

Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 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, Steve McCarthy, Simon Fiddian

Clerk: Judith Hoskin

3 Parishioners were present.

APM/23/05/2012/1 - Apologies

1.1. Apologies had been received from Councillor Maggie Keast, PC Trevor Byford and PCSO Michele Barrett, Dundry Sports and Social Club, Dave Nevitt (Chair of Dundry Village Hall committee), Rhiannon Price, (Headteacher of Dundry Primary school), District Councillor Hugh Gregor

APM/23/05/2012/2 - Chairman's Introduction

2.1. Cllr Laux welcomed the parishioners and others present.

APM/23/05/2012/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2010

3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd March 2011 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Hurford, seconded Cllr Thomas)

APM/23/05/2012/4 - Crime Report

4.1. No representatives of the police were present but PCSO Barrett had reported that since the last APM there had been 86 reported crimes – a reduction of 4 crimes over the previous year. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

7 Theft	1 Dwelling burglary
8 Non dwelling burglaries	2 fraud by false representation
2 possession of a class A substance	10 Making off without payment (petrol station)
6 Theft of Motor vehicles	1 Assault occasioning ABH
4 Criminal damage	5 theft from a motor vehicle
1 Fraud	2 common assault & battery
1 section 5 public order act	2 Arson
1 Public health offence (syringes)	1 malicious phone call
2 theft (manhole covers)	1 theft of a pedal cycle
1 fly tipping	1 harassment
2 blade/pointed article in a public place	1 theft and handling
24 Possession of cannabis (these are not reported crimes but 'self-generated' by pro-active police officers)	

Theft of scrap metal is still on the increase. Thieves are still driving around local areas looking for copper cabling, aluminium and things like old steel baths used as drinking troughs.

The majority of messages being sent out to Farm Watch concern suspicious vehicles looking for scrap metal. The new 101 non-emergency police number seems to be working well. Please use this to report any suspicious vehicles or people. Please use 999 if a crime is in progress.

APM/23/05/2012/5 - Neighbourhood Watch – report by Cllr Bee Peters

5.1. Cllr Peters introduced herself as the Area Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. She said that our Beat Officer is PC Trevor Byford. He is also responsible for Long Ashton, Leigh Woods and Abbots Leigh. PCSO Michele Barrett is still responsible for Dundry.

The Neighbourhood Watch Area coordinator post has been withdrawn, along with the Neighbourhood Watch newsletters.

The police are now keeping the community informed using 'Ringmaster' messages to area coordinators and on the village website (Thanks to the website editor for putting these on the site)

The area police newsletter is now online and a hard copy is available quarterly for distribution throughout the villages by volunteers -thanks go to them.

The Community is watchful, including Farm Watch, but we must do all we can to secure our property. Our area is safe and the crime rate within the community is low. Incidents regularly reported monthly include bilking (making off without payment) and events concerning persons from outside the community.

APM/23/05/2012/6 - Chairman's Report

Cllr Laux said that at the end of another successful year, it was now time for him to report to the community about what this council has been doing on their behalf.

6.1. Making Dundry's voice heard

Fortunately, the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Ashton Park development are no longer on the agenda. The North Somerset Core Strategy has been adopted. Dundry is in Green Belt protected area, with only in-fill development allowed. DPC was involved in consultations about strategy and is currently contributing to development of Detailed Policies to underpin it

We could set up a Neighbourhood Plan to influence our future, but this would involve much work (see Cllr Thomas's report)

The recently passed Localism Bill is meant to transfer more decision power to lower levels of government with more local knowledge. The likely effects not quite clear, both in terms of workload and finance

The South Bristol Link is going ahead and is designed to be a new bus rapid transport link through the South of Bristol. This may have negative effects on Dundry with more traffic at junctions. The Parish Council is flagging up the issues and pushing for solutions

There has been a consultation about 672 bus service which has been retained, and police suggestion of an off-road motorcycle track on the lower Dundry slopes which was not a popular idea and has been dropped.

6.2. DPC within the community

There is now a new Playground with linked celebration and events, including Dundry Day, also an application for funding to Awards for All (see Cllr Jennings' report)

Work is continuing on a Rural Commissioning Network for Youth Activities. More volunteers are needed.

There will be a Jubilee beacon event on June 4th

There is now a Village Orderly (see Cllr Jennings' report)

New waste bins on playing field

Hill Road Turning Circle – thanks to Councillor McCarthy for arranging for 'Community payback' to do some clearing work here.

We have some new grit bins. It is not possible to buy all at once but are getting up-to-date with requests

There have been repairs to assets: (notice boards, Dundry Stone on Dundry lane)

We facilitated fund-raising for the bench in memory of Chris Glover.

We help to take care of and celebrate our natural surroundings (Hill Top Walk, new Tree Warden)

DPC deals with comments on planning applications and enforcement issues

We liaise with NSC about streets and open spaces

We work with other community organisations (Village Hall Committee, HC, School Governor, Patient Consultation Group)

6.3. Administrative Issues

DPC has come a long way in communicating with the community, not only through our Web site, notice boards, parish magazine etc, but also in person. We are pleased to see more members of the public attending our meetings and to receive more and more e-mails and phone calls on various issues. Sometimes, they mean more work for us, but they also show us that our work is appreciated. We can only take action if we are aware of an issue, so please do not hesitate to contact us (not only with complaints, but also with suggestions and contributions - it is your community).

At this point, Cllr Laux said he would personally like to thank his fellow councillors for being such a brilliant team, each with their very particular strengths to contribute to our work. He would also like to thank the Clerk Judith Hoskin who works to maintain the day-to-day running of this council.

At the time of last year's report, there was a vacancy which has now been filled by Councillor Simon Fiddian but last year's local election went uncontested. In the future, we would like to see more councillor candidates, perhaps also with new ideas and we would like to encourage anyone interested.

APM/23/05/2012/7 - 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 2010 -2011, the un-audited accounts from 2011 -2012 and the budget set for 2012 -2013. The total carry-forward from 2011 - 2012 would be £7846.01, which included a ring-fenced sum of £4,013.55. Approximately £2,600 of this was the retention money on the playground which would be paid to the contractor six months after completion once a final completion certificate had been issued.

7.2. The Precept had been increased to £9,000 (from £7,000). There had been some queries about this but the Chair explained that in previous years the council had been trying to 'melt-off' reserves. However, with increased expenses mainly relating to the playground and village orderly this was no longer possible. The Precept was still one of the lowest in North Somerset at £22.88 p.a. for a band D property and a very low proportion of the total Council Tax bill.

APM/23/05/2012/8 - Reports by Parish Organisations

8.1. Village Hall

The chair of the village hall committee had sent a report in which he was pleased to report another successful year for the hall. The highlights were:

- Interior of the Hall gets much needed decoration
- Financial state improving
- Building on the administrative improvements of recent years

He thanked the Hall Committee for their tireless commitment, the Dundry Women's Institute for their generous support and the Parish Council for offering £100 towards purchase of assets.

He also reported that the title to the Hall Trust's property and land currently lies with two named individuals; on the recommendation of the Charities Commission, the committee aims to transfer this title to the Official Custodian for Charities to make the situation future-proof.

He looked forward to another successful year for the Hall in 2012-2013.

The full report is attached.

8.2. Sports and Social Club

The Sports and Social Club had reported a quiet year. There had been some problems with a neighbouring landowner but they hoped to resolve these before the start of the next season.

8.3. Dundry Primary School

Cllr Peters (DPC's representative on the School governors) reported that on Monday 11th June the older children would be visiting the Houses of Parliament where they would meet Dr Liam Fox MP and have a tour. Younger children were still working on the stimulating visit they had had to Hill House Farm where they had been inspired by hands-on activities relating to the art in the environment and wildlife activities.

Parents are working on a shared project to develop the Glebe land by invitation from the Parochial Church Council. This will provide an opportunity for pupils to experience the outdoors as an extension to their classroom activities. Pupils will plan with teachers and parents and liaise with the PCC to achieve their aims. The main school will be decorated inside during the summer holiday as part of a refurbishment plan.

APM/23/05/2012/9 - Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor

9.1. Cllr Gregor had sent his apologies

APM/23/05/2012/10 - Playground Report – Cllr Jennings

10.1. Cllr Jennings reported that Dundry Play sculpture was opened for play in December 2010 and the playground followed in November 2011. We had a well-attended Grand Opening on 6th November and the playground is now in constant use. As well as the main grant of £50,000 to fund the playground and some other smaller amounts which were added to this, Dundry Playground Group, working closely with the Parish Council, received a sustainability grant from Community Spaces. We decided to use this mainly to fund four events in 2012:

- Winter games Event in January
- Dundry day in May (also funded by the Parish council)
- Summer pottery workshop on 8th July
- First birthday event on 30th September

After consultation the Parish Council has applied for more funds (£10,000) for some equipment for older children. We will hear from Awards for All about this application by the end of May.

Cllr Peters thanked the Playground Group for organising Dundry Day.

APM/23/05/2012/11 - Village orderly report – Cllr Jennings

11.1. Cllr Jennings reported that in May 2011 she had identified nine possible village orderlies, and, after speaking to them all, took up references for three. Jody Fairish, of Upton Lane, Dundry, was selected and has been working for Dundry Parish Council ever since. His duties include mowing and litter picking round the playground and play sculpture, looking after the shrubs we planted at the playing field, litter picking and removal elsewhere, and mowing verges where bulbs have been planted. We have a limited budget for him

and cannot always carry out all the work suggested, but parishioners may contact Cllr Jennings to suggest work to be done by Jody.

APM/23/05/2012/12 - Neighbourhood Planning – Report by Cllr Richard Thomas

12.1. Cllr Thomas reported as follows:

Neighbourhood Plans derive from the Government's Localism and Big Society Agenda, with the idea of giving power to local communities.

It potentially give us the opportunity to prepare a Plan for what we want
to preserve the things we value
to influence what new buildings will look like in form and materials.

In Dundry only the Parish Council can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan but we are not obliged to do one. So the PC has to decide whether it is something we should be doing and getting feedback from Parishioners.

There are a number of considerations before making a decision:-

- 1 Consider if it is necessary - what would be the benefits?
- 2 Consider the amount of time needed
- 3 Do we have sufficient expertise?
- 4 Consider the cost.

Necessity

During the preparation of NSC's Core Strategy (now approved) we were able to influence it and secured changes. Dundry is classed as an Infill Village, with new development limited to infill only (1 or 2 dwellings) plus conversions, subdivision of larger properties and essential agricultural dwellings.

Also the policy is to retain and enhance the Parish's countryside character and protect us from any encroaching development from Bristol.

We are of course in the Green Belt and are covered by the Green Belt policies.

Any plan we prepared would have to embody these policies and also central Govt. policies applicable.

Time

To prepare a plan would take, we are advised, 1 to 2 years, including wide consultation including the local community and organisations and various statutory bodies outside the parish.

Resources

This would be a major planning exercise requiring an understanding of National Planning Policies as well as NSC's policies in the emerging Local Plan. We are at present involved in NSC's draft policies and are able to influence how they develop.

There would need to be a massive input from this Council and a commitment from the wider community. It may be necessary to bring in outside professionals.

Cost

There would be a substantial cost, not yet estimated, not just to the Parish, but also to NSC in advising us and checking and approving the eventual plan and paying for an independent assessor and a referendum.

Alternative

Not to do a plan and rely on NSC's Core Strategy and Local Plan, in which we continue to have a say. We already have a Parish Plan which could be strengthened to include some planning preferences such as materials and landscaping and any other issue felt worthwhile.

This would not have the same weight as a Neighbourhood Plan but would still be a relevant document that NSC would have to take into consideration.

Finally it is most important that the Parish supports the decision eventually taken by the Parish Council

APM/23/05/2012/13 - Public Forum

13.1. A parishioner asked whether it was possible to apply for funding from the Parish Council for particular projects as the church was in need of money to put a safety rope in the tower so that visits could re-commence. Councillors said that they would need to see a proposal and costings before taking any decision but that the PCC was welcome to apply.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.08 pm.

Copies of the minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 can be found on the parish website (www.dundry.org.uk) or obtained from the Clerk, Mrs Judith Hoskin – Tel: 0117 9642804, email: parishclerk@dundry.org.uk