

Dundry Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 7.30pm

Chair: Cllr Kevin Smith

In Attendance: Cllrs Richard Thomas, Steve McCarthy, Maggie Keast, David Hurford, Nancy Jennings, Holger Laux

District Councillor Hugh Gregor, WPC Jackie McDonald, PCSO Michele Barrett,

Clerk: Judith Hoskin

3 Parishioners were present..

APM/22/04/2010/1 - Apologies

1.1. Apologies had been received from Cllr Bee Peters and the Sports and Social Club

APM/22/04/2010/2 - Introductions

2.1. Cllr Smith welcomed the parishioners and others present. He introduced Councillors Steve McCarthy and Nancy Jennings who had joined the council since the last APM and the Clerk who was also new since then.

APM/22/04/2010/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2009

3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting had been signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th May 2009

APM/22/04/2010/4 - Crime Report

4.1. WPC McDonald reported that this had again been a good year in policing terms with 60 crimes being reported. This was broken down as:

8 Thefts	7 Dwelling burglaries
5 Non dwelling burglaries	3 Possession of cannabis
2 Vehicle interference	8 Bilkings
9 Theft from motor vehicles	7 Damage
7 Theft of Motor vehicles	4 Assaults.

In total 16 individuals had been prosecuted for offences and there are cases still ongoing.

WPC McDonald said that the low crime level was exceeding pleasing and she thanked all who had made this possible. Simple measures to protect homes, other property and vehicles do work and advice can always be gained via the Crime Reduction Department. NHW is a valuable and vital asset in any community and she thanked all who had been involved in that.

4.2. WPC McDonald said that this would be her last Annual Meeting as she would be retiring from the Police at the end of this year. She had completed 30 years of service and the last 7 as a beat manager were up there as some of the best of her career. It was hoped that PC Jock Cameron would be taking over from her and she was confident that he would be helped and supported as she had been. She hoped to work with PC Cameron over the next few months to make the handover as easy as possible.

Finally, she would like to thank the Parish Council for their support and all the members of the community who had given her advice, help, support and cups of tea!

Parishioners present said they had been very grateful to WPC McDonald over that last seven years.

At this point WPC McDonald left the Meeting

APM/22/04/2010/5 - Neighbourhood Watch – report by Cllr Bee Peters (Read by the Clerk)

5.1. It has been a quiet year with low crime rates reported in the village. There are now over 200 Neighbourhood Watch leaflets being distributed by 11 volunteers across the village. They deserve thanks for turning out to post the letters over the winter period.

The case of the cannabis dumping in bags along Dundry Lane was been reported by a number of villagers. Cllr Peters reminded parishioners to keep sheds and garages locked when gardening. Tools are sought after. If you are working in the garden please lock your house as there are opportunists waiting to take advantage.

Broadoak Hill and Wells Road do not have a representative at present. Volunteers would be welcome, to cover approximately 20 neighbours.

Cllr Peters thanked in particular PCSO Michele Barrett for keeping in touch with elderly residents.

APM/22/04/2010/6 - Matters Arising

6.1. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

APM/22/04/2010/7 - Chairman's Report

7.1. The chairman reported that it was his last APM as Chair, as the time had come for him to step down. After much consideration he had decided to stay on as a councillor until work commitments made this impossible.

This year had seen the Parish Council welcome two new Councillors – Steve McCarthy and, most recently, Nancy Jennings. Steve had thrown himself into the role with enthusiasm and become an active member of the council. Nancy had already demonstrated her willingness to take an active part in village life. Cllr Smith was confident that both would prove to be an asset to Dundry Parish council. There had also been a new Clerk, Judith Hoskin, who had taken over from Julie Smith.

The Parish Council had had a successful year, seeing some long-standing issues done and dusted. The resurfacing through the village had been completed, as had, with the added help and persuasion of residents, the much needed works in Ham Lane.

There were still plenty of issues to deal with, including, of course, the never-ending battle of pot holes. More regular grass cutting and picking up of litter needed to be addressed, but he was hopeful that these particular issues might be resolved in the not-too-distant future, with the introduction of a village orderly. He thought that those present would all agree that, this Spring, after such a long, hard winter, the village had been looking lovely, thanks to the snowdrops, daffodils and primroses planted by ex-councillor Jane Swyer, and, of course, ex-Councillor Chris Glover, who is greatly missed and brought to mind each time we look at the flowers around us.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone who had worked alongside Dundry Parish Council in the last year – in particular the Parish Plan committee and DRAG. He would like to give special thanks to all the councillors, not only for their continued commitment to Dundry Parish council, but for the support given to him during his time as Chairman.

He wished the incoming Chairperson all the very best in his/her new venture and pledged his personal support in the future.

APM/22/04/2010/8 - Financial Report and precept requirements.

8.1. The Clerk had prepared a financial report consisting of the audited accounts from 2008 – 2009, the un-audited accounts from 2009 – 2010, and the budget set for 2010 – 2011. The total carry-forward from 2009-2010 was £7614.73, which included a ring-fenced sum of £2,596.03 of which the bulk had been allocated to the Play Area.

The Precept had been increased slightly to £6,000 (from £5,785.00). The financial report also included a sheet showing the effect of the Precept on Council Tax for each property band. The Parish Council element of the Council Tax for Band D properties (the 'Headline Council Tax') was £15.44.

APM/22/04/2010/9 - Matters Raised by Parishioners

9.1. There were no matters raise by parishioners

APM/22/04/2010/10 - Parish Plan Report

10.1. Cllr Laux reported that the Parish Plan had been adopted in the previous year. It was administered by an open sub-committee, meeting monthly. He highlighted the following examples actions being undertaken by the Parish Plan committee:

10.2. Newsletter – An irregular publication coming out about four times a year. Among other things this tries to publicise what the Parish Council is doing.

10.3. Policing – police presence at meetings and functions was much appreciated.

10.4. Youth – working on various issues, mainly, at the moment, the play area. Cllr Jennings reported at this point that she had applied to Community Spaces for a substantial grant towards the playground and had got through Stage 1. There was a long list of things to be done before Stage 2.

10.5. Leisure – It had been hoped to expand upon previous years' Dundry Day, but the plans had proved to be a little ambitious. The current plan was possibly to have a fundraising day for the Play Area.

10.6. Community services – As most people now knew there was to be a new recycling scheme soon

10.7. The Parish Plan Committee hoped to look into how to improve Broadband speeds and TV and radio reception.

10.8. Landscape and Protection of the environment.

Cllr Laux read out this report from Cllr Peters:

The wildlife survey of the Dundry Down Hill Top Walk is taking place on 29th April. A group of surveyors from the Bristol Regional Environmental Record Centre will be looking at our site to record plant and animal life so that we may be aware of what is special to our environment. This information will form part of the interpretation board layout and walk leaflet that the Parish Plan Group is currently working to produce.

We have a grant of £1,000 from North Somerset Council towards this project. Currently there are a number of estimates for the artwork and display production being considered for the car park interpretation board. The grant will be administered by the Parish Council and we expect to have practical help from NSC to improve signage. (Cllr Thomas noted that money, which had originally belonged to the Dundry Hill Group, would also be available from the Malago Society)

Local landowners have been informed of the survey and its purpose. There have been no objections so far and a good deal of encouragement.

10.9. Roads, traffic and transport

There had been some monitoring of traffic speed through the village but this had proved to be inconclusive. It was pleasing that there was still a bus service.

10.10. Healthcare

Contact was being maintained with local surgeries.

10.11. Long term planning in the wider area

Cllr Thomas would be reporting on this later in the meeting

10.12. Pensioners

The Parish Plan Group are trying to support a good neighbour scheme

APM/22/04/2010/11 - Sports and Social Club

11.1. The Clerk read out a brief report from the Sports and Social Club which said that it had been an uneventful year. There had been little vandalism and although there were still occasionally problems with dogs it was hoped that these would decline once more people were aware of the ban on dogs on the playing field.

11.2. The Sports and Social Club accounts were circulated. It was noted that these contained no reference to insurance.

APM/22/04/2010/12 - Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor

12.1. Cllr Gregor said that he had now been District Councillor for Winford and Dundry for three years. He tried to be the voice of Dundry at Weston-super-Mare particularly because the parish is on the edge of the District Council area. He has tried to make a difference and felt he had helped to secure funding for the re-surfacing of Dundry Lane and the drainage work in Ham Lane.

He congratulated the Parish Council on its persistence in speaking out against the Ashton Park development and said that the Chairman of North Somerset Council was on record as saying there would be no housing in North Somerset to the South West of Bristol.

Cllr Gregor commended the Dundry Parish Plan which he often used as a guide when discussing Dundry with NSC officers. As far as he knew the plans for recycling and rubbish collection were progressing smoothly.

Cllr Thomas thanked Cllr Gregor for his hard work and the time and effort he puts into putting issues forward.

APM/22/04/2010/13 - Community Transport Scheme – Report by Cllr Holger Laux

13.1. Cllr Laux reported that he had been reviewing the Community Transport Scheme which had been set up using the example of the Winford scheme. It had become apparent that Dundry was not really large enough to support such a scheme on its own. There was now a more informal arrangement of drivers and ‘customers’. Meanwhile, Cllr Laux was currently investigating car-sharing schemes.

APM/22/04/2010/14 - Bristol International Airport – Report by Cllr Richard Thomas

14.1. Cllr Thomas reported that BIA have submitted a planning application for expansion of the terminal building to cater for 10 million passengers per annum, together with multi storey car parking, new aircraft parking stands, new mail handling building on south side, car parking in green belt land on south side, site for an hotel and various ancillary developments.

Dundry PC and the Parish Councils Airport Association, together with many other objectors lodged substantial detailed objections to the proposals. The objections covered size, capping, traffic, noise, including night flights, climate change, economic case, planning conditions and section 106 agreement.

During NSC negotiations BIA accepted capping at 10mppa, a cap on night movements (although too high)

and increased contributions to road infrastructure.

14.2. NSC South Area Committee on 3 March recommended approval subject to the Secretary of state ruling on climate change implications. This was following clearly presented presentations by PCAA and others covering all aspects of the application.

It now has to go to NSC Planning and Regulatory Committee on 24 May for their final decision.

14.3. PCAA members, including Dundry, met with David Turner, NSC Director of Planning and Richard Kent, senior planning officer dealing with this application on 9 April. This meeting raised questions on the relevance of the outdated Air transport White Paper, Climate Change Act 2009 and the Heathrow court ruling against the third runway. It also questioned assumptions made by NSC in reaching their recommendation and sought assurances on planning conditions and section 106 agreements. An important question is how the airport can be allowed to expand when there is no certainty that the South Bristol Link or the Rapid Transit system will happen.

APM/22/04/2010/15 - North Somerset Core Strategy/South West Urban Expansion – Report by Cllr Richard Thomas

15.1. Cllr Thomas reported that the draft Regional Spatial Strategy proposed 10500 homes in green belt mostly in Ashton Vale in North Somerset. Approval has been delayed due to a High Court judgement on the East RSS. Dundry PC had submitted detailed objections. Dundry Residents Action Group (DRAG) had also objected.

There were around 35,000 objections lodged. These included NSC.

The Conservatives have said they would not proceed with the RSS although it would need to be replaced in some form.

15.2. In September 2009 Land Trust submitted a planning application for a mixed use development including 9,500 homes in the area and encroaching onto Dundry.

Dundry PC again submitted detailed objections and joined forces with Barrow Gurney and Long Ashton PCs to form a group known as the Joint Parishes. As such it was felt we could make a stronger and more coordinated opposition.

Meetings were held with NSC planners and public meetings were arranged in the Parish.

DRAG linked with other protest groups over a wider area and managed some very good publicity

The Joint Parishes held meetings with John Baker Associates, consultants to the developer. While objecting to the entirety of the proposals

We sought to influence the emerging design to protect the separation of Dundry and generally reduce the negative aspects of the development.

At recent meetings with NSC and with John Baker we have been assured that Land Trust are not intending to appeal against a non decision nor are NSC likely to issue a decision until after the election. However it is clear that the proposal has not gone away and our opposition will need to continue.

15.3. NSC published in November 2009 their Draft Core Strategy. This shows no development in the green belt with major development proposed for Weston super Mare. Small villages such as Dundry are to have no new development as without basic facilities new development would be unsustainable. While seeking some flexibility for infill and conversions Dundry PC supports most of the Draft.

However the document looks at some options if the RSS did get approval and includes development in Ashton Vale. We have objected to this and NSC have said it was possibly wrong to have included these options at this stage.

Cllr Smith thanked Cllrs Keast and Thomas for all their hard work on this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.37 pm.

Copies of the full minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dundry Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd April 2010 can be found on village notice boards, on the parish website or obtained from the Clerk,

Mrs Judith Hoskin – Tel: 0117 9642804

**The next meeting of Dundry Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting (AGM) on
Wednesday 5th May, 2010**