

## Dundry Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm**

*(These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting)*

**Chair:** Cllr Holger Laux

**In Attendance:** 16 parishioners (including 4 members of the Broadband Group)

Cllrs Ralph Gay, Steve McCarthy, Nancy Jennings, Simon Fiddian, Jim Scott, David Hurford

**Clerk:** Judith Hoskin

<b>APM/24/04/2017/1 - Apologies</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.1. Apologies had been received from District Councillor Nick Wilton, Councillors Amanda Scott, Maggie Keast and Thomas Armitt, PC Martin Faithful, Trevor Cook (Wight Wireless) Richard Thomas and Kevin Smith.	
<b>APM/24/04/2017/2</b> - The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.	
<b>APM/24/04/2017/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b> 3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Gay, seconded Cllr Fiddian)	
<b>APM/24/04/2017/4 - Crime Report</b> 4.1. PC Faithfull had sent his apologies and had been unable to send a crime report. However, a report was received after the meeting and can be found with these minutes on <a href="http://www.dundry.org.uk">www.dundry.org.uk</a>	
<b>APM/24/04/2017/5 - District Councillor's Report from Cllr Nick Wilton</b> 5.1. Cllr Wilton sent his apologies. He said that his time has recently been taken up with the enquiry into the Local Fire Authority.	
<b>APM/24/04/2017/6 - Chairman's Report</b> 6.1. Cllr Laux reported as follows: As in previous years, I would like to take this opportunity to report on what your Parish Council has been doing over these past 12 months. If you read our minutes, both in the parish magazine and online, you will be familiar with most of the issues, but this is a good chance to summarise recent developments. You may also have noticed that we have kept the agenda of last year's APM alive throughout our meetings as a reminder of the issues discussed and to report on progress. For instance, there has been exciting news about bringing faster broadband to Dundry and we will hear more about this project later on. Dundry successfully entered the Parish Recycling Scheme and achieved a Bronze award by raising awareness of good recycling practice, holding a successful re-use event and learning about the work of waste collection teams. For this achievement, we received a grant of £80 to be used for a good course in the community. We are now working towards the silver and gold awards in order to improve our recycling habits and win further grants. A footpath survey currently being undertaken, but more volunteers are always welcome. A Facebook page and public discussion forum on the Dundry web site have been set up and are being used by the community. All these actions are a direct result of your discussions at last year's APM.  In other problem areas, such as road safety and fly-tipping, the Parish Council does not have the direct means to affect dramatic change but continues to work closely with local authorities.  The police, although not being visibly present in the community as much they used to be - due to stretched resources - continue to make sure we stay safe, both by attending call-out incidents but also by publishing community alerts and safety advice. Dundry remains an area of low crime, at least according to official incident figures. However, we are concerned about increased and more dangerous cases of fly-tipping, which, unless it poses an imminent danger, falls under the responsibility of our local council. Although the North Somerset clear-up teams are quick to respond, we feel this is not sufficient and a more pro-active approach is needed, as also highlighted in the national news recently. According to a Freedom of Information request, only 6 offenders were actually caught and convicted in the past 2 years. This does not seem to have any impact on the frequency and severity of the incidents. We will continue to work closely with the North Somerset local area and community response officers to tackle the problem.  Another area of concern is of course traffic and speeding in the parish. Since the South Bristol Link Road was opened earlier this year, we have seen an increased flow of traffic along the A38, making it ever more dangerous to exit from Dundry Lane, Yanley Lane and Yanleigh Close. We have been	

lobbying for a speed reduction from 60 to 40 mph as this is proven to be the optimum speed to achieve the highest throughput and safety. With the development of the former Aztec Service station into 8 new properties, there will also be more need for pedestrians to cross the road. We have been told that speed limits must be set at a level that is acceptable to drivers, otherwise they will be ignored, and therefore a limit of only 50 mph is being implemented in the next couple of months.

In general terms, drastic measures in traffic management will only be taken at proven accident hotspots with fatalities. We do not believe this approach is sensible as near misses and the perception of danger should also be taken into account. This is why we have currently borrowed a vehicle activated warning sign which will be deployed in various locations of the parish to monitor speeds and gather evidence for further safety measures.

A large amount of time, effort and indeed financial resources has been taken up by recent problems in connection with the Dundry Recreation Ground. I will make a more detailed statement about the current situation later in the meeting, but we would like to assure everyone that all our efforts are aimed at managing this great asset to the maximum benefit for the community.

A small part of the Recreation Ground is taken up by the Dundry Playground that was planned and constructed by an action group of local parents with the help of various grants. At the time of its inception, it was agreed that the Parish Council will take ownership of the playground within 5 years of its completion. This time had come at the end of 2016 and we are now formally responsible for the maintenance, regular inspections and insurance of the facility. In practical terms, not much will change as we have been supporting the Playground Group for all these years and our Village Orderly Jody Fairish continues to do a great job at maintaining the play area. It is very encouraging to see that it is used regularly and seems to be popular both with parents and children.

Over the past year, Dundry Parish Council was invited to discuss and to comment on 20 local planning applications, which we did, taking both planning regulations and local circumstances into account so that NS planning officers could make informed decisions. We also contributed to several major consultations, one of which was the Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England which looks at meeting housing demand up to 2036. Although there was a renewed suggestion that the Green Belt land at Ashton Vale could be used for the development of 4500 homes, we are pleased to note that NSC assured us the projected number of homes within the district can be provided without touching any Green Belt land, thus keeping its important function intact.

Dundry Parish Council is a member of and contributes to various local organisations, such as the Parish Councils Airport Association, the Avon Local Councils Association, the Chew Practice Practice Patient Reference Group, the Chew Valley Forum and indeed the management committee for this village hall. Councillors represent Dundry on each of these bodies and make sure our voice is heard.

Following this report, Judith will give you a more detailed insight into the Parish Council's finances, but I would just like to mention that despite increased expenses in connection with the playground and the playing field, we managed to keep our precept at the same level for the fifth year running and we hope you find our work good value for your money.

Over the past few months, we had sad news that two former members of this council have passed away. Peter Mitchell and John Rilett have done a lot of good for this community and we are sure they will be well-remembered.

Our current team of councillors brings a variety of experience and expertise to this task. I would like to thank each of them for their valued contributions and especially express our appreciation to our parish clerk Judith Hoskin for keeping accurate records, researching historical details, conducting often difficult correspondence and generally giving us good advice. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the many volunteers who contribute to community life in the parish in various and sometimes unexpected ways. It is this spirit that makes Dundry such an enjoyable place to live in.

#### **Q & A/Comments**

- A resident living near the Carpenters Tavern commented that traffic travelling on Wells Road seemed to have increased since the opening of the South Bristol Link. The Clerk said that the Vehicle Activated Sign temporarily installed at the top of Broadoak Hill had logged about 200 vehicles per day travelling above the speed limit.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comment was made that the phasing of traffic lights on the A38 made it very difficult to exit from Dundry Lane</li> <li>• Cllr Laux said that North Somerset Council were reluctant to lower speed limits below a level that motorists would accept.</li> <li>• A parishioner thanked Cllr Laux and other councillors for their hard work and enthusiasm over the last year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>APM/24/04/2017/7 - Financial Report and precept requirements.</b></p> <p><b>7.1.</b> The Clerk circulated a summary of income and expenditure for 2016 – 2017 together with a projected income and budget comparison for 2016 -17 with 2017 – 18 and a document outlining the amount of local council (i.e. parish) council tax payable by Dundry residents for different property bands.</p> <p><b>7.2.</b> She said that the carry forward had been £8376.61 This had enabled councillors not to raise the Precept which would remain at £9,000 (including council tax support grant). The local council element of the council tax for a Band D property would be £23.03, and for a Band H property would be £46.06.</p>	
<p><b>APM/24/04/2017/8 - Report on Playing Field</b></p> <p><b>8.1.</b> Cllr Laux reported on the current situation with the playing field. He started by saying that there was absolutely no truth in the rumour that the Parish Council wishes to build houses on the playing field.</p> <p>Cllr Laux explained that the land which is now the playing field was bought by the Parish Council in the 1970s for the benefit of the parish, including the football club. The village hall was built later. A management committee, which included representatives of various organisations and the Parish Council, was set up. This committee worked to turn an agricultural field into a playing field with clubhouse. Over the years the situation changed and other football clubs as well as Dundry AFC started playing on the pitches. A Sports and Social Club was formed which included these teams. The management committee, while apparently not being formally wound up, more or less ceased to exist.</p> <p>In 2008, in order to regularise the new situation, formal agreements were signed with Dundry Sports and Social Club (a lease for the clubhouse and a licence to use the playing field).</p> <p>More recently the Parish Council became concerned that not all terms of the agreements were being followed by Dundry S &amp; SC. They were particularly concerned that new teams were being introduced without permission. They were also concerned at statements from Dundry AFC that they had been given the field by its previous owner.</p> <p>Over the course of about a year the Parish Council attempted, without success, to resolve these issues with Dundry Sports and Social Club.</p> <p>In 2016 Dundry AFC withdrew from the Somerset County Football league, apparently because they could not find enough players. There also appeared to be a disagreement between members of the Sports and Social Club resulting in all the other teams leaving the playing field because they could not use the maintenance equipment (which had been locked away) or play on the near pitch (because it had been left with dangerous metal posts and no top rail). It appeared that Dundry Sports and Social Club no longer existed. The Parish Council therefore gave notice on the lease and licence. Unfortunately, the secretary/treasurer of Dundry S &amp; SC (an individual connected with one of the other teams), transferred responsibility for the clubhouse bills to the Parish Council but gave the keys to the building to a member of Dundry AFC.</p> <p>On being asked for the key to the clubhouse the few remaining members of Dundry AFC said they were now Dundry Sports and Social Club but could provide no documentation to support this claim.</p> <p>Legal advice has recently been taken and the Parish Council is in the process of reclaiming the facilities for the community. Once this has been done the intention is to consult on the future use of the playing fields. Meanwhile the posts round the near pitch have been taken down at the expense of the Parish Council.</p>	
<p><b>APM/24/04/2017/9 - Superfast Broadband in Dundry – update from Wight Wireless</b></p> <p><b>9.1.</b> The marketing director of Wight Wireless had sent his apologies. However, several members of the Broadband Working Group (BWG) were present.</p> <p>BWG explained that they had been working in the background researching options for bringing faster broadband to Dundry. Dundry was technically in the ‘commercial’ rollout area but it had become apparent that BT would not upgrade their cabinet on Broadoak Hill without substantial</p>	

<p>financial contribution (£30 – £40,000) from the parish. Even if this cabinet were upgraded it would not bring significant improvements to many of the properties further away from it. It had been hoped that Truespeed would roll out their service to Dundry, but this now seemed unlikely in the near future.</p> <p>In November 2016, despite Dundry supposedly not being covered by their funding, Connecting Devon and Somerset had suddenly started offering vouchers towards connecting to fast broadband. A concerted effort by BWG had meant that many people in the parish had successfully applied for the vouchers, but since the window of opportunity was very short not everyone would have heard about them.</p> <p>After some further unsuccessful discussions with Truespeed the group had been introduced to Wight Wireless who had successfully set up wireless broadband on the Isle of Wight. The group were impressed by WW's technical offering and enthusiasm for making the project work in Dundry.</p> <p>So far 120 people had expressed an interest in WW's service and they had a site agreed for a temporary mast in Dundry and an aerial site in East Dundry. Although details were not finalised it was thought that the initial offering would be 30 Mbps for about £30 per month. WW understood that this was the minimum service which would qualify for the vouchers. For non-voucher holders the set-up would be about £150.</p> <p>Although WW do offer 10 Mbps on the IoW they were not planning to do so in Dundry. Several of those present thought that this would lose them some customers.</p> <p>BWG explained the next steps for registering an interest and promised to talk to WW with feedback from those present.</p>	
<p><b>APM/24/04/2017/10 - North Somerset Council Parish recycling scheme</b>  <b>10.1.</b> In the absence of Cllr Armitt there was no report on the Parish Recycling Scheme.</p>	
<p><b>APM/24/04/2017/11 - Any other issues</b>  <b>11.1.</b> No other issues were raised</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Copies of the minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 can be found on the parish website ([www.dundry.org.uk](http://www.dundry.org.uk)) or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs Judith Hoskin – Tel: 0117 9642804, email: [parishclerk@dundry.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dundry.org.uk)