

# Dolton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 ,7.30pm in Dolton Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr J Lock ( Chairman ) Cllrs , Burnage, Byrne , Grigg , Giles , Jury , Partridge , Rolls , the Clerk Mary Harris ,28 members of the public. Maria Bailey , Torridge District Council

**1. Apologies** received from Cllr Boyes

### **2. Maria Bailey , Community Planning and Development Services , Torridge District Council**

The Chairman introduced Maria Bailey who spoke to the meeting about community planning issues , the local development framework and the Sustainable Communities Act..

Maria told the meeting that 60% of parishes in the Torridge and Northern Devon area had completed a parish plan and that it was encouraging to see Dolton had also produced an Action Plan . Parish Plans lead into the more strategic countywide documents and are an important element in assisting the district council with planning application decisions. There was a move to encourage local planning officers to feedback to the parishes on planning applications and case officers would visit parishes to assist with “live” applications. Torridge DC had also encouraged the Rural Community Council of Devon in the last 18 months to do more local housing needs surveys.

The Sustainable Communities Act asks communities to devise projects and to come up with proposals for enhancing their local area. The Act is about a “ duty to Involve “ - how do people feel about their community ; how sustainable is its local economy and how can residents help themselves to provide a quality of life.

Maria then offered the meeting a Q and A session which was lengthy, informative and well supported. The following questions and answers are summarised in the table below and the hand written copy of Q and A session is attached in the minute file.

Name	Issue	Answer
J Genge	TDC - Community engagement monitoring	TDC ensures that documents have had engagement – its part of the LDF process. Documents are on web site
A Coombes	Dolton Parish Plan – organisations involved in consultation	Chairman told MB all residents and organisations received Dolton’s draft action plan issues for comment.
D O Brien	Support for local economy	TDC in favour of pro active partnership work on local economy issues ensuring rural communities have local services – use Sustainable Rural Communities Toolkit
D O Brien	Parish Council ‘s role is to encourage and facilitate and reach out.	TDC would agree with that approach – reliant on Parish Councils to bring this role into community
D Fitter	Safeguarding rural character of the village. Northern Devon Bio Sphere	TDC are joining up with North Devon DC to work on a conservation plan – balance between rural conservation and needs of the next generation. Dolton high up on conservation list. Its statutory to do conservation audits but TDC requires extra resources. Dolton’s design Guidance was done 4 years ago and lack of staffing at TDC may mean it could take up to 3 years to put into place. Cllr Burnage said that the Action Plan does mention the Bio Sphere under its Housing section. Poor development may come about with Central Government targets for housing density. PPS3 needs to be considered and embedded. TDC will have in place in the future a Conservation Area Appraisal and the Northern Devon Design Guide
J Genge	Design Guidance	
Cllr R Lock	Bideford Conservation Area process interesting	
A Coombes	Poor development in her neighbourhood	

R Dunn	Template for the <i>Dolton Vision</i> regarding conservation	TDC Conservation Officer could talk to the parish at the appropriate time
D O Brien	Some planners may not wish change – is their Best Practice in Planning	TDC always looking at best practice – TDC is a good “ A “ standard in rural practice. Chief Exec of TDC wants TDC to be an excellent authority
N Wood	TDC view on the Local Authority Boundary change	TDC now working closely with other authorities locally-shared services agenda. Work must go on!
C Schprexnix	Housing Needs Survey	Dolton is in need of a new survey. TDC still referring to the old survey. There was a discussion on shared ownership schemes and the reaction to economic downturn
I Williams	Leisure and Recreation facilities	Discussion on previous MUGA / Skateboard park proposals – The Settlement Boundary and Community needs must be balanced but Dolton can bring forward proposals
J Payne	Ageing Population – parish facilities	Its important to cater for ageing population and TDC looking into this aspect of community planning. Working with Social care services. Cllr Burnage mentioned that the bigger picture is part of the <i>Dolton Vision</i>

Cllr.Lock thanked Maria Bailey for her interesting talk

**3. The minutes of the annual parish meeting held 19th May 2008** (having already been approved) were read. There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman’s report** – Chairman gave his report for the past year, a copy of which is attached in the minute file.

**5. Any other business: none**

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....dated