

The Duntisbournes' Parish Council

Minutes of the 161st Meeting on Tuesday 22nd August 2017 at 7.30pm in Duntisbourne Abbots Village Hall.

Present: Mr R. Lane (Chair), Mrs J.R. Edwards, Mr J. Weston, Mr W.J. Eykyn, Mr R. Carver, Mrs C. Cuthbert (Clerk)

Also present: Mr & Mrs G. Lucas, Mr & Mrs J. Francis, Mrs J. Becket, Mrs K. Parker, Mrs A. Eykyn

Apologies: Mrs L. Whittaker, Mr R. Bliss

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – were approved.

2. Matters Arising:

Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting – 20th Sept. 2017. JRE or RDL agreed that one of them would attend & report back.

Duntisbourne Leer Sign – JRE reported that Rick Piercy from Duntisbourne Leer has kindly offered to keep the area around the sign from becoming overgrown. It was also reported that Andrew Smith has offered to keep the Toombes Green area clear on an ongoing basis. The Parish Council send their thanks to Rick and Andrew for this valued contribution, and also to Brian Thomas, who, for many years undertook the task of keeping the greens from becoming overgrown.

Tractors – There was a long discussion regarding tractors from Rectory Farm being driven at high speed throughout the village. In particular, there was much concern about the blind bend at the bottom of Ealy Hill, with drivers apparently giving no consideration to either the blind bend or the proximity of the cottage, which abuts the road on this corner. The owners are especially worried that a collision will occur involving their property, other vehicles, those on foot or horseback, or indeed a combination of these. The farm manager has stated that these tractors are being driven by contract workers and says he has asked them to slow down. It was also queried why the concrete road, built by Rectory Farm, was not used during harvest to minimize the potential hazard and distress caused by these tractors and trailers rushing through the village within a few feet of cottages. JW pointed out that tractors have a right to use public roads responsibly (if not responsible, drivers on mobile phones etc. should be reported to the police) and felt that the situation had improved since the last meeting. The Chair has agreed to write to John Jewitt (farm manager) on the matter to express the concerns raised at the meeting.

The Grove Watercourse – After speaking with John Jewitt regarding trees in The Grove, RDL realised there was some confusion over which trees were being discussed (cross country vs. young trees felled into the water course) and will raise the matter again and report back at the next meeting.

2. Defibrillator: - Since it had been agreed that a defibrillator would prove too expensive for us to obtain, three first aid courses were arranged by JRE. The first was held on June 20th and deemed very successful by those attending. There are two more due to be held, the dates for these are Sept 16th & Nov 11th. The November date is now full, but spaces are available for September. It was agreed that JRE will advertise these on the notice boards and RDL will notify those that attend Damps cinema in early September of the availability also, in the hope that more people will take up places. The cost is £30 and the course lasts approximately 3.5 hours. It was agreed that defibrillators would be discussed again on completion of the first aid courses.

3. Planning:

Well Hill House (DA) 17/02111/LBC - No objections raised.
Yew Tree Farm (DA) 17/02766/FUL - No objections raised.
Stone Cottage (DA) 17/02120/LBC – No objections raised.
Elm Cottage (DA) 17/02853/FUL & 17/02854/LBC - No objections raised.
Dutch Barn (MD) 17/01320/OPANOT – No objections raised.

The following planning applications were received subsequent to the agenda being issued:

Five Mile House (DA) 17/03087/FUL & 17/03088/LBC – No objections raised.
Duntisbourne Abbots Village Hall 17/03258/FUL – No objections raised.

4. Highways:

Longford Wall – Following discussions with Richard Gray from Highways, the Clerk was able to report that funding has been allocated to repair the wall at Longford. This is provisionally booked for March 2018, but will be subject to funding still being available post winter. In the event of funding no longer being available at that time, Highways have assured us that it will be reprogrammed as early as possible.

A417 Slip Road – The surface has been dressed using a new system of application. It has improved the surface to some degree; Highways are monitoring it to establish its durability.

Signs – There are a number of new signs to be installed when Council budget allows, to alleviate the ongoing problem of lorries getting lost/stuck in our villages. These are not yet installed, but Highways hope to complete this work during this financial year.

The Grove Wall – CDC are still awaiting a structural report from Amey to enable a decision to be made, but this is unlikely to gain sufficient status to be repaired by the Council in the foreseeable future. The Clerk has agreed to obtain a quote from a local stonemason to see if the PC could consider raising the monies to carry out the repairs.

5. Finance: - The Clerk reported that the audit has been submitted, but she had not yet heard back from Grant Thornton.

6. Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting: - Due on 20th September.

7. Any Other Business:

Emergency Plan - RDL has received a letter from CDC asking if we have/or would like to have an emergency plan in place. It was agreed that we weren't sure exactly what this entailed or indeed if, given the size of our parish, one would be of value. RDL will investigate further and report back.

Burglaries – JRE reported that Andrea Shutt, the Community Police Officer, had been in touch to report there has been an increase in rural burglaries and to ask people to be diligent in their security measures. In light of this, Richard Edwards has agreed to act as a coordinator for our Parish to pass on information received from Andrea to local residents. This will form part of a Neighbourhood Watch programme and will be discussed at the next meeting when more details are available.

Next Meetings: - Date of next meeting -Tuesday 21st November 2017
- Further meeting - Tuesday 20th February 2018.