

**DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe**

**DRAFT Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Dittisham Parish Council held using public videoconferencing on Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 7:00p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs Tucker (Chair), Anderson (Vice-Chair), Bond, Faulkner, Green, Lloyd, Neale, Nightingale, and Quinn were present, as were South Hams District Councillor McKay, Devon County Councillor Hawkins, and A Thom (Clerk). There were two members of the public.

**223/20 Apologies**

All councillors present.

**224/20 Declaration of Interests**

None declared.

**225/20 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020**

The Minutes were approved.

**226/20 COVID-19 Response**

The project to ensure that residents and visitors have access to support and information was reviewed.

Cllr Green cautioned that communications need to balance optimism with the importance of compliance with restrictions.

Cllr Lloyd has needed to develop an understanding of the intricacies of applying Tier 2 to running a business and is happy to help, and noted that Cllr McKay has also been helpful about running businesses in the parish. It was noted that a laptop has been borrowed from Blackawton PC for Cllr Tucker's use to Chair Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

**227/20 Public Issues**

None raised.

**228/20 Community Reports**

**228/20.1 South Hams District Council Councillor**

SHDC is working to sort out waste collection issues with FCC. There have been various briefings for business about the changes into Tier 2. The rules on COVID grants being made by SHDC also need to change and are expected to be ready by late this week or early next week.

**228/20.2 Devon County Council Councillor**

Cllr Hawkins reported that SHDC is paying out considerable grants. Contact SHDC / Cllr McKay who can help get funds released to those eligible. The Development Management Committee gave planning permission for the Health and Wellbeing Centre, which will cost £4.75 million. Construction starts in February / March 2021 and will finish in the winter or at latest spring of 2022. Cllr Hawkins has just been to a Dartmouth Patient Participation Group meeting. The practice will have vaccines just after Christmas, and the Trust from before Christmas. The Government has allocated DCC some money for vulnerable families to receive free school meals in Christmas half term and Easter 2021: £15 per child per week extra and £15 in Christmas week. Please share this information. Please contact Gail Mosely or Cllr Hawkins for foodbank parcels. It has been confirmed that Lower Street will be resurfaced soon. Cllr Hawkins has £701.25 of his DCC community grant still available. The balance has been used to pay for the new HGV sign at the Sportsmans Arms. The Leisure Centres are open again. Please use them, they are very COVID friendly. SHDC has a COVID compliance officer to help businesses to comply with COVID regulations and to ensure staff and customers are looked after.

Cllr Tucker clarified that as an Executive Member of SHDC, Cllr Hawkins has a broader remit than Cllr McKay.

**229/20 Communications in relation to planning/tree applications.**

**229/20.1** 3188/20/TCA T10: Cedar - Fell due to honey fungus. T15: Eucalyptus - Crown reduction by 3-4m due to signs of decay at base. T19: Weeping Willow - Repollard to original cuts due to decay within tree. T28: Maple - Fell to improve airflow and light to waste treatment plant. Dittisham Court, Dittisham, TQ6 0HS. RAISE NO OBJECTIONS

**229/20.2** 2345/20/HHO Penveron The Level Dittisham TQ6 0ES. Householder application for roof terrace decking and balustrade works. Conditional Approval.

**229/20.3** 1105/20/HHO Dartside Manor Street Dittisham TQ6 0EX. READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Householder application for construction of ancillary garden building (summerhouse) within rear curtilage. Refusal.

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**230/20 New planning/tree applications.**

230/20.1 3405/20/VAR Cobwebs Lower Street Dittisham TQ6 0HY Application for removal of condition 3 of planning consent 18/1460/99/F

Support (resolution proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Faulkner, unanimous)

230/20.2 3669/20/HHO Gurrow Point Riverside Road Dittisham TQ6 0JH. Householder application for replacement sunroom with loggia and replacement conservatory with new extension & associated landscaping.

Support (resolution proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Bond, unanimous)

230/20.3 3681/20/OPA Land East of The Cottage Capton TQ6 0JE. Outline Application with all matters reserved for erection of a single dwelling and associated works.

Refusal (resolution proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Faulkner, unanimous)

The material reasons for refusal have not changed since the refusal of an application for Outline Planning Permission 18/0291/03/O. This proposed development in the countryside would remain against current planning policy, including the approved Joint Local Plan. In addition: It is understood that there is no capacity in the Capton sewage system. The proposed residence would change the drainage of surface water and increase the risk of flooding affecting residences below it. The access to the property is unsuitable. Cllr Anderson raised his objection that there are scale issues in the application which misrepresents it. Cllr Nightingale commented that there is a need for affordable housing, not this type of property.

230/20.4 3079/20/FUL River Farm Cottage Rectory Lane Dittisham TQ6 0HE. READVERTISEMENT (revised description) Extension to existing boathouse (including extension to existing first floor studio).

Support (resolution proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Neale, eight votes in favour and one against)

**231/20 Consultations**

No comment will be made by DPC on the following consultations:

- Playing Pitch Strategy for South Hams and West Devon. Closes 11/12/20
- SHDC Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders. Closes 18/12/20

**232/20 Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities / External Forums**

**232/20.1 Maintenance Working Group**

DPC noted the installation of Ham Triangle barrier posts. Cllr Faulkner reported that 12 posts were installed very quickly. DPC has received positive feedback from residents. The expenditure, maximum £400, was approved by the Clerk and Chair in consultation with the Maintenance Working Group. The majority of posts installed at the Ham Lane edge of Ham Triangle some years ago were broken, knocked over, or had been removed, which was resulting in vehicles driving over and damaging the grassy surface. DPC used Cllr Tucker's fencing contractor who was in the Parish, creating an opportunity to reduce the total cost of the project.

The Ham noticeboard will be reinstalled next week. Cllr Faulkner has replaced areas affected by woodworm and also replaced the rotten shingles with painted corrugated aluminium. A risk assessment has been completed for the installation.

**232/20.2 Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group**

The Group's first Report was discussed. It was resolved to implement the recommendations: to map bins and to consult on possible installation of dog poo bins near the pontoon, in the Manor Street turning bay, Rectory Lane, and Higher Street turning bay, and to use SHDC dog fouling notices. Affected property owners will be contacted to see if the proposed bins are acceptable prior to a wider consultation. It was suggested DPC liaise with Blackawton Primary School regarding sign a competition. It was suggested that signs be kept to a minimum and that one at the top of Ham Lane would be useful.

**233/20 Old Chapel Burial Ground**

Cllr Bond reported that relatives of those buried in the Old Chapel Burial Ground have asked about access the Burial Ground. They were unaware that DPC is responsible for the Burial Ground and that it can be visited. Bin bags have been left blocking the right of way. The Clerk said that the title allows access on foot for a lawful purpose related to its used as a disused burial ground. The Clerk noted the OCBG surface is quite uneven with some holes and a risk assessment needs to be done. Cllrs commented on the Burial Ground's value as a habitat and that its surface is hazardous. Cllr Bond was asked to prepare a register of those relatives likely to visit, and to contact the owner regarding keeping the access route clear and to tell them about the access enquiries. The Sustainable Dittisham Habitat group and the Maintenance Working Group will together review the site and consider risk management, and report back to the January meeting of DPC.

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**234/20 Finance**

**234/20.1 External Auditor's Report**

The external auditor's report was considered. It noted an issue in that an asset purchased during the prior year was included in the 19/20 asset register, and brings to DPC's attention the level and setting of reserves.

**234/20.2 Financial report and bank reconciliation.**

It was resolved to support the Report, which showed a balance of £63,202.10 and unearmarked reserves of £13,521.28, and the bank reconciliation.

**234/20.3 Payments**

The following payments were approved:

- Car Park Supervisor, July-November payment, £400.00 resolved
- PKF Littlejohn LLP, 2019/20 External Audit standard fee, £360.00 resolved

Payments made since the last meeting were noted:

- HMRC, Second quarter VAT return, £1,622.00
- Parish Lengthsman, 10 hours, 23/5-8/10/20, £200.00
- Royal British Legion, donation in lieu of refund of car park overpayment, £20.00
- RD & HJ Rowden Ltd, Removal of Capton Bus Shelter base, £120.00

Cllr Tucker suggested that in future years a donation of £25 is made in lieu of the former payment to purchase a wreath.

**234/20.4 Draft Budget**

The draft 2021/22 budget and precept demand were considered. The final budget and precept will be agreed by the 6 January meeting. The Clerk explained that in the working version, the budget is approximately balanced prior to the allocation of new reserves. Cllrs and Working Groups were asked to consider their spending and reserve requirements for the 2021/22 year and let the Clerk know by 16 December. The Finance Working Group has recommended the budget include payment of £1,500 grant for maintenance of the grounds of St George's churchyard, a costed Ham maintenance programme, payment to the Village Hall of the requested £3,000 for four years with the provisos regarding use of funds and reporting as previously agreed by DPC, an annual allocation to a playground replacement reserve, and suggest a new playground community survey – to assess current views.

**234/20.5 Devon County Council and South Hams District Council Locality Grants**

Devon County Cllr Hawkins has £701.25 available and has said funds need to be spent by January 2021 at the latest because of the 2021 DCC Elections. Projects considered were installation of two permanent playground signs on The Ham (estimated cost £420), Ham Triangle barrier posts, and implementation of dog fouling consultation project recommendations.

**235/20 Correspondence**

- 11/11/20 Request for a memorial bench on The Ham – DPC is meeting with the requestor.
- 17/11/20 Invitation South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership Forum 9/12/20, 9:15-13:00
- 19/11/20 Census 2021 on 21 March, Census Engagement Manager for the South Ham
- 24/11/20 Chair of Staverton Parish Council, re proposed Climate Fair 18 September 2021 – Sustainable Dittisham is working with them.
- 22/11, 24/11 & 26/11/20 Use of Dittisham Recycling site and arrival of a cabin – referred to SHDC

Cllr Quinn's suggestion DPC write to thank the organisers of the excellent Village Hall Christmas tree was agreed.

Cllr Faulkner said that there had been prolonged noise from rough terrain motor bikes last Sunday. Cllr Hawkins said that this could be reported for SHDC Environmental Health to consider. A recording or a video would be helpful.

**236/20 Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Dittisham Parish Council will be held on 6 January 2021 at 7:00 pm.

**237/20 Dittisham Maintenance Contract 2021-2023**

It was resolved to close the meeting to press and members of the public to address this item because of its commercial sensitivity.

The meeting closed at 20:56