

# DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Monday 1st September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr J Lock ( Chairman ) Cllr C Giles ( Vice-Chair ) Cllrs Boyes, Burnage, Byrne, Grigg, Jury, Partridge, Rolls, the Clerk, 7 members of public

**Apologies:** none

The minutes of the meeting held July 7<sup>th</sup> having been duly circulated at the August 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 meeting , were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record with the following amendments:

**Minute reference 40 ( 08/09 )** Planning : Cllrs Lock and Jury left the room declaring a Personal Interest on 1/0632/2008/FUL Cleave Farm, **Minute reference 39 ( 08/09 )** Finance ; amend G Jury to K Jury.

**Proposed: Cllr Partridge**

**Seconded: Cllr Giles**

**All agreed**

The minutes of the meeting held August 4<sup>th</sup> having been duly circulated were signed by the Vice - Chairman as being a true and correct record.

**Proposed: Cllr Jury**

**Seconded: Cllr Grigg**

**All agreed**

**52 (08/09) MATTERS ARISING :** Cllr Jury requested that an agenda item concerning the air ambulance landing sites be brought to the October meeting and Cllr Boyes suggested that he conduct some prior research..

## **53 (08/09) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Personal Interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors recorded

No Prejudicial Interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors recorded

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## **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chairman closed the meeting to invite members of the Public to raise questions.

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## **54 ( 08/09 ) FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**54.1 Accounts to Pay** - the Clerk presented the following accounts for agreement to pay:

K Hardy	Caretaker	£227.09
M Harris	Clerk	£548.30
K Jury	Repairs and expenses	£30.98
Audit Commission	Annual audit	£158.63
C Burnage	Newsletter.	£65.19

**Proposed Cllr Boyes**

**Seconded Cllr Byrne**

**All agreed**

Cheques signed by Cllrs Partridge and Giles

**54.2 Invoices** - three invoices to local organisations for the hire of the Recreation Field in August had not been paid to the Parish Council. It was surmised that the events had been cancelled due to inclement weather but no communications had been received. The Clerk will issue a Hire Form in future to all organisations who require the use of the Recreation Field and a cancellation slip will be included.

**54.3 Community Grant Applications** – two applications had been received.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Dolton Scout Group requested £80 for the purchase of badges and equipment.

**It was resolved that: A grant of £80 be allocated to the Dolton Scout Group..**

**Proposed Cllr Partridge**

**Seconded Cllr Jury**

**All agreed with one abstention from**

**the vote by Cllr Boyes who declared a personal Interest.**

2. St Edmunds Parish Churchyard requested £100 for the maintenance of the Graveyard.

**It was resolved that: A grant of £100 be allocated to the St Edmunds Parish Churchyard.**

**Proposed Cllr Jury                                  Seconded Cllr Byrne          All agreed with one abstention from the vote by Cllr Grigg who declared a personal interest.**

**54.4 Purchase of Safagrass for the Dennis Cross Recreational Ground** - Sutcliffe Play quoted for the installation of Safagrass around three items in the recreational ground at a cost of £975. The equipment to be paid by the Parish Council under its Section 127 powers.

**It was resolved that: The quote be accepted by Sutcliffe Play for the purchase of Safagrass at a cost of £975**

**Proposed Cllr Burnage                                  Seconded Cllr Partridge          All agreed**

**54.5 Financial matters arising** - Cllr Jury announced that a grant of £7600 from the RockETS grant fund ( Devon County Council ) had been received towards the purchase of the Youth Shelter. The remaining balance would be funded from the Dennis Cross account. The Parish Council put on record its thanks to Cllr Jury and Graham Hutchins , the fundraisers , who have worked hard and successfully in achieving grant aid towards the purchase of equipment and in managing the process of installation .

## **55. ( 08/09 ) PLANNING MATTERS**

**55.1 Applications for consideration** – none

**55.2 Permissions granted** – 1/0632/2008/FUL Cleave Farm and 1/0636/2008/FUL Tockley Farm

**55.3 Refusals advised** – none , however 1/0667/2008/FUL Neals Butchers had been withdrawn

**55.4 Planning issue 1/0452/2008 Edgefield** – Cllr Boyes raised concerns over comments made in a letter to Torridge District Council made by Ms Pym Gander in her objection to the Edgefield proposal. Cllr Boyes stated that it is Ms Gander's right to air her views, but he took exception to the paragraph which read: "The only reason your time is being wasted with this application, is that over half the Parish Council has a vested financial interest in this application, as shown by their declared interest at Parish Council meetings."

In clarifying their positions, Cllrs responded in turn on their declarations at the time of considering that particular application:

Cllr Lock had declared a *personal interest* as he is a neighbour and had left the room

Cllr Giles had declared no interest

Cllr Byrne had declared no interest

Cllr Burnage had declared a *prejudicial interest* as he is related to the applicant and had left the room

Cllr Rolls had declared no interest

Cllr Jury had declared no interest

Cllr Partridge had declared a *prejudicial interest* as he felt his view could be considered as pre-determined and had left the room

Cllr Boyes had declared a *prejudicial interest* as he is a close personal associate of the applicant and had left the room

Cllr Grigg declared a *pre-determined interest* as she had previously declared that she had made her decision and wanted no development in that area of the village and had left the room

The allegations made by Ms Gander were therefore strongly refuted and it was resolved that it would be in the public's interest to minute these facts, but take no further action. It was mentioned that an apology or retraction of the comments would be appreciated

**55.5 Any other planning matters : a)** Cllr Burnage clarified some of the allegations made by Ms D Weston towards the Edgefield scheme during the Public Session. He stated that having knowledge of the application and the Section 106 Agreement, he could assure other Cllrs and Members of the Public that the Affordable Houses would be restricted and eligibility controlled by the District Authority. Furthermore, the Affordable Houses would be delivered before all of the Open-Market ones and that people of Dolton, not surrounding areas, would be considered first for housing need

**b)** Members discussed the issues surrounding Section 106 agreements. It was decided that further information was required and the Clerk would write to Torridge District Council requesting a visit by a Planning Officer to a future meeting.

**56 (08/09) DENNIS CROSS PLAYING FIELD**

Cllr Jury reported that the Youth Shelter was due to be installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

**57(08/09) PARISH PLAN REVIEW**

There were no meetings convened during the summer months. Cllr Burnage requested that the Parish Plan Review Working Party be given clear directive to liaise with Torridge District Council in identifying possible ways forward for Dolton Parish and how they consider all the issues facing the whole Community. With there only being a limited number of houses that Dolton's infrastructure could accommodate, there was concern over the use of the exception site policy in Dolton, although the Affordable Housing need was not in question, as all options have not yet been fully explored and that schemes containing only Affordable Housing would not be able to generate any funding or infrastructure to help serve the additional needs of the village. The Clerk was asked to contact Torridge District Council and Devon County Council outlining these issues and to request that a meeting be set up to get some further guidance. This would in turn instigate a questionnaire to gather the views of the people of Dolton towards the future of the Parish

**58 (08/09) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY**

There were no matters arising . Attendance at the past three surgeries had been very poor but it was agreed to continue the surgery opportunities to the community. The next date is October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with Cllrs Partridge and Byrne in attendance.

**59 (08/09) UPDATE – CPRE VILLAGE COMPETITION**

The CPRE Best Kept Village Competition 2008 results were announced. Dolton had been visited on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and had received a mixed report with poor maintenance practices around the playing fields and toilet block showing areas of concern. Members thought that the CPRE competition had failed the school children's efforts since there had been no effort to remark on the village maps.

**60 (08/09) COUNCIL PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE HANDBOOK**

A draft Procedures manual was included within the members reading file in order for comments and ideas to be reported to the October meeting.

**61 (08/09) TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Following a meeting between Cllrs Giles and Jury with an Area North Highway Management officer , a letter was received from Devon County Council putting forward some proposals on traffic speeding concerns and signage. The letter can be viewed on the village notice board alongside these minutes

**62 (08/09) CORRESPONDENCE**

The only correspondence to report that had not been addressed at the meeting was the DAPC application form for a Playground Maintenance Seminar. The issues are important and therefore 2 Councillors and the Clerk will attend. The Chairman asked if a cheque could be raised for the sum of £90 at the meeting.

**62.1 Accounts to Pay**

DAPC		Playground training	£90.00
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Cllr Burnage</b>	<b>Secoded Cllr Rolls</b>	<b>All agreed.</b>

**63 (08/09) MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Jury attended the Area Advisory Group meeting and the DAPFA seminar and advised the meeting of the issues discussed

**64 (08/09) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Jury had received a defamatory letter ( unsigned) and which had subsequently been reported to the Police and the Torridge District Council. Members offered their support to Cllr Jury.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed.....Chairman .....date