

THE DUNTISBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 151st Meeting on Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 7.30pm in Duntisbourne Abbots Village Hall

Present: Mr R. Lane, Mr R. Carver, Mr J. Weston, Mrs J.R. Edwards,
Mr R. Bliss, Mrs E. Whitaker, Mrs C. Ling (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr W.J. Eykyn
Also present: Mr R. Gittins, Mr R. Towill

Minutes of the last Meeting - were approved.

Matters Arising:

Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting – JRE gave a report – to be posted on the Village Notice Board

Village Signs - A DA village sign has arrived and RDL asked the PC to comment on a suggested site just up from the Council Houses, marked by a pile of branches.

Speeding – two green and white ‘20 Plenty’ signs were purchased. Mr R Towill was thanked for his work attaching them to posts. One was positioned on Ealy Hill and was stolen after 2 days. The other was positioned on the island by Windmill Cottage. The idea was to move them round the village at intervals, and that one is now positioned on the straight stretch after Hailey Hill. The theft was considered regrettable as they are for the safety of walkers and horses, and the police have been informed. It was agreed that the Clerk should accept the offer of Andrea Shutt (Community Police) to bring a speed gun to check speed on Ealy Hill and above Hailey Hill. It was also suggested that everyone should encourage speeding cars to slow down by hand signals.

Dog fouling – two metal dogs signs were bought and painted black and white – thanks to Mrs Janet Towill. One was positioned by Pound Cottage and was stolen after a few days. The other was placed by the Long Ford. RC reported that dogs had fouled next to it so its effect was nil. Though JW and RC were not in favour of any signs in the village, the PC felt that people still need to be reminded to pick up after their dogs.

Village notice board in Duntisbourne Leer - Mr Gittins, reported that the sign he is kindly donating is nearly ready. It will be free standing near the Barn doors previously used as the notice board.

Historic Parish Council Files - RDL and the Clerk have been through the files, disposed of obsolete papers appropriately, and the Clerk will store everything else in plastic boxes with lids.

Planning Updates: Nothing to report

(Subsequent to meeting concern has been voiced about the scale of a proposed stable rebuild at Grove Place, Leer)

Highways:

Flooding in The Grove – no news in spite of 3 emails to Amey by the Clerk who will continue to follow up.

Flooding by Box Cottage – RC to investigate further.

Potholes in Leer – the road has largely been resurfaced – appreciation expressed to JRE who was in constant touch with Richard Gray from Highways throughout. The stretch towards the A417 will be surface dressed in the summer.

Grips: There was general agreement with JW and RB that the Council mechanical grip cleaner is ineffective and the grips are soon blocked again. JRE reported concern in Leer that the owners of Grove Piece had blocked the grips with stones to prevent the stables being flooded in heavy rain. They had been asked to remove them, which they partly did, but not enough to satisfy Highways, and the owner is taking legal advice. There was some sympathy for their predicament but it is apparently impractical for the grip to be relocated further down the hill. Still to be resolved.

DA: The Clerk was asked to contact Richard Gray at Highways concerning the potholes including those by Rectory Farm and below the church. Mr Towill raised the matter of increased run off from the concrete track at Rectory Farm leading to the volume of water causing a deep channel by the verge outside some houses on Ealy Hill, the Clerk to discuss with Mr Gray.

Signpost at Edgeworth/Sapperton crossroads – still missing: the Clerk continuing to chase up with no result so far.

Finance: The Budget for 2014/15 was circulated and it is clear that a deficit of £327, in spite of an increase of £100 to the Precept, is not sustainable. JW suggested reducing the expenses by no longer donating to CAB and CPRE. Though there was some opposition, this was agreed, together with requesting an increase in the Precept for 2015/16 to £1500, and possibly reducing the DAVH contribution in the short term.

Elections: Application forms were available for PC Members should they wish to stand for re-election. RDL said he had put a piece in Parish Connections inviting anyone interested to stand for Election to the PC. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk. If there are more than 7 applicants there will be an Election.

Rural Services Network: JRE reported on the numerous Network Bulletins and the PC thanked her for her time spent on this.

Broadband - Upgrading of the Miserden exchange is due to be completed by March and further improvement work by December. A 'cabinet' to boost Broadband in DA is a possibility but unconfirmed. However, any improvement is unlikely to extend to Leer and beyond. JRE reported poor mobile reception by 'Orange', who were surprised due to the close proximity of two masts, and will investigate and report back. Possibility of future Government vouchers for satellite broadband.

Any Other Business: Mr Gittins wished to thank RC for his efforts in tidying the common in Leer, and JRE for her work with the road resurfacing. He raised the question of the untidy state of the area round the Picket. It was suggested the adjacent landowners might be prepared to help with this. He was also concerned about damage to the corner verge by the Refuse truck turning, but it is hard to avoid this.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 19th May at 7pm - Annual Villages Meeting
Tuesday, 25th August at 7.30 pm.