

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council 21/03/2022

Present: Cllrs John Barrow (Chairman), Brendan Procter (Vice Chairman), Kerri Webber, Tina Page, Philip Stevens, Andrew Maynard, John Sipple, County Councillor Iain Chubb, District Councillor Colin Brown

Apologies: Cllr Luscombe, DCllr David Key

In attendance: Kay Smith (clerk) and one member of the public

All councillors are politely reminded of their obligation to declare interests under the Code of Conduct. In making decisions the Parish Council recognise their statutory duties provided for in Section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (National Parks) and Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (AONBs) that in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land, they shall have regard to their purposes (ie conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities by the public).

1.1 **Receive apologies** - Apologies were accepted

1.2 **Minutes** of the previous meeting held on **Monday 21st February 2022** to be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

Resolution: The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed.

1.3 **Declarations of Interest and Risk Assessment:** To receive declarations of interest and to note any additional risks. - There were no declarations of Interest.

Public Open Session (15 Minutes)

2 Planning

<https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Decisions (for information)

Approval with Conditions - 21/1497/FUL Building Adjacent Turbury Dunkeswell - Replacement of existing agricultural building with 5x live-work units.

Approval retrospective (conditions) - Orchard Cottage Dunkeswell Abbey Honiton EX14 4RP - Demolition and replacement of outbuilding.

Planning Applications (for comment and Information) **None received**

Appeals

3 Trees

Decisions (for information)

Approval with Conditions - 48 Louis Way Dunkeswell Honiton EX14 4XW - Ash quantity 1 : crown raise to achieve five metre clearance.

Tree Applications (for comment and Information)

3.1 22/0384/TRE 1 Highfield Road Dunkeswell Honiton EX14 4XY - The Beech and Ash hedge located in the rear garden of number 19 Potters Stile - Reduce the height of all of the Beech trees in the hedge to a height of 10 Feet so as to allow proper future management and maintenance of the hedge. Ash trees in the hedge should to be felled as vulnerable to Ash dieback. They could then be replaced with smaller more appropriate specimens.

Beech x 2. All limbs of 4" diameter or less to be removed to reduce the canopies and all limbs below 25 feet to be cut back to the main trunk to lift the crown.

Oak, reduce the crown by pruning out all limbs of 4" diameter or less.

The objective of this maintenance should be to separate the crowns of the three trees, so that they are again identifiable as individual specimens and to allow more light and air into the houses and gardens whilst reducing debris fall below the canopies and maintaining healthy trees with balanced canopies. The reduction of the canopies will also make the trees less top heavy, particularly when in leaf, and so will reduce the risk of the trees falling in windy conditions. (For comment)

Resolution: Council had no objections to this application

4 Highways

4.1 **Lengthsman/Highways Issues to report** - Clerk to continue reporting any know potholes Potholes to be reported: Combe Hill & Springfield reported today online and direct to Highways Office to see if he can speed things along. Reply from Highways to say they will be at the location in the near future and will assess them, if they haven't already been dealt

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council 21/03/2022

with . Additional pothole to be reported Abbey Road, approx. 80 metres past the turning to Bowerhayes Lane.

5 Footpaths and Bridleways - All up to date

6 Environment

7 Community and Governance

7.1 **Police Reports** - PCSO is happy to arrange a "Meet the Police", date to be arranged, requested a visit at The Village Hall and Highfield on the same day.

Recommendation; that the clerk contact PCSO early May and arrange a date.

Resolution: Council accepted the recommendation and an event to be arranged for June

7.2 **Parks** -

a) Cleaning equipment in the New Century and Churchill Parks has been requested, this is likely to take place in April/May. (for information)

b) **Signage for the Parks** - Examples sent to all councillors for approval, Prices sourced locally and online and provided to Councillors. To consider the options. **(for agreement)**

Resolution: The council resolved use the local printers, clerk to make contact, provide examples/colours and order.

i) It had also been noted that the Dog path sign was missing, it is believed that the Electricity company may/will replace this. A councillor will keep an eye out and report at the next meeting.

7.3 **Dog Bin Powells Way** - information sent to councillors to consider the options for purchase. **(for agreement)**

Resolution: It was resolved that the clerk order the bin and add to the contract for collection.

7.4 **Sheldon** - Enquiry from Sheldon regarding purchase of portable batteries in case of power failure. Email sent to all councillors for consideration. **(for information/comment agreement)**

Resolution: Councillors agreed that they would not purchase batteries or a generator as they felt the number of times this would be used weighed against the continual maintenance to ensure they were in working order when they were required plus the cost far outweighed any benefit.

7.5 **Meeting Dates & Annual Meeting of Parishioners** - To approve the proposed meeting dates for the year and agree when to hold the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.**(For comment)**

Resolution: The Council meeting dates were agreed and it was resolved to hold Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Council Meeting on Monday 16th May 2022 7.00pm - 7.30pm Annual Council meeting and essential council business, followed by, 7.30pm - onwards Annual Meeting of Parishioners, Clerk to invite local groups & services to speak. This year the venue will be the Old Village Hall.

7.6 **VAS Signs** - Clerk emailed costs to councillors for purchasing and also the advice from Highways regarding getting VAS signs installed on the road side. As a guide the Council would need to do the following..

- Permanent siting would not be granted by Highways
- Signs would need to be moved monthly
- Signs and battery changing would need to be done by a Chapter 8 trained person
- Signs must be located 100m inside the MPH signs
- Location sites are to be approved by Highways
- Highways like to purchase signs (Westcotec) on PC behalf to meet a criteria/are happy to approve different signs if required.
- Cost of locating and purchasing one sign is approx. £500 **(for comment)**

Resolution: Council agreed that this was a much more complicated and expensive project than first thought, whilst they feel that this could help speeds through the Village, the fact that amongst other things the signs have to be moved monthly and by a qualified person takes away from what they had had in mind and also adds to the costs. They agreed to pause this for the moment and asked the clerk to find out if it is possible, what the criteria is to allow for permanently sited sign/s.

7.7 **Grass Cutting - To consider grass cutting in the Parish for 22/23**

Resolution: Council resolved to continue to retain the services of Cut & Strim Gardening Services for 22/23. It was unanimously agreed.

8 Finance (For information/agreement)

8.1 **Grants** -

£

8.2 **Receipts** -

£

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council 21/03/2022

8.3 Cheque Payments	
Clerk Remuneration	£ 1126.56
DPC HMRC PAYE	£ 81.08
Clerk Expenses, Stationery, Stamps	£ 41.05

(Cheques were Agreed)

8.4 **Bank Reconciliation** - to review, check and sign the reconciliation.

Comment: The bank reconciliation was checked, approved and signed.

Account balances – Parish Account - at 28 February 2022, statement number 153 Closing Balance £46388.26 (This is a reconciled balance at 7th March 2022)

Business at the Chairman’s discretion (no decision making during this item)

a) Use of Parks - New Century Park is often used by groups & the community for holding an event. Following a recent enquiry, the Council found it necessary to check with its insurers. The outcome of the discussions is, Whilst the Council do not wish to put anyone off using the park/s for gatherings, if anyone would like to use the park for an organised event, please let the Council know in advance by emailing clerk@dunkeswell-pc.gov.uk

b) Licensing Application - Licensing Application for Many Hands Brewery Ltd, % VIGO Ltd The Airfield Dunkeswell.

This application arrived too late to be an agenda item for a decision, the council discussed the proposed application and felt the opening hours to be excessive. The comments will be submitted by the clerk using the Scheme of Delegation. Clerk to write a letter and outline the views of the council.

c) Hedges - Councillors have noticed that some Hedges are over growing the pavements/ walkways and ask all residents to take a look and if necessary please give them a trim.

Cllr Colin Brown

Cllr Brown updated the Councillors on the car parking charges and was disappointed not have better news. Charges will be £1.50 or £2.00 per hour in local car parks, something he has fought against. Cllr Brown feels that this will have an impact on local business's and that customers may choose not to use local services and businesses on a regular basis.

Cllr Iain Chubb

Cllr Chubb updated councillors on the “20’s Plenty” project, where local councils can apply and nominate areas in their Village/Town to have a 20mph speed limit. The £150 council Tax rebate for band A - D, paying by Direct Debit will be applied automatically, for higher band properties Property owners must show that they need the financial support. DCC are helping & supporting Ukraine during these difficult times and advise anyone wishing to donate, to donate to a large organisation, such as, the Red Cross or Save the Children to ensure their donation gets to Ukrainians in need.

Cllr Chubb attended the East Devon Rail forum, discussing the future of services in East Devon, looking at providing “Loops” to enable/encourage hourly services to Exeter, this was the inaugural meeting of this group, so early days in regard of plans, Some Towns & Villages, with stations, are looking at planning flowers in bloom competition.

Locality Budget - The budget this year has been reduced but Cllr Chubb continues to welcome applications for a small grant for local projects.

Christmas Lights! - Following the success of the Christmas lighting last year, a quiz has been organised on Friday 8th April to raise funds to add to the lights. To be held in Throgmorton Hall. Posters will be displayed shortly with more details.

Offer of help - The councillors were pleased to welcome a member of the public to the meeting. Following discussions, a show of appreciation was made for work already being carried out by the gentleman and others in the community, for all their efforts to keep Dunkeswell looking neat and tidy on and in communal areas. An offer of further help was made, which the council appreciated and was accepted. In this time of budget constraints, The Council would like to take this

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council 21/03/2022

opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who helps to keep communal areas tidy, this includes, the odd un-owned strips of grass, weeds in pavement and those picking litter to name but a few. Your help is so important and makes living and working in Dunkeswell, a more pleasant experience. Thank you.

Email, web and social media enquiries have been responded to and councillors copied in, councillors are asked to consider if further action or correspondence is necessary.

Dates for meetings 2022 - 2023 can be found at <https://www.dunkeswell-pc.gov.uk/>
Next meeting - 25th April 2022, Dunkeswell Village Hall, 7.30pm