Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th March 2015 at 7.30 pm

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

Chair: Cllr Holger Laux
In Attendance: Councillors David Hurford, Richard Thomas, Steve McCarthy, Ralph Gay, Maggie Keast and Simon Fiddian
Also in attendance: District Councillor Hugh Gregor, 3 parishioners
Clerk: Judith Hoskin

09/03/2015 - 1788 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jane Pellowe, Gordon Murphy and Nancy Jennings, PC Martin Faithfull and PCSO Ellie Hicks

09/03/2015 - 1789 Cllr Laux welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/03/2015 - 1790 Declarations of Interest by Councillors in items on the Agenda
1790.1. There were no declarations of interest

09/03/2015 - 1791 Minutes of Previous Meeting
1791.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2015 were agreed as a true record (proposed Cllr Fiddian, seconded Cllr Gay)

09/03/2015 - 1792 Crime Report and Neighbourhood Watch
1792.1. P.C Martin Faithfull had sent the following report on crime figures for the previous month:

- Dwelling Burglary – 0
- Non dwelling burglary – 0
- Criminal damage - 0
- Assault - 2
- Drive Off – 0
- Vehicle Interference - 1

He also reported that there have been a number of incidents of poaching occurring within the surrounding area of late whereby wild deer and rabbits are being targeted mainly in the early hours of the morning. Police ask residents to remain vigilant and if any suspicious activity is witnessed please report it via the 101 Non-emergency or 999 if the activity is ongoing and of a criminal nature

Members of the public can also visit www.police.uk if they wish to review any crime figures for a certain postcode or area. This site is also helpful for crime prevention advice and local issues. Members of the public are welcome to come along and get their bikes marked. Further information can be found at www.bikeregister.com & www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Complaints had been received about the amount of heavy lorries travelling through the village. The Clerk had told P.C. Faithfull that many of these were accessing Downs Farm and, more recently, the site of the new reservoir. However, the Parish Council would welcome support in diverting heavy good vehicles that were using the village as a short cut.

The Clerk was asked to find out when the operating licences for lorries based at Downs Farm were due to be renewed.

1792.2. The Clerk said she had nothing to report about Neighbourhood Watch

09/03/2015 - 1793 Public Forum
1793.1. A parishioner had attended to complain that following a request from the Parish Council North Somerset Council had that day cleared Newdown Lane, East Dundry to a width where it would be easily accessible to scramble bikes. Councillors and the Clerk said that perhaps the complaint should be addressed to NSC as DPC had merely asked for the footpath to be made accessible and the problem of scramble bikes had been raised with the officer. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Rights of Way officer again and suggest that a proper barrier should be erected.

1793.2. A parishioner asked what the latest situation was with the high fence on the corner of Winford lane and Castle Farm Lane. Councillors said that NSC had asked for a planning application for this fence. If no application was made they would then consider taking further enforcement action. Councillors assured the parishioner that they were pushing NSC to take proper enforcement action at Downs Farm. Cllr Gregor said that he would try to arrange a
meeting with the NSC enforcement team and the NSC Chief Officer, Mike Jackson, to discuss this.

1793.3. Cllr Gay said that he had been asked when there would be another ‘Heartstart’ session as promised. The Clerk would contact the Heartstart team.

1793.4. Cllr Fiddian said that he had been asked what the current situation was with Broadoak Hill. The Clerk said that she had been sent a copy of a reply to a parishioner which implied that for various reasons repairs might now not take place until ‘after the Autumn’. It was agreed that this was not acceptable particularly since the traffic lights regularly failed causing a serious hazard to traffic. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Nigel Ashton, the Leader of North Somerset Council, copied to Dr Liam Fox M.P. If a satisfactory response was not received it might be necessary to take the matter to the Ombudsman.

09/03/2015 - 1794 Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor

1794.1. Cllr Gregor reported that on February 17th he had attended a meeting of the full North Somerset Council. At this meeting it had been reported that the council had achieved a balanced budget and did not intend to increase council tax. £4m of savings had still to be identified over the next three years but this would be more achievable now that local authorities were to be allowed to keep more of the revenue from business rates.

09/03/2015 - 1795 Finance

1795.1. The Financial Report was approved (proposed Cllr Fiddian, seconded Cllr Gay)

1795.2. The Chair signed the Clerk’s time sheet

1795.3. Payment of the following Cheques was approved:

- 100557 J Hoskin January salary 375.00 General Clerk's salary
- 100558 NSC Playground inspection 14.40 General Fixed bills & subs

09/03/2015 - 1796 Meetings attended

1796.1. Meeting about South Bristol Link, 23rd February – The Clerk had attended this meeting with representatives of Alun Griffiths (the main contractor for the South Bristol Link) and councillors from Long Ashton and Barrow Gurney. Work should start in earnest by the end of March and the official completion date is 15th October 2016 although Griffiths hope to finish sooner.

Work will proceed on all stretches at once and the hope is to keep two way traffic flowing at all times at junctions. There will be a main site office on the Cater Road trading estate, another one on the A370 and smaller ones in between. There will be a project website maintained and updated by a full-time Communications Officer and an 0845 number to ring in case of problems. Temporary traffic lights will be operated at the junctions with Queens Road and Highridge Road. These will be inspected every four hours.

1796.2. Chew Medical Practice Patient Reference Group – 23rd February – Cllr Laux had previously circulated notes of this meeting. He outlined the main points as follows:

- Information about recent changes in the GP team
- Patient surveys are no longer required by NHS – instead patients are asked whether they would recommend the practice to friends and family.
- There was a report on a list of complaints and responses to them
- Text message appointment reminders working well
- Online Access is now available to basic patient records about medication, allergies, immunisation etc.
- Now possible to make appointments 6 weeks in advance. An automated 24hrs telephone booking system is to be introduced
- Unless a patient formally opts in writing not to have their medication dispensed by Chew Medical Practice they must remain as dispensing patients and can choose every time they need a prescription whether it comes from them or the new pharmacy in Chew Magna.

1796.3. Village Hall Committee 26th February – Cllr Laux reported on points of interest to Parish Council:

- He had passed on advice from the Avon Fire Authority about the dangers of ‘Chinese Lanterns’
- There had been some discussion about redesigning the miscellaneous signage presently fixed to the fingerposts. Cllr Laux would contact NSC to check on legality of fixing these signs to the finger posts.
- The village hall committee had discussed the possibility of providing Wi-Fi in the hall. Cllr Laux asked them to hold off making a decision until a solution had been found for the whole village.
1796.4. Meeting with NSC Community Response Officer to discuss Hill Road turning circle – 24th February - Cllrs Laux and McCarthy and the Clerk had met two representatives of NSC and the owner of the adjacent land to discuss possible solutions for the problem of litter and anti-social behaviour at the Hill Road turning circle. The meeting had come to the conclusion that there was no possibility at present of closing off the turning circle and the road could not be closed off completely at any time because of its status as a Public Right of Way (Restricted Byway). Following further discussion after the meeting it was instead proposed (provided all residents were in agreement) to close the gate near the entrance to Hill Road at night without locking it. NSC would provide some reflective material to highlight the fact that the gate was shut. Since the meeting a Community Payback Team had been to clear the litter. The street light has not been operational for some time. Councillors agreed to wait for the results of the experiment with the gate before deciding on action to repair the light or remove it. The Clerk was asked to write to the head of the Community Liaison Team to thank them for the quick response.

1796.5. NSC Parish Forum 3rd March – Cllr Laux had attended this meeting organised by NSC. He noted the following:

- The North Somerset Partnership “Bringing together representatives from public, private, voluntary and community organisations. The North Somerset Partnership has developed a Sustainable Community Strategy with the aim to build a brighter future for North Somerset, making it a great place to live and work.”
- There had been a presentation by David Turner about the West of England Local Enterprise partnership – an organisation of major businesses and our four local authorities (South Glos, Bristol, BANES and NS) with the aim of promoting growth and attracting business to the area. There are, however, no immediate plans to form a unitary authority. Cllr Gregor added that this working together was helpful in securing grants from central government.
- Cllr Laux learned from this presentation that it was proposed to concentrate broadband provision initially on establishing a fast link between Weston super Mare and Bristol. Within two years this should branch out to local communities but some might still miss out.
- The Community Right to Bid was explained – this is a mechanism whereby local residents and parish councils can register an interest in buildings or local businesses thought to be assets to the community – for example pubs or a village shop and halt re-development for six months while the community decides whether it wishes to take over these assets. (There was some discussion of the telephone box outside the Dundry Inn at this point. The Clerk was asked to find information in the files on a proposal to adopt this some years ago)
- There had been a presentation on the budget in line with the information given in Cllr Gregor’s report in item 1794. It was planned to spend £50m on road maintenance but £35m of this was to catch up with the backlog.

09/03/2015 - 1797 High Speed Broadband – update on survey – (brought forward from agenda item 11.0)

Cllr Laux outlined the actions that had been taken to produce a broadband survey and advertise it. The survey would remain online at least until the end of March and can be found on the parish website (www.dundry.org.uk) So far 51 responses had been received with a total of more than 500 internet connected devices reported. About half the respondents worked from home and were reliant on internet connectivity. About half were supportive of a community solution and some were prepared to offer extra financial help. Lee Hiscox was very active behind the scenes looking at possible technical solutions. It was proposed to update parishioners and discuss options at the Annual Parish Meeting.

09/03/2015 - 1798 Streets and Open Spaces

Clerk

1798.1. Request for additional litter bins – suggestions for locations – Cllrs Murphy and Laux suggested fixing the new litter bins to the fingerposts at each end of Crabtree Lane when they had been refurbished. This would mean that they should be reasonably safe from vehicles and conveniently on the route of the Hill Top Walk. Some parishioners had expressed reservations but Councillors thought this was a sensible solution. The Clerk was asked to contact NSC.

1798.2. Public footpaths. (For Newdown Lane East Dundry see item 1793.1 above). The NSC Rights of Way officer had told the Clerk that the definitive routes of footpaths were shown on the interactive map to be found on the NSC website. From this councillors had concluded that no major changes to footpaths over the Downs had occurred recently.

1798.3. Vehicle Activated signs – the Clerk said that the vehicle activated sign was to be moved from Wells Road to Dundry Lane later in the week.
1798.4. Triangle at the end of Dundry Lane – NSC had confirmed that the triangle of land at the end of Dundry Lane definitely belonged to them. They were reluctant to allow DPC to dig up the shrubs and brambles and sow grass seed in case at some time maintenance of this area should revert to them. Because the land was raised up from general ground level a different type of mower would be required. They would also require a services report to check what lay beneath the ground before any digging took place. Councillors agreed that in this case it would be preferable to leave this area as it is but monitor the amount of maintenance it was receiving from NSC.

1798.5. Invitation to take part in a ‘Spring Clean-up’ – 21st March – a letter had been received about a national ‘Community Clear Up’ day to be held on Saturday 21st March. Councillors thought that it was too short notice to organise a village clean up event but it was agreed to advertise the day on the website together with the locations of the litter pickers and high vis waistcoats.

09/03/2015 - 1799 Brief Reports and updates
1799.1. There were no brief reports and updates.

09/03/2015 - 1800 Elections
1800.1. Parish Council Elections would be held on the same day as the General Election – 7th May. The Clerk had sent Councillors information about filling in nomination papers and would print this out for councillors who wished her to. Otherwise it was the responsibility of councillors to complete their nomination papers and ensure that they were delivered by hand to Weston-super-Mare between 25th March and 9th April. It was agreed to put information about the elections in the Parish News, on the noticeboards and on the website so that parishioners knew that they could stand for election if they wished and telling them where to find information.

Cllr Fiddian left the meeting at this point

09/03/2015 - 1801 Annual Parish Meeting –
1801.1. The date of the APM had been fixed as Monday 27th April. It was agreed that the main topic should be progress on the Broadband initiative. The Clerk would put an item in the Parish news, inviting parishioners to attend and to suggest topics for discussion.

09/03/2015 - 1802 Planning
1802.1. Applications Received – none (noted)
1802.2. Applications Approved by NSC – (noted)
14/P/2649/F Land off Broadoak Hill, Dundry, BS41 8ND - Siting of two camping pods for walkers and tourists, hard cored parking/turning area for cars and toilet/shower unit with bio disc drainage
15/P/0191/F Spring Barns, Spring Lane, Dundry, BS41 8NT Change of use from agricultural outbuilding to residential to provide a gym and bedroom attached to annexed accommodation

1802.3. Applications Refused by NSC – none (noted)
1802.4. Planning appeal – (noted)
APP/D0121 Agricultural Building adjacent to The Lodge, Oxleaze Lane, Dundry, BS41 8JZ /W/ Prior approval MBA) application for the change of use only from an agricultural building and land to a single dwelling within use class C3 with operational development to be subsequently determined under an MBb) application

1802.5. – Other Planning Matters
1802.5.1. Councillors agreed the wording of a letter about planning enforcement at Downs Farm
1802.5.2. Cllr Gregor said that he had attended a meeting between NSC and developers. There was to be a new approach to managing applications which would involve:
• Working in partnership with applicants to simplify the development process
• Having a ‘can do’ approach to simplify bureaucracy
• Robust management told to reduce delay
Cllr Thomas said that there was a danger with this approach of ‘rubber stamping’ developments without adequate safeguards and that there needed to be a balanced approach.
09/03/2015 - 1803 Clerk’s Reports
1803.1. The Clerk’s Report and Streets and Open Spaces Report for the previous month had been circulated before the meeting and were noted.

09/03/2015 - 1804 Correspondence
NSC Sites and policies plan consultation - noted
NSC Transport Statement and Transport Assessment SPD – Consultation - noted
Parishioner Complaint about noise from Downs Farm – It was thought that this had been from a stone crusher which had been hired in temporarily. Cllr Laux to respond.

1804.1. Correspondence list -. Councillors had no further comments on the list of correspondence.

09/03/2015 - 1805 Items to be noted for discussion at next meeting
1805.1. No items were noted for discussion at next meeting

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.00 pm.
Copies of the full minutes of the meeting of Dundry Parish Council held on Monday 9th March can be found on the village notice boards, on the parish website (www.dundry.org.uk) or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs Judith Hoskin – Tel: 0117 9642804, email: parishclerk@dundry.org.uk
Abridged versions are available in the Parish News and in the Chew Valley Gazette.

The next meeting of Dundry Parish Council will be held on Monday 13th April

If parishioners would like something to be included on the agenda please notify a councillor or the Clerk by Monday 6th April. You can also raise matters in the Public Forum but, depending on what they are, full discussion may have to be left to the following meeting.