance statement.

20/19 To adopt the annual accounts

It was resolved to adopt the 2018-19 accounts. Prior to the meeting, the clerk circulated the accounting statements. The parish council ended the financial year on 31st March 2019 with a balance of £20,118.19 (inc. £7,000 in business reserve for contingency & depreciation, + £8.67 interest accumulated this year). There is VAT to be recovered of £748.06.

21/19 To approve the May payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0949	F J Clampin	£12.79	Clerk's expenses
0950	Nick Adams	£96.72	Annual play area safety inspection
0951	Michael Poll	£60	Play area grass cutting, (inv ref. 536/19/2)
0952	Len Abbott	£102	6.5 hours lengthsman work, February 2019
0953	Len Abbott	£21.60	Lengthsman expenses, February 2019
0954	Community First	£393.49	Annual insurance policy 2019-20
DD	NEST	£16.58	Clerk's pension

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £24,716.77 (which includes the £7,000 in the business reserve account). The clerk agreed to enquire with Community First as to the benefits of the three-year Long Term Agreement.

22/19 To complete the annual review of effectiveness of internal control and risk assessment

Members adopted the risk assessment and the annual review of effectiveness of internal control.

23/19 To complete the annual review of standing orders and financial regulations

Members adopted the standing orders and financial regulations.

24/19 To consider any late entry correspondence

Cllr Wilkins said the Vale defibrillator had been deployed but in the end had not needed to be used. He confirmed it has been checked since and is working effectively.

25/19 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Hall said some residents have raised concerns about the large number of off-road vehicles using bridleways in the parish. Part of the bridleway near Summer Lane is severely worn and one part in particular now has a very deep drop and only a very narrow and unstable path for a horse or walkers to use. Cllr Bond understands that if the issue is on private land, the landowner should get in touch with the police. The clerk agreed to contact Combe Estate to seek their agreement to put up some posters prohibiting illegal use of bridleways.

26/19 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include superfast broadband, village hall capital works, Hayne Lane, limited residential development, broadband, lengthsman work, CIL / S106 expenditure, review of clerk's and lengthsman's salaries and Vale councillors co-option on the next agenda.

27/19 Clerk's Report

None.

28/19 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 12th June and Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm in the parish room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2105 hrs.

Chairman.....

12th June 2019