

Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015 at 7.30pm *(These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting)*

Chair: Cllr Holger Laux

In Attendance: Cllrs Ralph Gay, Maggie Keast, David Hurford, Steve McCarthy, Nancy Jennings, Richard Thomas, Simon Fiddian

District Cllr Hugh Gregor, PCSOs Ellie Hicks and Charlotte Thompson, Chris Joannou (NSC Community Response Officer), Lee Hiscox to talk about superfast broadband, Duncan McKellar to explain proposed art installation on Dundry Hill.

Clerk: Judith Hoskin

17 Parishioners were also present.

APM/27/04/2015/1 - Apologies 1.1. Apologies had been received from Councillor Jane Pellowe, Councillor Gordon Murphy, Dave Nevitt and Janet Pulman	Actions
APM/27/04/2015/2 - The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish meeting	
APM/27/04/2015/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March 2014 3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 th March 2014 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Fiddian, seconded Cllr Gay)	
APM/27/04/2015/4 - Crime Report 4.1. PCSO Hicks introduced herself and PCSO Thompson and listed the large number of parishes that they cover. She said that PC Martin Faithfull had been off sick but would be returning to duty soon. 4.2. PCSO Hicks said that crime in the parish had been low in the previous month, with one case of criminal damage being reported. Problems in the parish were mainly related to scramble bikes in East Dundry and various traffic issues. 4.3. In answer to a question from Cllr McCarthy PCSO Hicks said that crime in the area was generally related to burglaries, shed break-ins etc. There had been fewer cases of anti-social behaviour in recent months.	
APM/27/04/2015/5 - Proposed art installation on Dundry Hill – Duncan McKellar 5.1. Mr McKellar said that he lived in central Bristol but had recently become aware of Dundry through working on a community arts project connected with the Bristol Green Capital of Europe initiative. Although he had not won the competition for funding he was keen to realise his scheme which would involve a series of tree trunks which would stand up from the ground along the ridge of the hill at up to four different locations. The purpose of these tree trunks would be to provide a convenient leaning post for walkers who are following the east/west footpath. Some of the parishioners present thought this was a very interesting project. There was some discussion of practicalities. Chris Joannou thought that it was unlikely that an installation could be placed in the Hill Road turning circle as this was not only needed as a turning circle but the road is a public right of way and has to be kept open to traffic. PCSO Hicks feared that any art work in the turning circle or Mannings Wood would probably be vandalised.	
APM/27/04/2015/6 - Chairman's Report 6.1. Cllr Laux reported as follows: 'As always at our Annual Parish Meetings, I would like to report on the work this Parish Council has been doing on your behalf over the past twelve months. If you read the minutes of our meetings – and I know many parishioners do – you will know that we are dealing with a variety of local issues, some of which gain wider publicity while others are just dealt with as a matter of routine. It is however important to remember that we are all volunteers trying to achieve the best for our community and that we therefore rely on your support. One large area of responsibility in which we have very little direct power but need to work closely with North Somerset Council is the management of our Streets and Open Spaces, which includes issues such as road repairs, traffic management, fly-tipping, litter removal, drains clearing and verge cutting. The number of problem reports and complaints we receive from parishioners shows us how much they care about these aspects of our environment and I would like to reassure them that we are often just as frustrated as they are with lack of progress. Sometimes, there is no easy solution, such as dealing with fly-tipping but with other problems, such as the prolonged roadworks in Broadoak Hill, it is really a matter of continuously reminding NSC of the importance of such repairs.'	

While these are two particularly disappointing examples, we have generally established a good working relationship with our area officer and have been promised steady improvement despite the county's tight financial budget. However, we would like to encourage members of the public to continue reporting problems directly to North Somerset Council. This is most efficiently done via their Web site and area map so that their officers have a traceable record.

In other requests made to North Somerset, we managed to secure a sufficient number of grit bins in the area, we will have two extra litter bins installed in prominent locations and have been promised that our traditional finger posts are going to be refurbished.

With regards to traffic management, we have some major through roads in our parish which can be dangerous due to high traffic volumes and speeding. We are currently monitoring traffic speeds in Wells Road and Dundry Lane in order to gather evidence and to discuss permanent calming measures. The junction at the bottom of Dundry Lane is particularly dangerous and the situation is bound to get worse once the SBL will be open. We are campaigning for a speed reduction on our stretch of the A38. Currently, a limit of 50mph is considered, but we strongly believe this needs to be reduced further to 40mph.

Despite our relatively small precept (a financial statement will follow this report), Dundry Parish Council employs a village orderly who has been given a list of tasks to carry out around the parish. Following repeated complaints about the cleanliness of our roads, we have made additional funding available for him to do general clearing up where central services have fallen short. We also deposited litter pickers and high-visibility vests at several households in the area for everyone to use. In the spirit of previous Dundry Day events, we are even thinking of organising a village cleanup day this summer. A date has not been set yet, but watch this space!

A large part of our monthly meetings is taken up by planning matters. These include the usual private planning applications but also commenting on large projects such as the new Bristol Water Reservoir which had caused lots of discussion and controversy last year, as well as providing input into new legislation such as the North Somerset Core Strategy and taking part in centrally organised workshops.

In cases where planning regulations have been breached, we work with North Somerset Planning Enforcement Officers for appropriate action to be taken and acceptable solutions to be found.

In addition to these to major areas of activity, Dundry Parish Council is involved in various further projects for the benefit of our community of which I just want to briefly mention a few:

Despite being so close to the City of Bristol, there is very little prospect of Dundry being connected to appropriate Internet speeds in this digital age. This is why Dundry Parish Council has taken the lead and formed an action group with other interested parishioners to look for alternative solutions. Later today, we will hear their assessment of the situation and suggestions to discuss.

After taking ownership of our community Web site in 2013, we continue to develop this facility as a central communication tool. In my second capacity as the Dundry Webmaster, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to sign up to our free weekly e-mail newsletter, which is the easiest way to keep up-to-date with what is going on locally.

Last year, there was much discussion among our residents whether it would be a good idea to install and maintain a defibrillator in the village. We have come to the conclusion that this was probably not the most efficient way to save lives in our location and, in a different approach, organised a "Heartstart" first aid course to get as many people as possible trained up in the necessary skills. This proved to be so popular that we decided to organise a repeat event this year.

Following the closure of many youth centres throughout North Somerset - due to budget cuts - some of the funding has been re-allocated to local initiatives. Our clerk Judith Hoskin, together with local councillor Hugh Gregor, has been a driving force behind a project called "Forward Activities", organising regular, exiting events for young people in Dundry, Winford, Regil and Felton.

We work closely with various local organisations within our parish to support them in their voluntary work. This year, I would especially like to mention the Village Hall Committee, the Sports and Social Club, Dundry Pre-School and St. Michael's Church.

In the wider North Somerset area, we are involved in the Parish Councils Airport Association, the Chew Medical Practice - Patient Reference Group, the Chew Valley Patient Transport Scheme and the Tree Warden Scheme, just to name a few.

We would not be able to do our work without outside help and support. Most notably, we would like to thank our police officers, whose report we have just heard and our local Councillor Hugh Gregor who was always at hand to give us helpful advice and raise issues on our behalf at North Somerset Council.

We are currently in the run-up to local and national elections. As a result of last year's reorganisation of electoral wards, the parishes of Flax Bourton and Barrow Gurney have joined our ward (which by the way, was always our preferred option but took long and hard discussions to achieve). We expect to develop closer ties with our neighbours in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our clerk for their continued good work and

especially for the spirit in which we work together: constructive, sometimes controversial – but always as a team aiming for the best. I feel honoured that I will be able to represent our parish at the Royal Garden Party in two weeks time and, of course, I am looking forward to all the challenges and achievements that lie ahead of us in the coming year’.	
APM/27/04/2015/7 - Financial Report and precept requirements. 7.1. The Clerk circulated a summary of income and expenditure for 2014 – 2015 together with a projected income and budget comparison for 2014 -15 with 2015 – 16 and a document outlining the amount of local council (i.e. parish) council tax payable by Dundry residents for different property bands. She said that the carry forward would be £6565.99 This had enabled councillors not to raise the Precept which would remain at £9,000 (including council tax support grant). The local council element of the council tax for a Band D property would be £23.12, and for a Band H property would be £46.24.	
APM/27/04/2015/8 - Report from District Councillor Hugh Gregor 8.1. Councillor Gregor reported on the work of two of the NSC committees he had served on. 8.1.1. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel. This had recently had presentations on or discussed • The new Southmead Hospital • The controversial closure of the Boulevard Health centre in Weston super Mare • Performance monitors – which public health targets had been reached and which were falling short. These included subjects such excess weight in children, smoking rates, rates of alcohol misuse etc. • There had been a report from the Director of Public Health in North Somerset on helping families to have healthy lifestyles. • A report from the Chairman of Healthwatch North Somerset. • Councillor Gregor said that where relevant he had raised the problem of cross-boundary health provision for patients in the Winford ward. 8.1.2. Children and Young Persons Scrutiny Panel. This had covered subjects such as • Health inequalities • Proposed changes to St Nicholas Chantry School in Clevedon • New school at Locking Parklands • Report of the Respite Care and short breaks working group • Performance monitors – here Councillor Gregor had pointed out that these did not cover the many young people in the Winford ward who attend school in BANES or Bristol. • Dundry School – NSC are pleased with the progress the school has made under the guidance of the new executive board and head teacher. 8.2. A parishioner pointed out that the current state of Broadoak Hill, broadband provision and fly-tipping were all of great concern to parishioners. Cllr Gregor said that he had personally taken the chief executive of NSC, Mike Jackson, on a tour of Broadoak Hill and he understood that money was now available for repairs and that engineers were currently preparing drawings. Parishioners and councillors all expressed their dissatisfaction with the way that this matter had been dealt with by NSC.	
APM/27/04/2015/9 - Reports from Parish organisations 9.1. North Rural Network (Forward Activities) – the Clerk explained that this organisation had been formed when NSC had decided to withdraw funding for youth activities and had instead created 11 networks in the district with the intention that they should carry on with provision. The North Rural network (now re-christened Forward Activities) covers Dundry and Winford parishes. Over the last three years the network had provided a series of out of school activities for young people and would be doing the same over the summer. However, the steering group had shrunk to the point where it was no longer really sustainable without new volunteers and she asked those present to pass on the plea for new volunteers. 9.2. The Sports and Social Club had submitted their accounts but there was no accompanying report. 9.3. St Michael’s Church - One of the Churchwardens explained that the church had been closed for safety reasons because of the poor structural state of the roof. The total cost for repairs would be £250,000. A grant had been received for £100,000 which would enable the nave roof to be repaired and the church partially reopened but further funds were needed. Ninety people had attended a fund raising event which had been held the previous Saturday and some generous donations had been received. Other fund- raising events would be held soon. 9.4. Village Hall – Chairman’s report - Refurbishments had recently taken place. A new treasurer had been found but the committee still needed a new secretary. The committee had reviewed charges but decided to keep them the same. Regular fund-raising events were organised by the	

committee. The Chairman thanked all the hard-working members of the committee.	
APM/27/04/2015/10 - Superfast broadband in Dundry – what are the options? 10.1. Cllr Laux summarised the results of the online survey about broadband in the village. There had been a total of 70 responses out of the 320 properties in the village and many had expressed frustration with the slow broadband speeds. About half the respondents relied on the internet for work. 10.2. Lee Hiscox reported on work done so far by the Broadband Initiative Group: He explained why the Internet in the parish is so slow, what geographical challenges any provider would have to overcome and why the parish will have to wait for a very long time before BT Openreach will (perhaps) connect the parish to their fibre network. Unfortunately, until BT says that it has no intention of ever upgrading the service to the parish no subsidy will be available from Connecting Devon and Somerset. He also explored various options (paying BT a "gap funding" premium of £32,000 + VAT, approaching Virgin Media, using mobile Internet) and listed their advantages and drawbacks. It must be concluded that none of these will give the desired outcome. However, from all the enquiries and research the Broadband Group has carried out, it appears that there is a promising solution: There are providers such as AB Internet who can bring a single high speed connection up the hill and then distribute it wirelessly. From what is known so far, this would involve installing a wireless receiver/repeater to each property at a cost of about £150 and subscribing to a data package for at least one year at a price of between £15 and £40 per month, depending on the speed required (replacing any current Internet contract). (These figures are provisional at the moment and are subject to subscription numbers and a full site survey, which may reveal further costs). The programme could be up and running within the next 3 Months and can be extended year by year until Dundry is finally get connected on the national fibre rollout. There were already expressions of interest from neighbouring parishes which may want to join the scheme, but it has been decided to focus on the various areas of Dundry first. It was agreed that the Initiative will enter into negotiations with AB Internet and hopefully get a survey carried out within the next few weeks. As already indicated above, it is important to get as many households on board as possible, which will put us in a stronger position to negotiate a good deal. 40 expressions of interest is the absolute minimum to be considered (which it appears we already have, thanks to the survey carried out), but the more the better. An arrangement will have to be found that allows further users to join at a later point and that will not penalise early adopters (e.g. by having to foot a set-up charge that later ones don't), it is really important to get a good number to start with.	
APM/27/04/2015/11 - Public Forum 11.1. There were no items for the Public Forum	

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.10 pm.

Copies of the minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2014 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