

DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dittisham Parish Council held in Dittisham Village Hall, on Wednesday 9 January at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs J Walker (Chair), Cllr S Stothart, Cllr M Faulkner, Cllr A Stevens, Cllr J Tucker, and Cllr P Unitt, Cllr D Harris-Evans.

County Cllr Hawkins

165/12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr K Wotton, Cllr C Fraenkel, and sent on behalf of PCSO Broad.

Cllr D Harris-Evans joined the meeting later as noted below.

166/12 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Stevens declared a personal interest in Items 4.2.

167/12 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 September 2012.

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 December 2012 (proposed Cllr Tucker, seconded Cllr Walker).

168/12 Public issues

168/12.1 Report from Police Community Support Officer

E-mail report indicated that no items to raise.

168/12.2 DLS Community Projects information about progress with the housing for locals project

Cllr Stevens reported that the group has been successful in obtaining Technical Assistance Funding from the National CLT Network. The Call for Sites is on hold pending the results of the Housing Needs Survey.

168/12.3 Capton - severe erosion of tarmac & repeated flooding making the road impassable just below the ford.

DCC is aware of this issue and it is being prioritised with other storm water damage. The fjord will ideally be redesigned to prevent a recurrence.

Lack of buddle hole maintenance by DCC has contributed to the extent of storm water damage. Blackawton has developed a volunteer based maintenance scheme and addressed key areas with DCC. It is not now pursuing TAP funding. It was agreed the Parish Council will work with Cornworthy Parish to submit a bid to the DCC/SHDC Town and Parish Fund for £1,500 towards lengthsman hours to partially replace maintenance cuts. Chapter 8 training will be required. The work required will be greater initially due to lack of maintenance.

Action Item: Dittisham-Cornworthy TAP Fund Bid for £1,500 to be written by Dittisham Clerk.

Cllr Harris-Evans joined the meeting during this item.

168/12.4 The Level Car Park Tree Works

SHDC will be doing tree maintenance work on 15 January. There is some risk to cars. Abandoned cars will need to be addressed by SHDC.

Action Items: Cllr Faulkner to liaise with SHDC regarding notices. Clerk to follow-up abandoned cars.

168/12.5 DSC Permits

Cllr Faulkner requires numbers.

Action Item: Clerk to follow-up with DSC.

168/12.6 Erosion in The Ham Car Park

An area of erosion due to water flow has created a hole which requires repair with some urgency. Approval of expenditure by Clerk in consultation with Chairman likely to be required.

Action Item: Cllr Faulkner to liaise with previous contractor and Clerk regarding cost and timing.

168/12.7 Poor local Internet Service

The Clerk passed on the concerns of a Parishioner that poor internet service is making it very difficult to operate a business from home in the Village and they may need to leave. Cllr Harris-Evans agreed that there is poor ROS (Reliability of Service) in the Village.

Action Item: Clerk to write to Broadband for Devon, Carol Trant at SHDC and BT.

169/12 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

169/12.1 Dartmouth Higher Ferry – Priority of Emergency Services Vehicles (155/12.4).

The Clerk has received a response from the Manager stating that emergency services are given priority. No further action to be taken.

169/12.2 Footpath Number (155/12.7)

It was **resolved** to authorise of payment of up to £50 for hardcore on the condition that the quality was comparable to that further down the footpath closer to The Ham.

169/12.3 Bus Stop Bench Seat Renovation (156/12.3)

This item was deferred to February meeting pending further information.

170/12 Planning / tree applications

170/12.1 18/2893/12/TCA The Ham Recreation Ground, Dittisham Application for Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

It was **resolved** to support this application. It was noted that this application has been made by DPC and this will be commented on in the response.

171/12 Communications from South Hams District Council/Devon County Council in relation to planning/tree applications

No communications received.

172/12 Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities/Working Parties

172/12.1 Ham Events Working Party

The recommendation regarding review of The Ham Hire Fee Schedule was deferred to the February meeting of DPC.

172/12.2 Ham Maintenance Working Party

It was **resolved** not to purchase the Playground sign offered by SHDC.

Cllr Stevens will remove the rotten wood from The Ham bench seat along river edge closest to the Car Park and will look at removal of its concrete.

County Councillor Hawkins advised that DPC's application for a DCC grant of £750 towards a replacement baby swing was successful.

The report on quotes for a replacement baby-swing, and plan for a replacement of the two other wooden pieces and long-term plan for the playground were deferred to February meeting.

173/12 Strategic Planning Matters

173/12.1 Transfer of assets (the Level Car Park & the toilets on The Ham) from SHDC

Cllr Walker advised that no further action is being taken pending a report from SHDC expected for the February meeting.

174/12 Financial Matters

174/12.1 Consider approval of current income/expenditure statement

It was **resolved** to approve the January income / expenditure statement which showed an available balance of £35,334 (includes bequest and excludes contingency funds).

174/12.2 Quarterly Expenses

It was **resolved** to approve the quarterly expenses submitted by the Clerk.

174/12.3 Consider approval of payment to Clerk of salary in lieu of 2013 Annual leave as per contract.

It was **resolved** to approve this payment subject to confirmation that this action complies with Regulations.

174/12.4 Decision regarding 2013/14 Parish Council budget.

It was noted that the Council owns the Old Chapel burial ground and its wall. It was unanimously **resolved** to establish a contingency fund towards repair and maintenance of the wall and £15,000 to be allocated in 2013/14. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the proposed budget with this amendment.

174/12.5 Decision regarding 2013/14 Parish Council precept demand.

It was **resolved** to increase the precept by £1,000 (or approximately £3 per household) with the goal of holding sufficient reserves to meet anticipated future expenditure.

175/12 Correspondence received since the previous meeting

The following correspondence was considered:

175/12.1 The Methodist Chapel, The Level Dittisham, 4 Dec 2012

Cllr Tucker noted that an empty house can now be charged 150% Council Tax rates. It was agreed that Cllr Walker would correspond with the owner.

175/12.2 CRPE Best Kept Village and Pam Parker Map Competitions

It was agreed that DPC would not participate.

175/12.3 DALC Finance Update 14 Dec 2012 re Localisation Support for Council Tax

Decision regarding whether to write MP and Secretary of State regarding concerns. It was agreed that DPC would not participate.

The following correspondence was noted:

175/12.4 SHDC Masterplans and Development Briefs Supplementary Planning Document Dec 2012

176/12 Report from Devon County Council / South Hams District Council

176/12.1 Report from Devon County Council

County Councillor Hawkins has toured the area with DCC Roads staff today. There is pressure on staff and resources due to extensive water damage to roads. Repairs are being prioritised and will be completed as soon as possible.

176/12.2 South Hams District Council

Government cuts are accruing leading to difficult decisions. SHDC is considering options for its 2013/14 budget. A proposed budget will be considered for approval on 14 February 2013.

177/12 Date of the next meeting of Dittisham Parish Council

It was agreed that the next full meeting of the Parish Council would take place on **Wednesday 6 February 2013 at 7.30 p.m** in the Village Hall.