

Dundry Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7.30pm (These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting)

Chair: Cllr Holger Laux

In Attendance: Cllrs Ralph Gay, Maggie Keast, Steve McCarthy, Nancy Jennings, Simon Fiddian, Thomas Armitt, Jim Scott, Amanda Scott

PS Mark Raby (Beat Sergeant Redwood Beat), Chris Joannou (NSC Community Response Officer), 2 representatives of Truespeed Communications to talk about superfast broadband.

Clerk: Judith Hoskin

10 Parishioners were also present.

APM/25/04/2016/1 - Apologies	Actions																					
1.1. Apologies had been received from Councillor David Hurford and PC Martin Faithful																						
APM/25/04/2016/2 - The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.																						
APM/25/04/2016/3 - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 th April 2015																						
3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 th April 2015 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings (proposed Cllr Fiddian, seconded Cllr Keast)																						
APM/25/04/2016/4 - Broadband – update from Truespeed																						
4.1. Evan Wienburg from Truespeed Communications gave an update on their project to supply the whole of the Chew Valley with superfast "Fibre to the Home" broadband. He explained that after a lot of preparatory work, particularly in raising financial backing, the first part of the project, at Priston, had just gone live. Finance had been secured for extending the service into the Chew Valley and fibre cables would soon be brought to the Portbridge roundabout at the bottom of Limeburn Hill and costs would soon be calculated to extend the cables up the hill to Dundry. Mr Wienburg explained that this needs to be economically viable and that it is important to raise as much interest as possible to share the expense. There are various ways to reduce or subsidise these costs, especially when it comes to connecting isolated properties. He assured us that their systems are well-maintained and future-proof and will make a great difference to the online experience in Dundry. Cllr Laux thanked the representatives of Truespeed for coming to the meeting.																						
APM/25/04/2016/5 - Crime Report																						
APM/25/04/2016/6 - Sergeant Raby explained that he is the Beat Sergeant for the Redwood Beat covering Wraxall, Long Ashton, Failand, Leigh Woods, Abbots Leigh, Barrow Gurney, Flax Bourton, Winford, Felton, Dundry, and Pill. £50m has been taken out of the Avon and Somerset Police budget over three years with the result that officer numbers have been reduced and to cover this huge area there is one beat officer with 3 PCSOs. These are PC Martin Faithful and PCSOs Ellie Hicks, Charlotte Thompson and Kathy Holmes. With such a workload he did not expect officers to attend every meeting or send crime figures every month. However, he was aware that PC Faithful did send figures, possibly in his own time. Officers are contactable on telephone number 101 or by email: Martin.Faithfull@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk CharlotteM.Thompson@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk Eleanor.Hicks@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk and they will try to attend meetings if there is an important issue to discuss.																						
PS Raby read out the following report that PC Faithful had sent with crime figures for the past 12 months (up to 31 th March 2016) When compared with like for like figures (2014 – 2015, 2015 – 2016) there had been both increases and decreases throughout with the greatest increase being in Theft From Motor Vehicles within the Dundry area. For example:																						
<table><tr><td>Offence:</td><td>2014/15</td><td>2015/16</td></tr><tr><td>Dwelling Burglary -</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Non Dwelling Burglary</td><td>4</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Theft</td><td>9</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Drugs</td><td>14</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Assaults</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Theft of / from Motor vehicle</td><td>1</td><td>13</td></tr></table>	Offence:	2014/15	2015/16	Dwelling Burglary -	3	6	Non Dwelling Burglary	4	8	Theft	9	11	Drugs	14	5	Assaults	3	5	Theft of / from Motor vehicle	1	13	
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PC Faithful had commented on some of these issues as follows: Burglaries The majority of crimes within the Dundry area tend to be committed by Travelling Criminals who use the arterial and minor roads to travel to our area and commit offences. I have set up specific operations targeting these routes with the assistance of Other Beat Team members, our Patrol Officer Colleagues and Roads Policing unit. In addition, using the Automated Number Plate Recognition cameras we have been able to build up an intelligence picture on these criminals. We have provided Crime prevention advice where appropriate and offered continued support to those repeat victims working with them in an effort to catch those responsible. Theft from / of Motor Vehicles We continue to visit known locations where vehicles are targeted and have placed/renewed awareness signs warning persons that thieves operate in the area. We will be actively patrolling these areas over the coming months and will actively stop and check anyone acting suspiciously. We will advise anyone seen leaving their vehicle in a vulnerable condition / leaving valuables on display accordingly. Disruption caused by Works vehicles connected to the South Bristol Link Road I am aware that there has been and continue to be issues concerning large vehicles using the roads in and around Dundry These vehicles are primarily connected to the South Bristol Link Road works. We continue to monitor the situation and will approach any company found breaching such things as weight limits and check authorities / permits accordingly. Fly Tipping An increasing issue in and around Dundry appears to be that of Fly tipping which is beginning to feature more on our radar than before. My team and I will look to address this issue working in partnership with North Somerset Council Community response Officers and our colleagues from Waste Management in a joint approach (see also next item) Advice on contacting the Police Something in progress that is clearly criminal in nature - dial 999 Something that can wait - dial 101 or email one of the Beat Team PS Raby said that the Avon and Somerset Police Rapid Response teams would now be located at the Junction 21 enterprise area. The existing Nailsea Police Station would be closing but the beat team would still have a base in the town. A parishioner asked about cars parked for long periods of time on Dundry Lane. PS Raby said that if the vehicle was parked legally there was little the police could do.	
APM/25/04/2016/7 - Fly Tipping 7.1. Chris Joannou (NSC Community Response Officer) and PS Mark Raby had attended the meeting to answer questions about fly-tipping. They said that there is no easy solution to deter fly-tippers. Prosecutions can only be brought on the basis of clear evidence, but it is difficult for the authorities to get permission for covert surveillance. Closing laybys might just make the offenders dump their load even more dangerously in the middle of the road. Although fly-tipping is a criminal offence, please do not contact the police unless the rubbish poses a dangerous obstruction. Instead, please submit your information to NSC online at http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/webselfservice/forms/Services/FlyTippingService/FlyTippingForm.aspx. They will do their best to get it cleared quickly. This is still the most efficient way to keep on top of the problem. Costs for the council are not as high as one might expect since the crews are on regular routes through the district anyway. In addition, there are some early plans for "legal fly-tipping" events where people could get rid of their rubbish without dumping it in the countryside. North Somerset is in discussions with neighbouring authorities about this. Having said this, the police welcome calls to 101 about suspicious vehicles, even if they are not seen in the act of fly tipping. However, residents should be careful not to get into a confrontation with fly tippers, who can be very aggressive.	
APM/25/04/2016/8 - Speed of traffic through parish 8.1. Cllr Laux said that there are several areas in the parish where cars are going too fast, posing a danger to pedestrians and other road users. Last year, the Parish Council collected some data about speeding, using mobile vehicle-activated signs placed on Wells Road and Dundry Lane. Results showed that drivers are regularly breaking the 40 mph limit in these areas. Members of the audience were very concerned about the problem. PS Raby said one approach might be to set up a Community Speedwatch Group. Another might be to reduce the speed limits but this would require a Traffic Regulation Order costing £ 3,500 (although this could cover the whole parish). Chris Joannou (NSC) would check whether the speed limits in the parish were due to be reviewed.	

Meanwhile PS Raby would obtain some road traffic accident figures. (If parishioners have any information or comments either about dangerous speeding in their part of the parish or traffic incidents which might or might not have come to the attention of the police please contact the Clerk on 0117 9642804 or email parishclerk@dundry.org.uk.)	
APM/25/04/2016/9 - District Councillor's report 9.1. Since Councillor Wilton was not present there was no report.	
APM/25/04/2016/10 - Chairman's Report 10.1. Cllr Laux reported as follows: An Annual Parish Meeting (not to be confused with a Parish Council Meeting) is an opportunity for the whole community to take stock, to define what is important to us and how we can work together on problems and projects that concern us all. Looking at today's agenda, you can see that there are quite a number of such projects with detailed reports and opportunities for discussion. Rather than repeating what is going to be presented there, I would like to use this report to highlight some other, ongoing work that your Parish Council has been doing over the past year. Streets and Open Spaces As always, the maintenance of our streets and open spaces is a major area of concern (as it has been, apparently, for the past 50 years, as documented in older council minutes). This is not only due to ordinary wear and tear, but also quite often through inconsiderate behaviour by road users and fly tippers (coming from nearby Bristol). While we do not have direct control over budgets in this area, we keep reminding NS officers of urgent work to be done and are in discussion with them about longer-term solutions. With the help of our district councillor Nick Wilton, it was finally possible to clear up the long-standing road works in Broadoak Hill. Unfortunately, this good road has now become a speeding hotspot again, so further work is needed. Coming to street furniture, a set of 4 new litter bins has been provided and installed in strategic locations, to be used by walkers who may pick up some litter on their way. This will hopefully improve the appearance of our area. We have a number of historic, cast iron finger posts which over the years had deteriorated quite badly. It took some persuasion of NS from the PC and concerned parishioners to have them refurbished last year and they now look nice and fresh again in their black and white colours. Sadly, one of them, at Hairpin Bend, has been vandalised and damaged in a road accident shortly afterwards and NS does not have any funds left for renewed repairs. The PC is looking to have this done out of our own budget. I will not go into details about speeding and traffic problems at this point as we had a comprehensive discussion about this subject at our APM today. Planning Over the past year, Dundry Parish Council was invited to comment on 24 planning applications and we did so, taking both planning regulations and local circumstances into account so that NS planning officers could make informed decisions. In addition, we have been and are currently involved in a number of larger projects: During the course of last year, Bristol Water plc. has built a new reservoir, which was the cause of much discussion in the parish. We tried to maintain close contact with Bristol Water and work with them to achieve the best possible outcome for this necessary development. I am pleased to say that the work has been completed to a high standard. Looking to the future, Dundry is located within the Green Belt and we are pleased that NS places a strong emphasis on the protection of this valuable asset. We have been assured that under the current Core Strategy, to be finalised later this year, there will be no development permitted outside already built-up areas until 2026. However, pressure is mounting in the West of England area to find room for an additional 85,000 homes and the Green Belt is likely to be reviewed. Last month, we already heard from a developer who hopes to benefit from such changes. This shows there is no room for complacency. We need to make sure that we familiarise ourselves with all implications and make our voice heard on behalf of Dundry. As an ongoing concern, Dundry Parish Council is working closely with NS Planning Enforcement Officers and other authorities to ensure that adverse developments are dealt with appropriately. These do not only concern breaches of building and planning regulations but also reviews of HGV traffic arrangements in our area. Representation Dundry Parish Council is represented on various panels and committees to take part in discussions concerning the wider area. Examples of these are the PCAA, the Town and Parish Workshops,	

ALCA and the Chew Valley Forum.

One local project we were invited to take part in much too late to give meaningful input was the setting up of a new community bus to serve Dundry, Winford and Felton with a connection to the airport. Unfortunately, we were not able to get across that this would not be best received by people of Dundry who need to get into Bristol and consequently, the bus link was discontinued earlier this year due to lack of usage.

Community

Last year, we used our APM to discuss improvements to Dundry's broadband connection, which is woefully inadequate at a time when this is considered a basic utility such as water and electricity and when many businesses and households cannot function properly without a good Internet connection. I am sorry to say that not much progress has been made in the past 12 months. BT Openreach have postponed our update for yet another year and our talks with alternative providers have not led to any usable results. However, today, we have Evan Wienburg from Truespeed Communications with us who can hopefully shed some light on a way forward. We can also draw some hope from the government's plans to introduce a Universal Service Obligation which might allow us to demand a connection from a chosen provider.

In previous years, there had been some discussion whether it would make sense to install a defibrillator somewhere in the village, which could be a helpful tool to save someone having a cardiac arrest. Due to our geographical layout, it was decided that this would not be very efficient and instead, the Parish Council opted to offer First Aid Hearstart sessions free of charge to anyone interested. Last year, we had our second annual session, which was again very well attended. It proves that it is not only technology that can save lives but basic medical knowledge is just as important.

We were quite alarmed to learn that Dundry Primary School, after recent changes to become an academy, has hit another set of problems, though not through the fault of their very committed staff, students and parents. The Parish Council has offered its help and support but understands that the school's administration has first to be brought back on track before outside links can be re-established.

Our clerk had, together with two other volunteers, set up a youth network called Forward Activities and organised a number of exciting activities for young people. Despite some well-attended events, this project has not been able to take on a life of its own and it was with regret that the network had to be dissolved and remaining funds passed back to North Somerset to be re-used in other youth projects.

On a more positive note, there are two new initiatives involving a Parish Recycling Scheme and a Footpath Survey that we hope to get the community interested in. Councillors A Scott and Armit are going to present these to you today, so I will not explain any more details here.

Dundry Parish Council continues to run the Dundry Web site and e-mail newsletter as a community resource, information channel and as means to fulfil its obligation to openness, transparency and public scrutiny (In addition to minutes and agendas, many more documents, in particular of a financial nature, will be published here in the near future.). Please make as much use of the Web site as you can, let the editor know if you think something should be published and spread the word to anyone who is not aware of it yet.

Thanks

And finally, it is time to recognise the work everyone has done and to thank them for their involvement.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my fellow councillors who each bring their unique expertise to this team and make our work a joint effort. There have been some changes in the makeup of this council over the past year and at times we felt slightly stretched being reduced to only 8 instead of 10 councillors. After the departure of Cllrs. Thomas, Pellowe and Murphy, we had Cllr. Amanda Scott join us as an enthusiastic representative of the younger generation and – most recently – Cllr. Jim Scott and Cllr. Thomas Armit whom I would like to welcome again officially. I am pleased and relieved that all seats are being taken now.

This council would not be able to function in any way without the tireless work of our clerk Judith, constantly reminding us of deadlines to be met, meetings to be attended, being busy writing minutes, researching information and keeping our finances in order. So, thanks, Judith, your work is

much appreciated. In last year's election, Nick Wilton has become our new district councillor. He was instrumental in pushing the Broadoak Hill road works to a conclusion and is always happy to help us find the right contacts and connections at NSC. We would like to thank him and look forward to continued good co-operation. I would also like to thank our police officer and PCSO, whose report we heard earlier on. We realise that financial cuts meant police work had to change dramatically and that the times when our friendly officers found the time to attend every parish council meeting plus a number of community events have long gone. However, we are assured that the police are as approachable as ever and will continue to support us. Please do not hesitate to call them on 101 or 999 (in case of an immediate emergency). We also find their regular crime updates and general advice very helpful, which you can find on the Dundry Web site. As you know, the Parish Council employs Jody Fairish as our village orderly to keep certain areas tidy. And although he cannot and is not expected to attend to the whole village and parish single-handedly, we would like to thank him for his good work. Finally, I am looking forward to working with this council and the whole of the community throughout the coming year and am happy to answer any questions you may have about this report. Cllr McCarthy thanked Cllr Laux for the work he did as Chairman.	
APM/25/04/2016/11 - Financial Report and precept requirements. 11.1. The Clerk circulated a summary of income and expenditure for 2015 – 2016 together with a projected income and budget comparison for 2015 -16 with 2016 – 17 and a document outlining the amount of local council (i.e. parish) council tax payable by Dundry residents for different property bands. 11.2. She said that the carry forward had been £6975.74 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 £23.15, and for a Band H property would be £46.30. 11.3. A parishioner asked whether there were things that the parish council would like to do if the Precept were higher, for example paying the village orderly to clear more litter. Councillors said that this might be possible. It was also pointed out that litter pickers were available round the parish for parishioners to use. The Clerk would check whether information on their location was on the website.	Clerk
APM/25/04/2016/12 - Parish Recycling scheme 12.1. Cllr Armitt had been looking into a new NSC incentive to reduce the landfill rubbish produced in the district. With 66 kg per household per quarter, Dundry is one of the least efficient areas in North Somerset (36th out of 39 parishes) 12.2. The scheme offers three levels of financial reward to the parish if more members of the community commit to reducing their residual waste. Various other measures such as meeting the recycling crews, engaging with the school and setting up specific recycling events are on offer as well. Results cannot be achieved quickly. Cllr Armitt said it would be a long and steady process, but we should make a start. The Parish Council will keep parishioners updated. (Please contact Thomas_Armitt@hotmail.com if you would like more info).	
APM/25/04/2016/13 - Footpath Survey 13.1. Following a request from NSC, Cllr A Scott had undertaken an initial survey of footpath signs and entry points in the parish and found many of them in need of attention. However, since there is no funding available from NSC, a survey is required to identify which footpaths are in most urgent need, who is legally responsible for their maintenance and where funds could possibly be obtained from. Cllr A Scott would make further enquiries. (In the meantime, please contact her on adeandrade@hotmail.co.uk, if you are interested in taking part in the project).	
APM/25/04/2016/14 - Any other issues 14.1. No other issues were raised	

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.03 pm.

Copies of the minutes of the Dundry Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2016 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