Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at 7.30pm

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

Chair: Cllr Holger Laux
In Attendance: Cllrs Richard Thomas, David Hurford, Nancy Jennings, Ralph Gay, Bee Peters
District Councillor Hugh Gregor, PCSO Michele Barrett,
Clerk: Judith Hoskin
18 Parishioners were present.

APM/23/03/2011/1 - Apologies
1.1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Steve McCarthy and Maggie Keast, PC Trevor Byford and the Sports and Social Club

APM/23/03/2011/2 - Chairman's Introduction
2.1. Cllr Laux welcomed the parishioners and others present.

APM/23/03/2011/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2010
3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April 2010 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Hurford, seconded Cllr Peters)

APM/23/03/2011/4 - Crime Report
4.1. PCSO Barrett reported that since the last APM there had been 90 reported crimes – a rise of 30 crimes over the previous year. However, to put this in perspective, Long Ashton had 37 crimes in January 2011 alone. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

9 Thefts	8 Dwelling burglaries
6 Non dwelling burglaries	24 Possession of cannabis
2 Theft from motor vehicles	6 Bilkings
1 Theft of Motor vehicles	6 Assaults.
16 Criminal damages	3 assaults on Police
2 Fraud	1 common assault & battery
1 Causing intentional harassment, alarm & distress	1 Arson
1 Public health offence	1 Sexual offence
1 Fear or Provocation of violence	1 Affray

7 of these incidents were from one fight in November. Thefts of and from motor vehicles are down. Regular checks on Hill Road have seen a rise in detections for possession of Cannabis from 3 last year to 24 this year.
These figures are from the Avon & Somerset Police Guardian system which holds all reported crimes. The new government crime website differs from this.
4.2. PCSO Barrett said the police would also like to make the residents of Dundry aware of recent incidents involving heating oil/diesel thefts. Measures to deter this might include putting a padlock on the tanks or the use of caging, fencing or strategic prickly planting to restrict access to the storage tank and feed pipes, installation of a tank alarm and security lighting and the use of a remote oil level gauge to warn of any sudden drop in oil level. Ideally households should consider 'bunded' double skinned fuel tanks that are situated within sight of the house and any neighbouring properties but as far away from roads, paths and other public access routes as possible.
Theft of scrap metal is also on the increase. Thieves are driving around local areas looking for copper cabling, aluminium and things like old steel baths used as drinking troughs.
PCSO Barrett asked residents to secure their property and keep vigilant. Anything suspicious should be reported on 0845 456 7000 or 999 in case of an emergency.
4.3. Despite the recent changes in Beat Managers and proposed government cutbacks the police aim to provide the same service as they have always done. PCSO Barrett said she would like to personally thank the Residents of Dundry and the Parish Council for their ongoing support.
4.4. Cllr Laux thanked PCSO Barrett for her report and her quick and friendly response to problems in the village.
4.5. Questions to PCSO Barrett
Q: What is the best thing to do if you suspect someone of fly tipping or being about to?
A: If you see something suspicious call the police. After the event call North Somerset Council (01934 888802) to get fly tipped material removed. It is also possible to report fly-tipping on the NSC website. Tipped material is inspected for any identifying items and the police work closely with the Environment Agency to catch and prosecute fly-tippers.

Q: Can anything be done about Dundry Lane being used to park cars by people using the airport?
A: Difficult for the police to do anything about this if the cars are parked without causing an obstruction and are fully taxed and insured. If such cars were given parking tickets this would have to extend to residents' cars as well.

At this point PCSO Barrett left the Meeting

APM/23/03/2011/5 - Neighbourhood Watch – report by Cllr Bee Peters

5.1. Cllr Peters introduced herself as the Area Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. This means she liaises with coordinators in the village, the Beat Officer and Police Community Support Officer; and reports to the Parish Council.

Dundry NHW area is covered by 12 schemes or groups of property each with a *nominated coordinator (*not all the village is covered). The coordinator acts as a liaison person between the police and NHW and is asked to deliver a quarterly newsletter and share *"Ringmaster"* messages.

"Ringmaster" is a direct link computer system used to highlight crime trends in a given area by sending messages to coordinators by phone/fax /or email. Each message has a unique reference number. The main purpose of the system is for police to ask for assistance from residents rather than to warn of every crime.

From December 2010 Ringmaster messages relating to crime prevention have been displayed on the *Dundry website. (www.dundry.org.uk)*

Over 200 newsletters are delivered quarterly around the village. The yellow newsletters have been replaced by *Police News.* Each letter gives useful contact numbers and economic solutions to home security improvements.

Volunteers to help with the scheme are always welcome. Areas NOT covered at present include :
Bridgwater Road (A38), Yanleigh Close, Upper Dundry Lane, Wells Road, Lower Highridge Road, Crabtree Close and Broadoak Hill.

Our Beat manager, Jackie McDonald, retired in December 2010. Reorganization of the Neighbourhood Watch Police teams means that Dundry now has PC Trevor Byford as Beat Officer. He is also responsible for Long Ashton, Leigh Woods and Abbots Leigh. PCSO Michele Barrett will still be responsible for Dundry

If you have any questions regarding policing in your area you can visit the website www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/webchat, or www.mynhw.co.uk - the NHW website. You can also visit www.police.uk which shows details of crimes by street.

A final reminder if YOU have any information about a crime or notice suspicious behaviour phone the police on 0845 456 7000, or the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS (0800 555 111).

Cllr Peters thanked those who continue to protect their own property and keep watch for their neighbours..

APM/23/03/2011/6 - Chairman's Report

6.1. Councillor Laux said that it was the end of his second year as a councillor and first as Chairman. The council is a team which works well together.

Over the previous year the Parish Council had sadly lost Mike Gleave, who had died the previous summer, and Kevin Smith who had resigned because of pressure of work. He introduced Cllrs Nancy Jennings who had joined the Council just before the previous APM and Cllr Ralph Gay who had joined the Council in January.

Cllr Laux said that the Parish Council represents the parish to the outside world. It works with various other organisations, particularly with North Somerset Council, and has a good working relationship with District Councillor Hugh Gregor, the Council Liaison Officer Claire Dyke and the Area Officer Fay Powell, who deals with refuse collection, streets and open spaces, potholes, road surfacing etc.

The council engages with planning issues from the large scale down to commenting on applications in the village.

Membership of the Avon Local Councils Association continues – this is a useful source of advice on parish matters. Recently we have received trees from the Woodland Trust and celebrated ten years of Little Down wood.

In the village the Parish Council has been involved with plans for the new playground, cooperates with the village hall committee, has been instrumental in gaining a dog control order for the playing field, and is trying to solve the problem of litter and fly-tipping in the Hill Road turning circle and other areas. We will shortly be trying to recruit a new village orderly. In view of recent bad winters the council now has an ongoing programme of purchasing new grit bins and replacing damaged ones. The council also works with the Parish Plan committee and now has a representative on the Governors of Dundry School.

Over the year the council has been working on improving information and visibility in the village. The Welcome packs (for people moving into the village) have been updated and Cllr Laux thanked ex-Councillor Bee Quick for her work on this. More information has been put on the website, including details about councillors and general information about the council. Mike Searl was to be thanked for his hard work on the website. A new internal auditor, Peter Whitehead, has been appointed.

There would be elections shortly and any parishioner was able to stand for election. So far it did not appear that the elections would be contested.

Cllr Laux concluded by saying that Councillors do not earn any money or privileges but give up some of their

spare time to the parish. They need the support of parishioners and welcome any offers of assistance however small.

6.2. Questions to Chairman:

Q: Was there any prospect of help with litter picking on Bridgwater Road?

A: The Clerk would talk to Fay Powell to request a parish gang to do some cleaning up. **CLERK**

Q: Was the council sure that the threat of large scale development in Ashton Vale was over?

A: Cllr Thomas would deal with this in his report. The planning application had not actually been turned down or withdrawn, but Government policy had changed and North Somerset Council wished to concentrate new development round Weston-super-Mare.

APM/23/03/2011/7 - Financial Report and precept requirements.

7.1. The Clerk had prepared and circulated to the meeting a financial report consisting of the audited accounts from 2009 -2010, the un-audited accounts from 2010 - 2011 and the budget set for 2011 - 2012. The total carry-forward from 2010 - 2011 would be £9,453.17, which included a ring-fenced sum of £4,380.94 which consisted mainly of grants obtained for the Play Area and the Hill Top Walk.

7.2. The Precept had been increased to £7,000 (from £6,000). Apart from general increases in running costs this reflected increased commitments to insuring and maintaining the Play Area, providing and replacing grit bins and repairing or replacing noticeboards.

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 £18.05

7.3. Questions on Finance

Q: Has the Council kept aside money for a fighting fund should the Ashton Park Planning application not be withdrawn or turned down? Long Ashton Parish Council has kept quite a large reserve for this purpose.

A: The council no longer has a specific amount of money put aside for this purpose as the need for it seems to have receded. If funds were required they would have to come from the reserves. There had been much discussion about the size of the reserve needed relative to income. Long Ashton, being a much larger parish, was able to hold much more money in reserve.

Q: Who is the village orderly?

A: There isn't one at the moment but the post will be advertised shortly

Q: Why is there an item for a Christmas tree?

A: This is money put aside to help the church should they wish to erect a Christmas Tree in the church yard.

Q: Why is there an item called 'Parish News'?

A: The council gives money towards production of the Parish News.

APM/23/03/2011/8 - Reports by Parish Organisations

8.1. The Bell Ringers meet on a Monday evening, 8 - 9pm. Anyone can join and new members are always welcome.

8.2. Dundry Historians meet on a Tuesday in the school. The cost of membership is very low. The group is part of the Bristol & Avon Family History Society. Speakers usually deal with local topics **–** for example on 12th April there will be a speaker on the history of ballooning in the Bristol area. On 12th May there will be a boat trip round the docks.

8.3. The Village Hall relies on money from hire fees. They would therefore encourage as many people and organisations as possible to book the hall.

8.4. The Playground Group always welcomes new members. Details on the village website.

8.5. Sports and Social Club

The Clerk read out a brief report form 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.

APM/23/03/2011/9 - Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor

9.1. Having introduced himself Cllr Gregor stressed the advantages of sitting as an Independent with no political party to influence how he speaks or votes.

He explained that North Somerset's Executive and Full Council meet once a month and that he usually attends. Papers from the various Directorates keep him up to date with the way various policies were developing.

He stated that he is a member of the Council's Audit Committee - five elected councillors helped by two professional and experienced independent members. They meet every six weeks – identifying openings for fraud, examining dangerous risks, examining the Council's financial procedures. On each issue it is necessary to design 'mitigating measures' and ensure that Officers carry them out. In general the audit committee makes sure that NSC gave good value for money and that its procedures satisfy both Internal and External Auditors.

Cllr Gregor explained that he chairs the Joint Consultative Committee. Every two months or so Councillors and Union representatives meet to discuss any controversial issues that have arisen e.g. closures, cuts, outsourcing, dismissals and redundancies, pensions etc. He also sits on the Children and Young Persons

Scrutiny Panel. Their task is to scrutinise the work of Officers dealing with all matters involving children and young people, for example Children's Centres, schools, Looked After Children, foster parents, Pre-schools etc.
Finally, Cllr Gregor is vice-chairman of the South Area Planning Committee which deals with controversial Planning issues.
Cllr Gregor said that he had been working hard to ensure that Dundry's name and its local issues were better known and understood in Weston-super-Mare. He tried to attend as many meetings of Dundry PC as possible because he acted as their link with NSC. Most recently he had dealt with a local issue regarding the state of Upton Lane, Dundry.

9.2. Questions to Cllr Gregor:
Q: How will NSC and their contractors ensure that the problems with waste and recycling don't happen again?
A: There will have to be an examination of what happened, and how to avoid a repetition – possibly through the Audit Committee of which Cllr Gregor is a member.
Q: Is there a long-term strategy for improving recycling, both with provision of more containers and avoiding collectors having to sort recycling by the roadside?
A: It should be possible to obtain more containers by contacting North Somerset Council. The new timetables delivered on the day of the meeting had more detailed guidance about sorting recycling. It is quite acceptable to put items into bags to separate them.

APM/23/03/2011/10 - Parish Plan Report
10.1. Cllr Laux reported on the Parish Plan which had been developed from consultation with the whole village and adopted in 2009. There is a separate steering group for implementation but many of the activities of the Parish Council originated with the Parish Plan.
10.2. Other actions in the plan have been taken up by other village organisations such as the Village Hall Committee and the Playground Group. The Plan is for all to get involved with and there are still items waiting for someone or a group of people to take forward.
10.3. Dundry Day was successful last year and raised funds towards the playground. This year it will be centred around the Hill Top walk (see separate report)

APM/23/03/2011/11 - Playground Report – Cllr Jennings
11.1. Cllr Jennings said that the Dundry Playground Group had been set up shortly before she joined the Parish Council in April 2010 and her focus as councillor over the last year had been on the playground. DPG applied for funding from Community Spaces for the playground in March 2010, and the Stage 1 Application was approved in April 2010. Following this there had been community consultation over several months, including at Dundry Day 2010, the budget had been finalised and planning permission obtained. Tenders were invited and the Children's Playground Company of Wolverhampton was chosen.
The stage 2 application forms (with well over 100 pages of supporting documents) were submitted in December 2010, and the outcome should be heard in early April. The Playground project is now a close partnership between Dundry Playground Group and the Parish Council. DPC will hold and administer the funds and instruct the contractor, while DPG will decide on the final details of the design and maintain the playground for at least the first five years. Further information can be found on the parish website (www.dundry.org.uk)
11.2. Alongside the work on the playground Cllr Jennings had liaised with North Somerset Play Rangers and the contractor to facilitate the design and build of the play tower in November 2010.
11.3. The Parish Council also received a donation of native trees and shrubs from the Woodland Trust, 28 of which were planted on the boundaries of the recreation ground, also in November 2010. Some of these will be transplanted by volunteers on to the playground to provide shade and shelter.
The playground should be completed before the end of 2011.

APM/23/03/2011/12 - Hill Top Walk
12.1. Cllr Peters reported on the Hill Top Walk which had been a project arising from the Parish Plan. The need for a circular walk covering viewpoints from the Downs had been identified together with replacement of the damaged display board in the car park and a new leaflet to show the walk route.
Work had been done on finding funding and improving access over the route – particularly over the stone slab stile on the Downs. The walk and accompanying leaflet had been trialled by local walkers and amended to ensure ease of use.
An environmental survey had been carried out by the Bristol Regional Environmental Record Centre to record wildlife on the route and to aid conservation of the special habitats.
The board and the leaflets should be completed soon and the walk will be inaugurated at Dundry Day on 22nd May. It is hoped that families from the village, the school and the pre-school will join the Parish Plan group and the Parish Council to walk the route, and there will be cream teas in the hall afterwards with displays set up by local organisations and activities for the children.

APM/23/03/2011/13 - Bristol Airport – Cllr Richard Thomas

13.1. Cllr Thomas reported that Dundry Parish Council has remained a member of the Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA).
PCAA opposed the development of BIA for reasons including traffic, noise, pollution, green belt and economics.
Detailed objections were submitted by PCAA, Dundry PC and many other PCs surrounding the airport.
However North Somerset granted permission on 24 May 2010 subject to conditions and a section 106 planning agreement.
Permission was granted for the expansion of the terminal building, aircraft apron extension, multi storey parking and ground level parking at north and south areas of the airport including into the green belt.
Approval included a number of ancillary developments.
Conditions included:

- Passenger numbers limited to 10m passengers per annum.
- Noise attenuation measures.
- Night flying restrictions, noise levels, take off and landing movements.
- Contributions to improvements to A38, South Bristol Link and Barrow Gurney relief.

PCAA and all PCs were disappointed by the decision which was felt to be influenced by the offer of financial contributions to highway improvements.However the conditions on passenger numbers, noise attenuation, night flying and road improvements were areas that we certainly influenced.
PCAA will continue to look closely as the airport develops to ensure it meets the conditions of the permission.
There is also the certainty that BA will at some point in the future wish to expand beyond 10m passengers with a new planning application and this will require much further work.

13.2. Questions relating to the airport:

Q: Could the Parish Council or PCAA raise with the airport the question of the cost of the short term car park after the initial short free period?
A: This is not really a question that these organisations can have much influence over. However, it is a problem in that it has the knock-on effect of cars parking in inappropriate places outside the airport boundary while waiting to collect passengers. Cllr Gregor would try to have the question raised at the Airport Consultative Committee. **Cllr Gregor**

APM/23/03/2011/14 - North Somerset Core Strategy– Report by Cllr Richard Thomas

14.1. Cllr Thomas explained that the Core Strategy is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will be used to guide development choices and decision making in North Somerset up to 2026. This policy follows the decision of government to drop the draft Regional Spatial Strategy which sought the provision of 9000 houses in Ashton Vale. Dundry PC had opposed that development.
The housing requirement for NSC is now 13,400 houses, in the period 2006 - 2026, down from 26,750 in the draft RSS. North Somerset now proposes no development in Aston Vale with most new housing to be at Weston super Mare.
Comments were submitted at an earlier stage of the consultation and our requests are now incorporated in the latest draft.
The significant change sought by DPC to the earlier draft was for Dundry to be allowed some infill development where appropriate. As Dundry lies in the green belt no larger scale development will be permitted.
In all other respects the draft Core Strategy appears to meet our needs and is in line with comments made in drawing up the Parish Plan.

APM/23/03/2011/15 - Localism Bill – Report by Cllr Richard Thomas

15.1. The Localism Bill is going through Parliamentary stages, with enactment due late 2011.
The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is still a material consideration until the Bill is enacted, although should have less importance when the Core Strategy is approved by the Government Inspectorate.
Planning is to be driven from bottom up, not top down but will have to comply with the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy.
Planning should be less prescriptive more creative.

15.2. Neighbourhood Plans - Parish Councils will have the right to produce Neighbourhood Plans. If they choose to do this no other body can do so but if they don't other bodies, subject to certain criteria, can apply to produce one.
The plans will enable PCs to determine the detail of development within their community, subject to compliance with Local Planning Authority (LPA) policies. It could cover housing and other infrastructure including social.
The Plan, after independent checking for compliance, would have to pass a local referendum with 50% of those voting being in favour. The cost of producing plans is to be met from proceeds from development, or, if

there is to be no development, from Parish Council funds
Once adopted LPAs must include it in their Development Plan.
It is suggested that PCs may wish to liaise with planning authorities to discuss how this procedure can be taken forward.

15.3. Neighbourhood Development Orders -If PC has a Neighbourhood Plan it can make a Neighbourhood Order (NDO). This automatically grants permission for specific classes of development. So a PC could bring forward a scheme via an NDO giving it a 'community right to build'. It could help to deliver a community site specific development.

15.4. Duty to consult on major planning applications.
Developers will have to consult local communities and show how their concerns have been taken into account.

15.5. Local Referendum on key issues.
If 5% of electorate sign a petition on any matter it wishes to raise the LA must hold a referendum, take account of the results and record its intentions on how to address.

15.6. Questions for Dundry.

- Should we seek to produce a Neighbourhood Plan?
- What would we wish to include? Or exclude?
- Are there items of community development we need or would like?
- Do we wish to set detail policies for our parish, accepting they would still have to comply with NSC and govt. policies?
- Should we start a dialogue with NSC on this issue?
- Is there a cost implication in producing the Plan and how is this to be funded?
- How would we commence work on the Plan, who would do it, do we need to co-opt extra help, would we need expert advice?

15.7. Note:
The Localism Bill is very complicated and not all the provisions are as yet fully detailed. Therefore perhaps we should proceed with caution.
We could at this stage advise NSC that we are considering the possibilities of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and would like to discuss this with their officers when more detailed information on the Localism Bill is available. We could also ask NSC if they are developing a strategy for this.

APM/23/03/2011/16 - Public Forum
16.1. A parishioner reported that a local resident, John Brown, who ran a business in Nailsea, had recently been nominated as the person who had contributed most in past years to the well-being of other people in Nailsea.
She noted that he had also contributed greatly to life in Dundry.
16.2. A query was raised about the container outside the village hall. Councillors explained that the Pre-School were in the process of installing a play garden. The present container would be replaced by a much smaller one.
16.3. A parishioner noted that the Flight Service Station was providing Airport parking and employees were sleeping on the site. This had been reported to NSC planning enforcement officers.
16.4. Comments were also made about the proliferation of buildings at 'Alveare'. NSC enforcement officers were also aware of this matter.
16.5. A parishioner thanked councillors for the meeting and the opportunity to comment or ask questions after each item on the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.45 pm.
Copies of the full minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 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

The next meeting of Dundry Parish Council will be on Wednesday 6th April, 2011