

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council, held in the Village Hall on Monday 16th October 2023, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs John Barrow, Brendan Procter, Tina Page, Andrew Luscombe, Philip Stevens, Andrew Maynard, John Sipple, David Pidsley, County Councillor Iain Chubb, District Councillor's Colin Brown & Yehudi Levine

Apologies:

In attendance: Kay Smith (clerk) and no members of the public attended

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).

23/102 Receive apologies - Cllr 's Levine, Brown and Chubb will attend late due to attending another Meeting. - **noted**

23/103 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 to be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

Resolution: The minutes of 18th September 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed

23/104 Declarations of Interest and Risk Assessment: To receive declarations of interest and to note any additional risks - **No Declarations were made**

Public Open Session - no member of the public in attendance

Planning

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

23/105 Planning Decisions (for information)

a) **Approved** - 23/0019/FUL Stentwood Farm Dunkeswell Honiton EX14 4RW - Erection of a two storey, partially steel framed, partially masonry agricultural shed, for the purpose of farm machine storage/workshop and vegetable storage. - **noted**

b) **Refused** - 23/1111/OUT Land Adjacent 1 Ball Knapp Dunkeswell Honiton EX14 4QQ - Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of one dwelling. - **noted**

23/106 Planning Applications (to be considered)

a) **23/1972/FUL 30 Walcott Way Dunkeswell EX14 4XP** - The erection of a single storey rear extension and the installation of Solar Panels. (expiry to comment 11.10.23)
In consultation with the Council, comments have been submitted by the clerk using the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk on 19.9.23. To be ratified.

Comment: There are No objections to this application

Resolution: Council approved the comments

b) **23/1711/CPE Dwelling West Of Abbeywood Cottage Dunkeswell** - Erection of one dwelling house (use class C3). (Expiry to comment 19.10.23)

Resolution: No comments to be made

23/107 Tree Decisions (for information) - none received

23/108 Tree Applications (for consideration)

a) **23/2016/TRE 37 Simcoe Way Dunkeswell Devon EX14 4UR** - G1 - x3 Beech, x2 Ash - to reduce the crown height by removing branch lengths of approximately 4m to past historic pruning points making natural target pruning cuts of up to 75mm in diameter and pruning the crown spread both garden side and roadside by approximately 1m making natural target pruning cuts of up to 25-50mm in diameter and removing all Ivy from the trunks of these trees. T1 - Oak tree - to dismantle this tree in a controlled manner cutting as close to ground level as possible (expiry to comment 14.10.23)

In consultation with the Council, comments have been submitted by the clerk using the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk on 15.10.23 To be ratified.

Comment: There are no objections to this application

Resolution: Council approved the comments

23/109 Highways

a) **Issues to report** - no issues reported

b) **Letter from resident PC Magazine** - To discuss the suggestion made regarding weeds on pavements.

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Resolution: This was discussed at length again by Council and whilst the Council agree the state of the weeds is unsightly and they agree the with comments made in the Parish Magazine and other media sites; It was agreed that previous decisions made based on the cost, the difficulties and licences required to spray pavement edges/cut all areas that are now not serviced regularly by the District/County councils, would be a large burden for the community and remain of the view that without raising the precept fairly significantly this is not something the PC should look to take on. Getting the balance right between which areas would be included and what is treated and who/which residents in Dunkeswell benefit from these actions is also an issue that would need to be assessed and addressed. District Councillors will approach Streetscene and ask if they can help to tidy up the main Highfield Road given that Dunkeswell receives few other services from them.

23/110 Footpaths and Bridleways - Contact with the PROW officers to be made regarding one footpath that is bad affected by over grown fir trees that need trimming back substantially. Footpaths warden to contact DCC to resolve this.

23/111 Environment

23/112 Community and Governance

a) Parks

- i) NCP - quotes for swing seats and chains, update from councillors and clerk.
Seat quotes to review.

Resolution: Quotes to be gained from HAGs - Cllr Barrow to look into this.

b) Marcus rd/Flightway & other concerns

Comments: Following the update to District Councillors from EDDC it appears that the earth mounds are part of the building works and there is nothing untoward with this. The Council continue to have serious concerns about this site and the amount of earth that has been brought to the site already and on a daily basis continues to be delivered to site. Council estimates that in the last week the height of the mounds have risen by approx. 6 - 10 ft.

Additional information: The morning after this meeting, a councillor observed a truck dumping yet more earth and it was also reported to them that some loads were being taken to the Pump fields site. Clerk to contact a resident who has offered drone footage of the site, over time.

Councillor Levine offered to try and arrange a meeting with the developers to resolve some or all of the concerns the Council have.

c) Village Hall Project - Re-quotes chased 26.9.23 - Roofing quote received, Suspended ceiling quote - provider wishes to revisit but is happy to requote, to be arranged, emailed 26.9.23. Toilet quote received.

Heating and flooring providers previously agreed, either can no longer supply or don't wish to re-quote. To Discuss.

Resolution: Council were pleased that some quotes have been received. They fully appreciate that some services/suppliers do not wish to re-quote and given the difficulty with sourcing further quotes for the heating system and the time this will take, the council feel it may be a better option to break the project into smaller tasks and complete them one at a time. Clerk to contact the Village Hall Committee and update them and agree how to proceed.

d) Press & Media Policy - To review and consider adopting.

Resolution: It was resolved to adopt the Press & Media Policy

e) Grass Cutting - to discuss and agree what the PC want in terms of the Dog Path (Electricity box to the gate) and the NCP Boundary before winter and for the coming year/s

Resolution: It was resolved that the dog path (between the electricity Box and the gate) should be trimmed twice a year, after the first flush of growing in Spring and in Autumn. The hedge should be trimmed once a year. NCP Boundary trimmed in Autumn and a light trim in summer if getting out of control. It was also agreed to ask that the bushes in the NCP flower beds are trimmed. Clerk to arrange this.

23/113 Finance (For information/agreement)

a) Grants Received –

£

b) Receipts -

£

£

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c) Invoices for Payment to the date of the Meeting - October were agreed	
Cut & Strim gardening services - 10.10.2023	£201.00
SMA PAYE - 28.9.23	£7.41
DALC - Training Chairing Meetings Cllr Sipple	£36.00
Clerk PAYE - £ 875.60 gross Clerk Expenses - Stationery, stamps, printer ink & Defib pads £168.51	£ 929.40 net +Exp £168.51 Total £1097.91
DPC HMRC PAYE - Employees & Employers	£16.23

c) Finance Report & Finance Group - to note the Finance report and to consider a finance working party to discuss the precept.

Resolution: Council confirmed receipt of the Finance report and had noted its contents. It was agreed that a working party would arrange to meet and discuss the precept. Clerk to arrange a date.
During this discussion it was also noted that some earmarked reserves would need to be reviewed and either be re-allocated to other projects, re-costed or be taken into the General reserves, to be reviewed and discussed by the working party with recommendations made to Council at the November meeting.

d) SMA PAYE - Invoicing for this just misses most DPC meetings, to consider alternatives such as setting up SO/DD monthly, for consideration.

Resolution: It was resolved that a Direct Debit should be set up, clerk to arrange this.

23/114 Account balances - at 29th September 2023, statement number 173 Closing Balance £62398.03 (This is a reconciled balance at 3rd October 2023) - **noted**

23/115 Communications

- a) Code of Conduct Training - Email sent to all Cllr's 28.9.23. - **noted**
- b) Climate and Ecology Bill - emailed to Cllr's 5th October, for consideration. - **noted**
- c) Martyn's Law - Presentation emailed to all Cllrs 3rd October, for consideration/comment

Resolution: It was agreed that the clerk will look into this and source further information, to report back at the November meeting.

- d) Aubergine Website - The Government are to update the Accessibility Requirements for websites from October 2024. Email from Aubergine to say they will update the website to comply with the new criteria (WCAG 2.2AA) as it comes and let us know what has changed. We were asked to check the content of our website, but as you receive the quarterly reports this is already done. No further action required by the PC. - **noted**

23/116 Clerks Update

- a) Clerk has ordered and received Printer inks and Defib pads for the shop Defib. - **noted**

23/117 Business at the Chairman's discretion (no decision making during this item)

Tree Query - There had been a query from a resident regarding the ownership of a tree/s. This had been investigated some years ago by the PC. The conclusion at that time was that the PC do not own these trees and that they belong to the property. The current owners will keep the PC informed, via the clerk, during their investigations.

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 2023 - 2024 can be found at <https://www.dunkeswell-pc.gov.uk/>
All Minutes & Agendas can found at <https://www.dunkeswell-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings/>

Next meeting - Parish Council Meeting Monday 20th November 2023, 7.30pm at Dunkeswell Village Hall.