

Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th January 2011 at 7.30pm

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

Chair: Cllr Holger Laux

In Attendance: Cllrs Maggie Keast, Bee Peters, Nancy Jennings, David Hurford, Richard Thomas, Ralph Gay

District Councillor Hugh Gregor, PCSO Michele Barrett

Two parishioners attended for the Public Forum

Clerk: Judith Hoskin

05/01/2011 855 - Apologies 855.1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Steve McCarthy and Duncan Pittaway	ACTIONS
05/01/2011 856 - Chairman's Introduction 856.1. Cllr Laux welcomed all present to the meeting	
05/01/2011 857 - Declarations of Interest by Councillors in items on the Agenda 857.1. Cllr Gay declared an interest in item 05/01/2011 866 - Sign in village Car Park	
05/01/2011 858 - Minutes of the Meeting of Dundry Parish Council – 01/12/2010 858.1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 st December 2010 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. (Prop. Cllr Thomas, Sec. Cllr Keast)	
05/01/2011 859 - Crime Report/Neighbourhood Watch 859.1. Crime report for preceding month. PCSO Barrett reported the following crimes which had taken place in the Parish in the previous month: 1 x Possession of Cannabis (not a local resident) 1 x Theft and handling 1 x Malicious Communications 1 x Burglary in a non-dwelling 1 x Criminal damage to a dwelling 1 x <i>Making off without payment</i> 1 x <i>theft from shops and stalls</i> 1 x <i>Causing intentional harm, harassment or distress</i> (these last three were in the same location and involved non-residents) <i>PCSO Barrett left the meeting at this point</i> 859.2. Neighbourhood Watch Report Cllr Peters reported that distribution of leaflets had been hampered by the weather but was now almost complete. She had put an item about Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish News, and the Clerk had arranged with the website editor that relevant Ringmaster messages relating to crime prevention would be displayed on the village website (www.dundry.org.uk) Cllr Peters also noted that part of Dundry Lane would be closed on 10 th January so that BT could do some repairs. Residents of Dundry Lane had been informed but the Clerk would also ask for the information to be put on the village website.	Clerk
05/01/2011 860 - Public Forum 860.1. A parishioner said that she had complained to North Somerset Council about non-collection of refuse and recycling. The last collection in her area had been on 16 th December despite the fact that she lived on Wells Road which was clear of snow and ice. Councillors said they were aware that there had been a problem with rubbish and recycling collection in the whole village. Cllr Gregor said that he had had to deal with many complaints about recycling on behalf of NSC and that there was a priority list to clear up the most neglected areas. He understood that a combination of bad weather, icy roads and additional rubbish at Christmas meant that there was a backlog but he understood that by using extra staff and vehicles this should be cleared up shortly. 860.2. The same parishioner said that she had written to NSC complaining about the recent closure of Wells Road for re-surfacing. She and her neighbours felt that there had not been sufficient notice given – in fact some residents had been given no notice at all, and it appeared that the school bus service had not been informed. Additionally there had been problems of access, both to houses and businesses and	

intimidating behaviour by some of the contractor's employees. She had written to the contractor about this and they were investigating. After some discussion it was agreed to wait for NSC's response before taking any action but that if this response was not satisfactory the Parish Council would consider making a complaint. 860.3. Another parishioner asked about the following (<i>replies in italics</i>): 860.3.1. Had anything happened about his previous request for a grit bin at the end of Downs Road – <i>Councillors explained that unfortunately several existing grit bins had been damaged and had had to be replaced. This meant that there was not money in the 2010 – 2011 budget for all the new grit bins requested. A new review of requests for grit bins would take place in 2011 - 2012</i> 860.3.2. The timetable at the bus stop outside the Dundry Inn is illegible – <i>Clerk to request a new one</i> 860.3.3. Was any action to be taken about the dip in the road near the hairpin bend? <i>The Clerk said that NSC had been told about this several times but seemed not to consider it to be in need of urgent repair.</i> 860.3.4. The parishioner understood that Dundry Lane was to be closed to allow repair of the school retaining wall and wondered when this would happen and how long for. <i>Councillors were not able to answer this, although Cllr Peters said she understood that the process of obtaining permission to close the road had taken longer than expected.</i>	Clerk
05/01/2011 861 - Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor 861.1. Cllr Gregor reported that he had attended the following meetings: • December 7th – Full council meeting • December 8th – Chaired meeting of Joint Consultative Committee where councillors and union representatives discussed redundancies, the move to Castlewood in Clevedon for 500 employees, budget cuts at NSC, privatisation of support services and an update on the budget proposals. • December 14th - Attended meeting of the Council's Executive. This meeting included discussion of the transfer of some sports centres to external contractors in order to save money, draft revenue and capital budgets for 2011/2012 and draft budget intentions for 2014/2015. There was also discussion of the renovation of The Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare to accommodate 900 occupants in a modern working environment. This was intended to give medium-term savings by enabling the selling off of various out-of-date office premises. 861.2. Councillors queried the need for new and refurbished buildings given that much of NSC's work was now likely to be outsourced. They asked Cllr Gregor to find out how many directly employed staff would remain after the cuts. They also felt that the council was optimistic in thinking that it could sell or rent out the old office buildings in the current climate. There was a general consensus that NSC's published information, in North Somerset Life, was not detailed enough for residents to be fully aware of the council's plans.	Cllr Gregor
05/01/2011 862 - Finance 862.1. The Financial Report had been circulated before the meeting. 862.2. The Chairman signed the Clerk's time sheet 862.3. Payment of the following cheques was approved: 862.3.1. Cheque no: 100337 - £341.66 – J Hoskin, December wages 862.4. Budget and Precept. The Clerk tabled the projected spending report for 2010 – 2011 which she had updated with actual spending to the date of the meeting. She had also made some adjustments for sums that were not going to be spent after all. The Clerk had also updated the proposed budget with adjustments made in the light of more information. After some discussion it was agreed that the Precept should rise to £7,000. (Proposed Cllr Keast, seconded Cllr Hurford) Apart from general increases in costs the main reasons for the rise were mostly associated with playground insurance and maintenance, proposed increased spending on grit bins and the need for repairs to or replacement of notice boards. It was also felt that the budgeted reserve had become too low for comfort, particularly given potential cuts in services provided by the District Council and the possible effects of the Government's Localism Bill.	

05/01/2011 863 - Playground 863.1. Cllr Jennings reported on the tender evaluation and Stage 2 Grant application. Six tenders had been submitted. They had been evaluated against several criteria and the winning company had been chosen not only because of their design but because of the robustness and durability of the equipment they provided. On the suggestion of councillors Cllr Jennings would check that the 15-year guarantee offered by the company would be insurance-backed. The build would take place in two stages. Cllr Jennings said that information about the winning contractor and their design and equipment specifications was on the website. The Stage 2 Grant application had been submitted and the result should be available in mid-March. 863.2. It was agreed to join the Somerset Playing Fields Association (cost £10 p.a) which should give access to advice and preferential rates on insurance and equipment inspection for the playground. 863.3. Cllr Jennings reported that the Play Sculpture was complete and ready to be played on.	Cllr Jennings Clerk
05/01/2011 864 - ALCA 864.1. On December 1st there had been a Special General Meeting of ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) to discuss possible dissolution of the organisation because of financial difficulties. In the event it had been decided that ALCA should continue, but with reductions in costs and a new management structure. The subscription would rise slightly but not as much as had been feared. Councillors with experience of ALCA said that it was a good source of advice, particularly with difficult legal problems. It was also a route to the National Association of Local Councils which could be used to raise issues with the Government. It was agreed that DPC should try in future to send a representative to ALCA meetings but that it was not necessary to have a single designated representative.	
05/01/2011 865 - Parish Plan 865.1. Councillors discussed Dundry Day. Two possible dates in May were suggested. Cllr Laux would find out if some of last year's volunteers would be prepared to help again. <i>Cllr Gregor left the meeting at this point</i> 865.2. Hill Top Walk – Although there had been a lull over Christmas, Cllr Peters was confident that publication of the board and leaflets would happen soon. A progress report was needed for the grant providers shortly. 865.3. Footpaths - Cllr Peters said that NSC were still intending to improve some of the rights of way. The next target for improvement was the footpath from Oxleaze Lane to Hill Road. A parishioner had volunteered to walk the footpaths in the Parish to report on their condition.	Cllr Laux Cllr Peters/Clerk
05/01/2011 866 - Sign in village car park 866.1. Cllr Gay referred to the discussion at the meeting on 5th May 2010 when problems of parking in The Mead had been discussed and said that he was disappointed to see that the 'No Overnight Parking' sign in the car park had been replaced without any reference to this not applying to residents and their guests. Councillors said that they had not expected to change the sign but agreed that more could have been done to publicise the fact that residents and guests could park in the car park overnight. It was agreed to put notices on the noticeboards, on the website and in the Parish News. The Council would review the effect of this in a couple of months' time. The new sign also referred to 'No lorries at any time'. This was being regularly ignored, in many cases by vehicles related to Downs Farm, and it was agreed to write asking that J B Pearce should try to ask their customers not to use the car park as a waiting area.	Clerk Clerk
05/01/2011 867 - Land at end of Dundry Lane 867.1. Cllr Peters said she had spoken to the owners of the neighbouring property who were concerned that NSC's clearance of this plot of land had reduced their privacy. They were keen that there should be some planting (perhaps an additional hedge) which they would be willing to help maintain. Cllr Peters had also spoken to a parishioner with relevant skills who was willing to suggest some ideas for planting the area. It was agreed that this should be pursued. 867.2. The Clerk was asked to report to NSC that the retaining wall had been damaged again and was now in an even worse state.	Cllr Peters Clerk

05/01/2011 868 - Planning 868.1. Planning Applications received: 868.1.1. 10/P/2052/F St Bernard's Mount, Broadoak Hill, Dundry, BS41 8NB – Replacement of existing single storey car – port with a single storey sedum planted flat roofed disable annexe building – <i>No objections</i> 868.1.2. 10/P/2060/F Keedwell Farm, Oxleaze Lane, Dundry, BS41 8JZ – erection of a two story east elevation extension, including the addition of balconies and a canopy – <i>No objections</i> 05/01/2011 869 - Applications Approved by NSC: 869.1.1. 10/P/1282/F Erection of 2 no livestock buildings and hard surfaced cattle yards, slurry store and access track 869.1.2. 10/P/1920/F Land adjacent to Dundry Village Hall, Crabtree Lane, Dundry, BS41 8LN – Construction of outdoor play area surrounded by 1m high fence 869.2. Applications Refused by NSC: None	
05/01/2011 870 - Clerk's Report 870.1. The Clerk's report on the past month had been circulated with the agenda. 870.2. Three possible dates were suggested for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk would check availability of the village hall. There was some discussion of possible formats for the meeting in order to encourage more parishioners to attend. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting. 870.3. It was agreed that the Annual Council Meeting (AGM) should if possible be on 11th May so that it was after the Local Elections. This would be instead of the meeting on 4th May. The Clerk would check availability of the Hall.	Clerk Clerk
05/01/2011 871 - Correspondence requiring action/discussion/noting (not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda) 871.1. NSC Any requests for additional dog control orders? – <i>No additional orders needed but Clerk was asked to request larger signs for the playing field as dogs were still being brought onto the field.</i> 871.2. NSC North Somerset Older People's Strategy consultation – <i>Cllr Peters to review</i> 871.3. BANES Draft Core Strategy Consultation – <i>Cllr Thomas to review</i> 871.4. Parishioner Copy of letter of complaint to NSC about road works on Wells Road – <i>see item 860.2 above</i> 871.5. BIA 'Your Airport' magazine - <i>distributed</i> 871.6. there were no comments or queries arising from the complete correspondence list (circulated with agenda)	Clerk Cllr Peters Cllr Thomas
05/01/2011 872 - Items to be noted for discussion at next meeting	

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.05 pm.

Copies of the full minutes of the meeting of Dundry Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th January 2011 can be found on the parish website (www.dundry.org.uk) or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs Judith Hoskin – Tel: 0117 9642804, email: dundryclerk@tiscali.co.uk
Abridged versions are available on the parish noticeboards, in the Parish News and in the Chew Valley Gazette.

The next meeting of Dundry Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9th February 2011