

Minutes of the Meeting of Dunkeswell Parish Council, held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th November 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: Cllr Page, Cllr Chubb
In attendance: Kay Smith (clerk) and one member 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).

23/118 Receive apologies - received and approved

23/119 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16th October 2023 to be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

Resolution: The minutes of Monday 16th October 2023 were resolved as a correct record and duly signed.

23/120 Declarations of Interest and Risk Assessment: To receive declarations of interest and to note any additional risks. No declarations made at the start of the meeting, see 23/132 d,

23/121 Public Open Session (15 minutes)

a) Drone footage - Drone footage of the area over the building site at Land North of Louis Way was presented. Showing, amongst other things, the increase in size of the mound of earth on the opposite side of the road. The Council are grateful for this information as this will allow them to be able to prove, if required, what level the mound should be returned to. Currently, you can no longer view the large trees at the back of this area and this has impacted the landscape of the area. The program can measure amounts to within approx. a 2cm accuracy. Cllrs Brown and Levine both requested the footage and their email addresses to be forwarded to the Drone operator by the clerk and the information will be provided. Council requested the clerk contact EDDC to find out how long after a notice is served the recipient has to comply with the notice. The Chair thanked the Drone operator for their support with matter.

Planning

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

23/122 Planning Decisions (for information)

Refusal - 23/1339/LBC Autumn Cottage Dunkeswell Devon EX14 4RE - 10 replacement windows to property to front and sides - **noted**

Approval with Conditions - 22/2317/FUL & 22/2318/LBC Musgrove Farm Dunkeswell EX14 4RR - Conversion of barns to 3 No. Holiday let accommodations and additional amenity space for dwelling. - **noted**

Approval - 23/1972/FUL 30 Walcott Way Dunkeswell EX14 4XP - The erection of a single storey rear extension and the installation of Solar Panels. - **noted**

23/123 Planning Applications (to be considered)

a) **23/2243/FUL 70 Jenwood Road Dunkeswell Honiton EX14 4UZ** - Erection of a single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory. In consultation with the Council, comments have been submitted by the clerk using the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk on 7.11.23

Comment "No Objections to this Application" to be ratified.

Resolution: The comments were resolved by Council

23/124 Tree Decisions (for information)

Approval with Conditions - 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. - **noted**

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Split Decision - 23/1937/TRE 3 Jenwood Road Dunkeswell EX14 4UZ - T1, Ash with Ash Die Back : removal to the ground level (or very hard cutting); replacement planting.- **noted**

23/125 Tree Applications (for consideration)

23/126 Highways

a) **Issues to report** - Clerk to query with Highways if the bottom of Windgate hill from Combe Raleigh crossroads is to be done.

23/127 Footpaths and Bridleways

a) Update of Footpath with overhanging trees (Cllr Barrow)

Resolution: Cllr Barrow updated council. The trees on Footpath 1 need to be trimmed back off the footpath. It was agreed the clerk would write to the landowner to let them know this needs to be done as there are large hanging broken branches that could fall into the pathway and that they are impeding the pathway for regular trimming. The Council believe this is a H&S risk to people using the path and should be addressed as soon as possible as this is a well used Public footpath. The Warden confirmed that he has discussed this with PROW officers at DCC, and that there is enough money left in the P3 Footpaths budget to do this work, if necessary.

23/128 Environment

23/129 Community and Governance

a) **Parks**

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

Resolution: Cllr Barrow presented the quote obtained, it was agreed that due to the difficulty in obtaining quotes for replacement equipment that would fit the existing equipment frames, that returning to the original supplier was the best option and that no further quotes were required. It was agreed the clerk will place the order as per the quote and payment to be made up to the value of the quote as requested by the supplier. It was agreed the equipment will be fitted by councillors as the charges for installation were felt to be excessive.

b) **Marcus rd/Flightway/ North Louis Way.**

i) **Land North of Louis Way** - update from Cllr Levine, an enforcement notice has been made to reduce the mound of earth to its original size. Drone footage of before and during/after has been offered previously, PC to ask if this can be made available to them.

Resolution: **Please see 23/121 above** Footage to be given to the PC of before and during works at North of Louis Way showing the increase in the size of the mound. Both District Councillors requested the footage and clerk to email addresses to the Drone Operator.

c) **Village Hall Project** - Due to absence little progress has been made.

Resolution: Clerk to inform VHall Comm. and to pick this up in the new year.

d) **SMA Direct Debit** - Unable to set up a DD, this must be a standing order, (advice from Co-op Bank). Clerk to update, Council to agree a way forward.

Resolution: It was agreed that either a Standing Order or recurring payment could be raised online to pay this monthly. Clerk to investigate a recurring payment in the first instance as advised by the Bank.

23/130 Finance (For information/agreement)

a) **Grants Received –**

£

b) **Receipts** - DWP - re-imburement - **noted**

£ 269.39

c) **Pay Award** - to note the pay increase and agree to the payment of Backpay April - Oct 2023, as below. - **Noted & Agreed.**

d) Invoices for Payment to the date of the Meeting - November payments were agreed	
Cut & Strim gardening services - 9.11.23	£411.00
EDDC - Dog & Later collections 23/24	£1056.00
SMA PAYE - 30.10.23	£7.41

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d) Invoices for Payment to the date of the Meeting - November payments were agreed	
Clerk PAYE - £ 1037.89 gross + backpay April - Oct 23 pay increase £530.55 = TOTAL Gross £1568.44 Clerk Expenses - Stationery, stamps, etc £19.80	£1422.19 net + Exp £19.80 Total £1441.99
DPC HMRC PAYE - Employees & Employers	£253.95

e) Budget Prep/Precept - To discuss the draft report and agree the earmarked funds.

Resolution: The Council reviewed the draft precept/budget reports and draft earmarked funds provided via email by the clerk, the Council agreed the revised earmarked funds list and that the precept should be based on a budget of £37000 to allow for increases in basic costs. Clerk to revise the budget inline with this request and present the a final budget at the December meeting for agreement.

23/131 Account balances - at 31st October 2023, statement number 174 Closing Balance
£61039.48 (This is a reconciled balance at 2nd November 2023) - **noted**

23/132 Communications

a) BHPN Annual; meeting - Invitation forwarded to all councillors 31.10.23

Comment: Cllr Barrow had attended the meeting and updated council.

b) NHPlan Survey - sent to cllrs 1.11.23 for discussion.

Comment: Not discussed due to the length of the meeting, clerk to email for comments

c) Sheldon - Change of Chair and thanks to the PC for support. - **noted**

d) Heath Land Long Lane - Email information from DCC forwarded 7.11.23 to councillors - to discuss.

Resolution: A Cllr was unsure if they needed to make a declaration for this item, this was discussed by council and the clerk and it was agreed that for this discussion the Cllr would remain in meeting, due to the fact the discussion was regarding the plans of this project and no voting on decisions was required and the Cllrs knowledge of this area could be of useful from a PC/ Community point of view. Clerk to clarify with EDDC Monitoring Officer, before the Cllr takes any further part in any future discussions.

This project was in principle looked upon favourably by Council, although the details are few at moment due to being the start of the project. Information from DCC had been sent to all councillors. Council were pleased to know that the project plans to re-instate what is currently a piece of scrubland back to heathland. They were pleased that this site is to be improved and were appreciative of the fact that scrubland rather than useful agricultural land had been identified to be returned to its natural form. The Councillors, due to lack of detail available currently, do have some concerns that they would like to discuss with the project leaders and agreed to ask if a meeting can be arranged. Clerk to arrange.

e) Code Of Conduct Course - Via zoom 30th November, Cllrs Barrow & Sipple and clerk to attend so far. - **noted**

f) Dog fouling & Bins - Email from a resident asking if a bin could be provided Powells Way/Pump Fields/ Holiday Park. To Discuss. Awaiting call from EDDC Dog Warden.

Resolution: The dog warden has been in contact and has put up information stickers, Pavement Tattoos requested, awaiting a call back. Confirmation from Streetscene that it continues to be the case that no further collections can be added at this time and this prevents the addition of a bin in Pumpfields/holiday Park roads. It was agreed at this time, no further bins will be provided. Email reply to be sent, clerk to action.

g) BHPN Hinkley C Visit - Invite received for one Councillor to attend, to be agreed. Cllr Barrow reserved the place at the BHPN meeting and will attend, to be agreed.

Resolution: Cllr Barrow to attend.

23/133 Clerks Update

23/134 Business at the Chairman's discretion (no decision making during this item)

a) Speeding/SpeedWatch - Cllr Sipple raised the issue of speeding in the Village, this following an invitation to take part in speeding awareness week. The difficulty Dunkeswell has is that currently no safe sites for monitoring, in the areas that the PC feel are necessary have been identified, Cllr

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Sipple has pointed this out to the Police and conversations continue. In addition to this, recently there have been posts on social media and the PC has received complaints about speeding, particularly on Highfield Road. Cllr Sipple continues to try to get safe sites identified and in the event this is achieved, the PC will look again to try and get a SpeedWatch group set up. A request for monitoring on Highfield Road has been made and we await a reply. Clerk to contact the PCSO for support.

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 11th December 2023, 7.30pm at Dunkeswell Village Hall.