

The Duntisbournes' Parish Council
Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
**Minutes of the 160th Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at 7pm in Duntisbourne Abbots
Village Hall.**

Present: Mr R. Lane (Chairman, Mr N. Robbins, Mr N. Parsons, Mrs J.R. Edwards, Mr J. Weston,
Mr R. Bliss, Mr W.J. Eykyn, Mrs C. Cuthbert (Clerk)
Also present: Mr & Mrs G. Lucas, Mr W. Griffin, Mr C. Maddox, Mr R. Edwards

Apologies: Mrs L. Whittaker, Mr R. Carver

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and residents to the meeting.

Report from Mr N Robbins: County Councillor Beeches Ward

Roads: The condition of some of the Parish's roads was highlighted. There is more funding to follow this financial year. There was some positive feedback from the floor regarding the standard of road patching in the area.

Adult Care: There is to be more funding provided for adult care.

District Council Funding: Details of funding which could be made available for schemes which are linked to the enhancement/improvement of tourism within the area were mentioned. To be found on the CDC tourism website.

Long Ford Wall: It may be possible to gain funding through the conservation board (through James Webb, Programme Manager at AONB) to assist in the repair of this due to its historical significance. Councillor Robbins to discuss this with Richard Gray of Cotswold South Highways.

Housing Development: It is likely that the large Chesterton housing development will proceed. The Council is keen to protect the areas of green, which immediately surround Cirencester. The effect of this development on Cirencester Hospital was raised, and in particular, whether the increase of population would lead to the re-introduction of 24-hour A&E services. It was felt this was unlikely at present, but keeping current hospital services was priority.

Report from Mr N Parsons: District Councillor for Ermin Ward

Finance

Despite further reductions in Central Government funding, CDC has frozen Council Tax again for 2017-18, mainly as a result of continued efficiencies made in the operation of Council services and the Council's 2020 Vision Programme. The following are also funded:

- £100,000 towards flood defence.
- £500,000 for rural broadband.
- Car Park and Green Waste charges frozen.
- "Free after 3" parking extended.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £34.8 million.

Planning

The preparation of the new Local Plan has advanced to the stage where the final public consultation has now been completed. The Council will shortly send the proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. A public Examination will then follow and, when approved by the Inspectorate, the new Local Plan should be adopted, hopefully before the end of this year. For the Duntisbournes, the current draft version of the new Local Plan includes a policy to enable small-scale local development outside the main towns, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

Youth Projects

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Such projects tend to be run during school holidays, but any project will be considered. In the past, in the Ermin Ward, the Council has managed to support diverse projects such as cricket coaching, theatre production, and the provision of play equipment. Again, the Council will support most projects, which are endorsed by the Ward Councillor.

Community Projects

The Council will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of match funding with other organisations, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or repair of, village halls and other community facilities.

1st World War

The Council has allocated a new fund to assist communities to commemorate the ending of the 1st World War. Councillor Nick Parsons should be informed if we need support for a project.

Defibrillators

The Council has allocated a new fund to assist Parishes, which wish to install Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward there will be £2,000 available covering the procurement of 4 units at a rate of £500 per unit. In the first instance, we should contact Councillor Parsons if we plan to take this up.

From the floor:

Kemble station parking: The car park has not fully opened yet. Yellow lines are to be painted within the village to stop train users parking in the residential areas.

Concerns were raised about sites for travellers.

The Parish Council Meeting Followed the AGM

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – were approved.

2. Defibrillator: - JRE is to look into the information provided by Mr N Parsons regarding funding for defibrillators. It is generally considered that it will be too expensive an outlay for our small parish and we will pursue the plan of having first aid courses, which will be held on 3 dates this year: June 20th, Sept 16th & Nov 11th. These are likely to cost £30 per person and each session will last approximately 3.5 hours. Uptake has been encouraging.

3. Planning:

Millstone House (DL) – Refused.

Grove Cottage (DA) – Amended and Approved.

Top Withens (DA) - Approved.

Well Hill House (DA) - Withdrawn.

New Barn Farm (DL) - Approved.

Long Furlong (DA) – Approved.

Yew Tree Farm (DA) - Approved.

Yew Tree Farm (DA) – It had been suggested that retrospective planning permission should be sought for the riding school/ménage, but it was reported that planning permission was not required unless the riding school/ménage is fenced.

Rectory Farm (DA) – Approved.

Rectory Farm (re works in The Grove) – Following concerns regarding large-scale grounds/forestry work being undertaken along The Grove, it appears a cross-country horse track is being built. Rectory Farm have agreed to contact the Council to determine whether this requires planning permission, particularly with it being an AONB and on a busy public footpath.

4. Highways:

Longford Wall – Following works by Thames Water, the warning signs regarding the possible collapse of the wall were taken away. The Clerk has contacted the Council, who will organise for replacement/new signs to be installed. The Clerk will report on the likelihood of the works being undertaken on the wall in the next financial year once the council has allocated their budget.

Update: The signs have been replaced. Mr N Robbins has suggested that funding may be available to assist in the mending of the ford through the AONB conservation board (see notes above).

A417 Slip Road – As above, we are awaiting these works to be allocated funding.

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.

The Grove Wall – CDC are still awaiting a structural report from Amey to enable a decision to be made, but this repair is unlikely to gain sufficient status to be repaired by the council in the foreseeable future.

5. Finance:

Precept – The PC have applied for its precepts to be increased to £2000 to cover increased costs. **Granted.**

Budget: The financial report for the current year and budget forecast for 2017/18 were tabled. A copy of the report can be seen on the PC website. The Clerk will approach Robert Towill to request that he audits the accounts prior to formal external audit.

Audit approved at meeting. Clerk to submit to Grant Thornton.

6. Neighbourhood Co-ordination Meeting: - held on 23rd March. Main topic was Road Safety Initiative. JRE provided a detailed report on the various Highways issues discussed and latest crime report figures, which are down! Please see attached report for more details. The date for next meeting is Wednesday 20th September, to be held in Daglingworth Village Hall at 7pm.

7. Rural Services Network:

No further news on this subject.

8. Any Other Business:

Duntisbourne Leer sign: The new village sign has become overgrown with grass and weeds: JRE has agreed to look into getting the area cleared.

Tractors: Several people have raised the speed at which tractors are being driven through the village. There have been a number of near misses and considerable mess left on the roads at times. The Chairman has spoken to John Jewitt (Rectory Farm), who has acknowledged the problem, and reports that the driver/s in question are contractors. He has agreed to speak with them regarding the concerns.

The Grove: It has been suggested that the cutting down of all the young trees in The Grove has contributed to the flooding that has occurred in this area in recent years. No one is sure why the trees were felled. They were then left uncleared, which contributes to the blocking of the natural watercourse. It was suggested that Thames Water should be informed of this problem. The Chair has agreed, in the first instance, to speak with Rectory Farm, whose land it is.

Next Meetings: - Tuesday 22nd August 2017
- Further meeting Tuesday 21st November 2017