

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 9TH JUNE 2015

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr M Walker

Cllr S Trumper

Cllr R Hayman

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr D Valentine

Cllr E Underdown

Cllr R Pratt

In attendance: Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC), Ms Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

21/15 To accept and approve apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

22/15 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

23/15 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

No crimes were reported since the last meeting.

24/15 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Pratt declared an interest in 27/15 (b), as he is a member of the Save our Heathfield campaign group.

25/15 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond sent a report to explain that the Independent group, led by the EDA Independents, called an extraordinary full Council meeting on 3rd June with a motion to pause the Knowle relocation project so that a full assessment could be undertaken. After a lengthy debate the motion was lost, so the relocation will now go ahead with a move to the new offices in Honiton and refurbished offices in Exmouth scheduled for 2017.

Cllr Randall Johnson said the proposals to change bus services across Devon would go before cabinet on 10th June, and then to a further committee before a final decision is made. The Honiton town bus service which looked to be under threat is due to be retained.

Cllr Randall Johnson added that DCC's highways department had prepared a solution for the Turk's Head junction in Honiton. Traffic lights have been ruled out, so a roundabout is to be proposed to keep traffic moving. Roadworks will start in September 2015. There will be a pedestrian crossing on the Hayne Lane side which would have the effect of slowing traffic down. Councillors took the opportunity to ask Cllr Randall Johnson if improvements could be made to the situation on Devonshire Road, where parked cars are now making traffic movement difficult. Members agreed that the T-junction by Homebase was often congested as well. Cllr Trumper said the road would need to be widened, and with the construction of 300 houses the traffic problem would get worse. There were fears that Old Elm Road would be reopened. Cllr Randall Johnson thanked members for their contributions.

26/15 To approve the June payments and to note the current bank balance

The clerk explained that £4,000 had now been transferred from reserves into the new savings account for contingency and depreciation of fixed assets.

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0685	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0686	F J Clampin	£203.52	Clerk's salary and expenses
0687	PLandscape	£106.80	Grass cuts, May (maintenance of play area)

Members were informed that the current bank balance stands at £10,285.32.

27/15 To consider the following planning applications:

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- a) 14/2423/MFUL Land at Crowpits, Sidbury (adjoining parish) - installation of a 4.8MW photovoltaic park with associated infrastructure including inverter stations, transformers, substations, security fence and pole-mounted and fixed security cameras

Members had no objections, but resolved to remind EDDC that this park is located in the AONB and ask if the parish could benefit in any way from reduced electricity costs or similar.

- b) 15/1027/MOUT Land east of Hayne Lane Gittisham - residential development of up to 141 homes (including 25 per cent affordable housing), new vehicular access from Sidmouth Road and Honeysuckle Drive and pedestrian, cycle and emergency access points, structural landscaping, allotments and open space (outline planning application with details of access, layout, strategic landscape provision and building height parameters submitted for consideration)

Members resolved to object to the application for the same reasons as before. It was agreed to amend the response slightly to explain that if EDDC was minded to approve, the parish would like to see a community building, housing for older people and roads and bridges widened in the surrounding area. The clerk will get in touch with EDDC planning to say that the response will be submitted within the next week.

Cllr Randall Johnson left the meeting.

28/15 To consider the draft East Devon Local Plan

Cllr Valentine said he had drafted a response which would be submitted before Friday's deadline, and the content was approved by the parish council. The response challenges the methodology used by EDDC in terms of housing numbers and employment land allocation figures. Cllr Valentine explained that forecasts showed that 69 per cent of East Devon's population wouldn't be economically active in a few years time, and the age profile would increase over the next 20 years. Cllr Valentine said he had increased the focus in the response on employment land allocation, and the plan contains various contradictions within it regarding employment land. It's not clear whether the inspector will look to challenge this as he will be looking at changes to the previous version of the plan (which this is not). Members resolved to object to the 15ha allocation as before, and the Chair thanked Cllr Valentine for his work in preparing the response.

29/15 To consider the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Pratt said Honiton Town Council had proposed a date to discuss this with Awliscombe PC at the end of June.

30/15 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

The Chair said the logs to make stepping stones were ready to install in the play area. Members agreed a date of 11th July for an all-day event to install them and carry out a general tidy of the area, along with a barbecue and other activities.

31/15 To consider any late entry correspondence

None.

32/15 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

Cllr Randall Johnson agreed to investigate the traffic situation on Devonshire Road.

33/15 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include the review of effectiveness of internal control, limited residential development,

EDDC Local Plan, play area, and Honiton Neighbourhood Plan on the next agenda.

34/15 Clerk's Report

The clerk will send the expenses forms already submitted to her to EDDC.

35/15 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 1st July and Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman.....

1st July 2015