

**GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2014**

Present:

Gittisham Village Ward

Cllr D Fallows (chairman)

Cllr R Hayman

Cllr M Walker

Gittisham Vale Ward

Cllr E Underdown

In attendance: Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC), Roger Giles (member of the public), Fiona Clampin (clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr S Trumper, Cllr D Valentine, Cllr M Edmonds, Cllr Claire Wright (DCC), Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC), PC Clive Vickery, PCSO Phil Anning

68/14 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted.

69/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

70/14 To receive the Beat Manager's Report

There were no reported crimes this month.

71/14 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Hayman declared an interest in item 7/14 Land West of Hayne Lane, as he is a tenant of the landowner making the application.

72/14 Reports from County Council and District Council representatives

Cllr Bond explained that EDDC's recycling contract was up for renewal and a number of 'think tanks' are looking at what facilities should be provided in the future. Members of the public are invited to make suggestions to Cllr Bond, who said that cardboard collection was high on the list of preferences.

73/14 To approve the September payments and to note the current bank balance

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

0647	HMRC	£40.95	PAYE
0648	F J Clampin	£176.26	Clerk's fee and expenses
0649	PLandscape	£70.80	2 x grass cuts in July (maintenance of play area)
0650	Combe Estate	£10	10-years' rent for play area @ £1/year 2011-2021

Members were informed that the remainder of the 2014-15 precept had been received, and the current bank balance stands at £14,448.32.

74/14 To consider the review of the planning application 13/2744/MOUT land west of Hayne Lane

The Chair reported that EDDC's planning inspection committee (PIC) had met on 5th September and approved the application. Members expressed their concern at the way they felt the process had been managed, with the parish council only finding out about the meeting (and therefore the opportunity to speak) by chance. Neither had Charlie Hopkins' report prepared for the parish council in July been included in the latest officer's report which would inform the decision-making. This was rectified at the

PIC meeting but no explanation given as to why it had been omitted initially. The Chair said in the light of the omission, he had instructed Charlie Hopkins to prepare an update for the 5th Sept meeting, and members accepted this would involve some additional costs.

Members shared the general frustration and disappointment at EDDC's decision to ignore the advice of statutory consultees such as the NHS, the two AONBs and government body Natural England. They felt that some of the photography included in the officer's report was misleading. They discussed a course of action, and agreed it would be wise to welcome this new community into the parish by leafleting and explaining what belonging to Gittisham parish offers. In the meantime, the Chair will write and send all paperwork to the Department for Communities and Local Government, as EDDC cannot grant permission for this development without specific authorisation from the Secretary of State. Members also agreed to write as a council to EDDC's monitoring officer (cc Neil Parish MP) to complain about the handling of the process, and ask whether they had taken legal advice on how to proceed when the decision was deferred. When a response is received, the parish council can then write to the ombudsman. The Chair will write to Neil Parish and enclose a copy of the DCLG paperwork.

75/14 To consider progress on the modernisation of the play area, including regular safety inspections

Clr Hayman reported having moved the sand down onto the boules court. Members discussed options for the wild area and the Chair said he would speak to Bill Griffiths and Hamish Hall about designing a structure of some kind. This would have to be constructed to a suitable standard and also insurable. Clr Hayman said he felt that if the parish council could fund the cost of the materials, the parish could help build. The clerk agreed to chase up the issue of the reported 'crushing hazard' on the see-saw with the manufacturer.

76/14 To consider contracting a lengthsperson for maintaining drains and ditches in the parish

The clerk reported having received advice from the Devon Association of Local Councils regarding the paperwork needed to contract a lengthsperson. DALC advised that the parish council would have to specify the safe working practices it expected to see used, and the contractor would need public liability insurance which would have to be seen before starting work. Depending on the value of the contract, the parish council would put this work out to tender. The clerk had also received a message from the Chair of Chagford parish council, which had clubbed together with other authorities to use DCC money to fund a lengthsmen. He said the work would have to be supervised and the parish council needed to be clear about the work to be done. There was a discussion about where the responsibility lies in the event of a problem arising from the work. Members agreed to report blocked drains themselves at Dark Lane, Willey's Wood, Truances, Rapshayes and Westgate. The clerk will get in touch with Clr Wright about the poor state of the road at Westgate which increasingly has the potential to put both properties and vehicles at risk. She also agreed to chase up the flood gauge. The clerk will circulate details of a new website created by Devon Highways which is specifically designed for parish and town councils.

77/14 To consider the recruitment of volunteer snow wardens

The Chair said there was nothing to report.

78/14 To consider any late entry correspondence

Members noted the dates of conferences and fora organised by the East Devon AONB, DALC and Community Council of Devon.

79/14 Matters to be reported to DCC / EDDC

As per minute ref 76/14.

80/14 Matters for the forward agenda

It was agreed to include planning application 13/2744/MOUT Land west of Hayne Lane, play area, telephone box, parish lengthsperson and snow warden recruitment on the next agenda.

81/14 Clerk's Report

None.

82/14 Date of next two meetings. Wednesday 1st October and Tuesday 11th November at 7.30pm.

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

Chairman.....

1st October 2014