

## Dundry Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm**

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

**Chair:** Cllr Holger Laux

**In Attendance:** 12 parishioners and 3 representatives of Chew Valley Football Club

2 representatives from Bristol Airport to give a presentation on airport expansion.

Cllrs Steve McCarthy, Nancy Jennings, Jim Scott, David Hurford, Amanda Scott, Tim Balli

**Clerk:** Judith Hoskin

| <b>APM/16/04/2018/1 - Apologies</b>  | <b>Actions</b> |
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| 1.1. Apologies had been received from Councillors Maggie Keast and Simon Fiddian, and PC Martin Faithful.  |                |
| <b>APM/16/04/2018/2</b> - The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.  |                |
| <b>APM/16/04/2018/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b><br>3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Hurford, seconded Cllr Jim Scott)  |                |
| <p><b>APM/16/04/2018/4 - Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>4.1. Cllr Laux reported as follows:<br/>                     'This past year has been a rather busy one for Dundry Parish Council - as you will have seen from our published minutes and agendas - and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the major issues we have been dealing with on your behalf.</p> <p>Before doing so, I think some explanation is necessary with regards to your recent council tax bill: Some residents have contacted us with concerns that it stated the parish council part of their tax, called the Precept, has increased by 28%. It is rather unfortunate that the increase has been presented in this way, because in real terms it only means an additional £6.50 for an average household, from £23.00 to £29.50 over the whole year – and this only after the Parish Council has tried to avoid any increase through the past 6 years of austerity. Out of 39 parishes, we still have the 8th lowest precept per household in the district. But in order to be prudent, we have to expect and need to cover higher expenses, mainly to do with legal costs, maintenance of our assets and with the employment of a new clerk. Following this report, we will have a look at our finance spreadsheets in more detail to see where your money is being spent.</p> <p>However, not everything we do has financial implications on our budget. In many ways, a Parish Council has an advisory role. We use our local knowledge to push for the best outcomes for Dundry at higher decision levels.</p> <p>A lot of this work has to do with our streets and open spaces. In our ongoing communications with North Somerset Council, we keep discussing: the prevention of traffic accidents, the treatment of potholes and visibility areas, the maintenance of road markings and signage, the clearing of drains and re-filling of grit bins, the management of our footpaths, regular bin collections, the prevention of fly-tipping and the operation of the 672 bus route. We do not always achieve our desired outcome, especially since NSC itself is under pressure to find ever more savings and simply does not have the money it needs to spend. This can sometimes be frustrating, but I can assure you that we are doing our best to get Dundry its fair share and we will keep doing so. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please keep reporting any issues to us or directly to NSC. We need our voices to be heard.</p> <p>One area that concerns us all is road safety. We have several hotspots in Dundry with accidents waiting to happen or indeed happening on a regular basis. This is why we have set up a working group with a number of councillors and local residents which aims to collect more comprehensive data than is currently available, to find workable solutions and to lobby for them to be implemented. Please support us by reporting issues, near misses and accidents by coming to our advertised meetings or joining discussions on Facebook and the Dundry Online Forum. Latest information can also always be found on the council-run Web site <a href="http://www.dundry.org.uk">www.dundry.org.uk</a></p> <p>Dundry Parish Council liaises with a number of outside bodies, such as the Police, the Parish Councils Airport Association, the Avon Local Councils Association, the Campaign to Protect Rural</p> |                |

England, the North Somerset Footpath Forum and Bristol Water plc. We are often invited to take part in consultations concerning long-term housing development and traffic management and we make sure to respond in the best interest of our community. Unfortunately, we have not been able to build a close working relationship with our local district councillor and hope for improvement in the future.

Locally, we work with the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council, the W.I., Dundry Primary School and local businesses (of which I would particularly like to mention the Dundry Inn whose manager has shown great initiative in taking on and preserving the disused phone box and in helping to clear up rubbish in the village). We supported the installation of fast broadband technology which is now covering large parts of the parish and we would like to thank Wight Wireless for their efforts in resolving the various technical issues and for their good customer service. We took part in the recycling award scheme and achieved a bronze award. Unfortunately, this scheme does not seem to progress at the moment, which is a shame given the environmental concerns about plastic pollution as highlighted in the news recently. And we discussed and commented on 21 planning applications over the past year.

A lot of our time and expense has been taken up by having to deal with the situation around the recreation ground over this past year. Unfortunately, existing legal agreements have not been adhered to and despite our continued efforts it has been impossible to get them back on track. We have therefore decided to give notice to terminate these past agreements and to make a fresh start. I am sure we will have a lively discussion later on about what this new start is going to look like. Once the Parish Council has your mandate, it will act accordingly.

Dundry remains an area of low crime. Out of 1339 incidents in the Avon and Somerset Force area, only 60 (4%) were recorded for Dundry, with theft (24), criminal damage (10) and non-dwelling burglaries (5) taking up the majority. The police are aware that fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour (both not recorded as criminal offences unless attended by the police) remain a problem in Dundry. (The full police report can be seen on the village website at [http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish\\_council\\_documents.php](http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish_council_documents.php))

We are also a member of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme but will soon need a new co-ordinator to take on and advance this role.

This becomes necessary because our Council Clerk Judith Hoskin (who is currently also the NHW co-ordinator) has decided to step down after 9 years of tireless work in her role. Her rational and well-informed advice, her quiet and efficient way of running the council administration and her great liaison skills will be missed, but we do understand that change is inevitable and would like to thank her for all that she has done for this community. We are currently advertising the post and hope to hold job interviews in May or June.

We also received the resignation of Cllr. Thomas Armit and would like to thank him for his work. In his place, we welcomed Tim Balli on the council last week and are looking forward to his fresh input.

Personally, I would like to say that I could not be chairman without the support of a great team of councillors, each bringing their own expertise and views into our often lively discussions and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them. This also applies to the wider community: Please remember that we are all just volunteers coming from your midst and we are trying to do the best we can.

I hope today's meeting will lead to some productive outcomes am looking forward to implementing them in the forthcoming year.'

6.2 – A parishioner asked why the Parish Council appeared to be promoting Wight Wireless when BT Openreach had upgraded their cabinet on Broadoak Hill and had been providing superfast broadband to the village for the past six months. The chair said that it was for Openreach to advertise this fact.

A member of the Dundry Broadband Group who was present pointed out that upgrading the cabinet on Broadoak Hill would only benefit East Dundry and properties in the village within a certain distance of the cabinet. Wight Wireless had been the only solution suitable for the whole parish.

**APM/16/04/2018/5 - Financial Report and precept requirements.**

The Clerk circulated a summary of income and expenditure for 2017 – 2018 together with a projected income and budget comparison for 2017 -18 with 2018 – 19 and a document outlining the

amount of local council (i.e. parish) council tax payable by Dundry residents for different property bands. (to see these documents, go to [http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish\\_council\\_documents.php](http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish_council_documents.php))

5.1. She said that the carry forward into 2018 – 2019 had been £3370.34. This was considerably lower than the previous year because of expenses relating to the playing field. Unfortunately, because of this, and anticipated additional expenses, it had been decided to raise the precept from £9,000 to £11,500 (including council tax support grant) after 6 years where it had remained the same. The local council element of the council tax for a Band D property would be £29.55, and for a Band H property would be £59.10. She reiterated the Chairman’s statement that Dundry still had one of the lowest precepts in North Somerset.

**APM/16/04/2018/6 - Presentation on airport expansion by representatives of Bristol**

**Airport.**

Simon Earles (Bristol Airport Planning & Sustainability Director) (SE) and Jacqui Mills (Public and Community Relations Manager) (JM) introduced themselves and gave a summary of the results of the first stage consultation on airport expansion and discussed other matters relating to the airport.

**Airport Expansion**

SE explained that the airport expected to reach 8.7 million passengers per annum in 2018. The existing planning application capped numbers at 10 mppa which was forecast to be reached by 2021. The airport’s proposal was to expand to 20 mppa by 2040.

There had been 1750 responses to the consultation - mainly from the South West but also further afield. Some people wanted more destinations and better facilities, but many were concerned about the environment, noise, climate change, pollution and 26 percent wanted improvements to surface access before any expansion. Responses from BS41 were particularly concerned with increased traffic on the A38 and problems of noise and light pollution.

A consultation on the feedback would commence in May for 8 weeks – the Draft Masterplan would be published at the end of 2018.

In parallel with work on the Master Plan would be potential phased planning applications (initially to expand to 12 mppa) and a Noise Action Plan. In order to improve communication 30 thousand households would receive letters from the airport.

**Local Community Fund**

SE confirmed that the Local Community Fund would continue. However, since this is mainly intended to benefit 6 parishes most affected by the airport (of which Dundry is not considered to be one) they would soon be launching a ‘Diamond Fund’ of £60,000 in celebration of the airport’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This fund would not be restricted geographically and was at present intended to last until the end of 2018 although it might be extended.

**Bristol Flyer**

SE said that there were new buses on the Bristol Flyer route. Parishioners asked why the Flyer was apparently not using the South Bristol Link and why tickets were so expensive. SE said that the route was partly determined by the requirements of people working at the airport. Cllr McCarthy asked about distribution by area of the homes of on-site employees. JM would send figures.

**Traffic and Parking**

A parishioner commented that, while local residents understood that the airport was a source of local employment, there was too much traffic going there and no incentive for the airport to reduce this because much of their income derived from car parking. There were also comments about illegal parking sites and mini cabs parking in unsuitable locations while waiting for fares.

SE said that BA was in the process of setting up a parking ‘summit’ to see what can be done about problem parking.

**Access to the airport**

SE agreed that there had not been enough investment in access to the airport. At present there were two studies taking place into the A38 corridor. The first was led by NSC and BA had contributed £1/2m towards it. There would be a consultation on this study later in the year. The second is a West of England and Bristol City Council study into public transport. BA is not involved in this second study.

SE said that BA had contributed £4M towards the metro bus and he agreed that there was a need for a mass transit solution. However, they would not by themselves be able to pay for improvements in access and this would have to come from public money. The point was made again that BA had no incentive to contribute towards public transport.

**Noise**

A parishioner commented that Dundry suffered from noise issues from aeroplanes over the village. He felt that BA noise monitors were not helpful as they reported an average rather than a maximum reading. He would certainly be against more night flights.

SE said that the short-haul airlines were not keen to operate overnight. However, the situation might change if long-haul flights were to be introduced and he could not guarantee that there would not be more night flights in future.

JM

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| <p><b>General</b><br/>A parishioner asked how 20mppa compared with other airports. SE said that Gatwick had 40mppa, Heathrow 75mppa, Luton 40mppa and Stanstead 20mppa.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b><br/>The chairman thanked Mr Earles and Ms Mills for coming to the meeting.</p>   |                   |
| <p><b>APM/16/04/2018/7 - Options for the playing field</b></p> <p><b>7.1. Background</b><br/>Cllr Laux said that in the last couple of years it had become apparent that some misconceptions had arisen about ownership of the playing field. He explained that the land was bought for the community in 1977 by the Parish Council. A management committee of parishioners, sports club members and parish councillors was set up to convert the agricultural field into a playing field. Later on the Dundry Sports and Social Club had been set up and the management committee had taken a secondary role.</p> <p>In 2008, in order to regularise the new situation, legal agreements had been signed – a lease for the clubhouse and a licence to use the playing field. This arrangement worked for a while but in 2016 Dundry AFC had folded and fallen out with the other members of the Sports and Social Club. The field was left empty, with metal posts but no top rail round the near pitch. The utility bills were passed on to the Parish Council but DAFC retained the key to the clubhouse.</p> <p>Efforts were made to sort out the situation with the remaining members of Dundry AFC but, in May 2017, without notice, or permission being sought or granted, Chew Valley Football Club (a youth football club) started using the field. This club had been asked for evidence that they and the representatives of Dundry AFC were legally the new trustees of Dundry Sports and Social Club but, after months of failed discussions, the Parish Council had concluded that it was not possible to continue with agreements with the Sports and Social Club and had given notice on the licence for the pitches.</p> <p><b>7.2. Next Steps</b><br/>Cllr Laux made it clear that giving notice to Dundry Sports and Social Club did not necessarily mean ‘throwing the kids out’. Councillors were keen to know what parishioners wanted to do and were aware that CVFC was popular with many residents and had formed a good relationship with the village hall committee. One possibility would be to make a fresh agreement just with CVFC. The representatives of CVFC who were present said that they had not been aware of all the background until recently. They would like to have their own agreement.</p> <p>There followed a general discussion. Parishioners present were in favour of keeping CVFC if an agreement could be made. The consensus was that the agreement should be clear that the facilities belong to the parish and not be for as long a period as the present lease and licence. The Parish Council would try to sound out the wider community to ensure that this course of action would be generally acceptable.</p> | <p><b>DPC</b></p> |
| <p><b>APM/16/04/2018/8 - Hill Road turning circle, anti-social behaviour and litter</b></p> <p><b>8.1. Hill Road Turning circle</b><br/>Cllr McCarthy had prepared a briefing note on the Hill Road Turning circle outlining the reasons it was there, options that had been tried to prevent anti-social behaviour, litter and fly-tipping and reasons why other suggested solutions were not feasible.<br/>(See <a href="http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish_council_documents.php">http://www.dundry.org.uk/parish_council_documents.php</a>)</p> <p>The purpose of the turning circle is to make it possible to access properties in The Steps without negotiating a very tight hairpin bend. Hill Road is a public highway with a restricted byway running along it. This makes putting a gate across it illegal. The road belongs to North Somerset Council but the semi-circular areas either side are on private land.</p> <p>In the past there had been regular police patrols along Hill Road but funding cuts had made these less frequent.</p> <p>The most recent suggestion was to clear the turning circle to make it look tidier and more cared for.</p> <p><b>Litter Generally</b><br/><b>8.2.</b> There was a general discussion of the problem of litter in the parish particularly on roads into the village which were difficult to litter pick because of traffic. It was agreed to form a working party to try to find solutions.</p>   | <p><b>DPC</b></p> |
| <p><b>APM/16/04/2018/9 - Any other issues</b></p> <p><b>9.1.</b> A parishioner asked about some building work going on at Downs Farm. The Clerk said she understood that it was a silage clamp.</p>   |                   |

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.12 pm.

Copies of the minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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)