

**Dolton Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held Monday 1st October 2007 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr.Lock in the chair, Cllrs.Boyes, Partridge, Burnage, Genge, Berkley-Sage,

Giles, Grigg, Jury. The Clerk Mrs.R.Lock. WPC S.Middleton. 21 members of

the public

**Apologies:** None

The minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007, having been duly circulated, were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record with two amendments: -

i) Min.615a “section on the housing survey and parish plan review amended”

ii) Min.631a “Parish Plan working party”.

Proposed Cllr.Genge seconded Cllr. Jury. All agreed.

The minutes of the part 2 meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007, having been duly circulated, were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record. Proposed Cllr.Boyes seconded Cllr.Jury. All agreed.

***MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES***

638. Drains (min.596 refers) these had now been repaired.

639. Audit Commission (min.604 refers) nothing further heard from Audit Commission.

640. Newsletter (min.615 refers) Councillors had received copy of revised newsletter with their minutes for their further consideration. Discussion took place as follows:-

a) Cllr.Genge proposed an amendment on Parish Plan review to read “there is a strong belief by some”. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr.Berkley-Sage. Vote took place on amendment 3 for 6 against.

b) Cllr.Boyes proposed that newsletter be sent out with one amendment in the Housing survey paragraph to read “to explore a new housing survey”. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr.Partridge. Vote took

place 6 for proposal 2 against 1 abstention.

641. Resolved that Clerk obtain 400 copies of the newsletter, the village to be divided between Councillors to delivery, and areas outside village perimeter would be posted.

642. Bike Rack (min.623 refers) TDC planning reported “bike rack may be construed as Development” Details of size, structure and fittings to be supplied by school.

643. Village Events calendar (min.624 refers) Cllr.Burnage reported that Mr.M.Lock who managers the village web site was working on this project.

644. Mr.Golding/Orchard Gate (min.625 refers) DCC Highways will put in an order for a No through road sign – and are hopeful that funds can be found in the current financial year. Clerk to inform Mr.Golding.

645. Highways/Police Meetings (min.631b refers) Highways had confirmed they were willing to attend a meeting in the village. WPC Middleton was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

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646. Litter Bin/Shop (min.631c refers) no real suitable place for fixing in Church Street. Resolved that Clerk approach shop owners as to the siting of the bin and would suggest on their property by the post box. Parish Council would pay for the bin and would ascertain that TDC would empty the same.

647. Chapple Lane (min.633 refers) DCC reported that potholes will be repaired as soon as possible.

648. TDC Caretaker (min.634a refers) awaiting reply from TDC as to the work areas of Mr.Mardon. Cllr.Jury reported that the streets had been swept but not the pavements.

649. War Memorial shrub (min.635 refers) Resolved that Cllr.Jury organizes the removal of the shrub, hopefully before the 11th November.

### ***CODE OF CONDUCT***

650. Resolved that Dolton Parish Council adopted the new code of conduct, to include paragraph 12 (2) . Clerk to advertise the adoption in the local press.

651. Clerk passed to each Councillor a new register of interests and acceptance of office following the adoption of the new code, for completion within 2 months from today's date.

Resolved that Councillors would sign their acceptance of office at the November meeting to be witnessed by the Clerk.

652. Code of Conduct training – Those councilors who had attended to complete the feedback sheets. Copy of notes from this meeting handed to Councillors who had not attended.

### ***FINANCIAL MATTERS***

653. Clerk presented the following accounts for payment:-

a) K.Hardy	wages	£107.00
b) S.W.Water	8/8 – 17/9/07	£ 91.29
c) D.Jones & Son	1/3 <sup>rd</sup> summer grass cutting	£ 90.00
d) Mrs.R.Lock	wages	£438.75
e) Mrs.R.Lock	expenses	£ 56.55
f) Mrs.S.Richards	plants War Memorial	£ 27.94

Proposed Cllr.Burnage seconded Cllr.Grigg that the above accounts be paid. Cllrs. Lock and Jury signed the cheques.

654. Moneys received: Nationwide merger bonus on Fixed bond account in the sum of £800.00 Resolved that this sum be paid into Dennis Cross account but not to be ring fenced specifically for Dennis Cross payments. Clerk to reclaim tax of £200 paid on bonus.

655. Nationwide investments – Clerk reported on following investments available from Nationwide:-

a) special officer to be taken out by 31<sup>st</sup> October 07 of a Loyalty Fixed rate 1 year bond

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6.70% interest. 90 days notice of withdrawal no interest lost. Withdrawal before 90 days notice then loose 90 days interest.

b) Internet instant access account 5.80% interest

c) Postal instant access account 5.25% interest.

Resolved to take out Loyalty Fixed Rate One year bond in the sum of £60,000 (sixty thousand pounds) with Chairman and Vice chairman being named signatories.

656. Portman Fixed Bond – Clerk reported that before any moneys can be withdrawn or transferred the name of Mrs. A.M.Chivers must be removed. Resolved that Cllr.Giles be the second signatory together with the existing signatory of the Chairman. Clerk to arrange for completion of all forms and necessary withdrawals and transfer of accrued interest and repayment of tax.

657. National Westminster Bank account signatories – Cllrs.Grigg and Giles to take information into Hatherleigh. Forms to be completed next meeting.

658. TDC Precept forms – to be completed and returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. Resolved that Precept be an agenda item for December meeting.

659. Financial regulations – Clerk had placed in reading file a full copy of NALC regulations together with copies of regulations from three other Parish Councils of varying sizes, for Councillors information and consideration.

### ***PLANNING MATTERS***

660. Adjoining Parish notices in reading file.

661. Applications to consider:-

a) Phillips & Courtenay                      44 Stafford Way                      Rear conservatory  
(Cllrs.Lock, Burnage and Boyes declared interests – customers of applicant's business – and left the room)  
Council had no objections to this application so long as there was no inappropriate overlooking on neighbours who should have been informed of the application.

b) Dixon Construction Ltd.                      Land off Barlands Way                      2 dwellings 1  
affordable

1 open market

*(Cllrs. Genge and Berkley-Sage declared interests – friends of close neighbours – and left the room)*

The Parish Council is against this application as it stands and would make the following comments:

i) the footpath shown on the east side is completely in the wrong place. The footpath needs to come out into Aller Road into the existing passing place. From local experience and knowledge the Parish Council strongly feel that their suggested route of the footpath which we have edged green on the attached map, is much more suitable for the needs of the people who live nearby. The gradient would be less severe, as the path will be longer. Furthermore, the suggested Parish Council route would be much safer for pedestrians entering onto Aller road because the existing splay will give much better visibility. The footpath route proposed by the Parish Council can be easily achieved by reversing the position of plots 1 and 2.

ii) when this plot of land was sold by TDC to Dixon Construction, we were given to

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understand that the bottom proportion of the site would be for “village amenities”. The Parish Council would class a footpath in their preferred position to be such a “village amenity”. Such a footpath was promised when the Housing Association houses were built several years ago.

iii) there must be a water tight section 106 agreement to retain the affordable property for local occupancy in perpetuity.

If these requirements were met, the Parish Council would support the application.

662. Permissions granted: none advised

663. Refusals advised: none advised.

664. DCC Highways planning app. 1151/2004 muga/skateboard park. Letter from Highways concerning new vehicular access via Edgefield copied to each Councillor. Letter to be kept on file. Cllr. Boyes commented “contents of letter absolutely correct”.

665. Mr. Mrs. Court Stretton House – Cllr. Jury received a letter (copy to Chairman) concerning Stretton House and in particular min. no 583 page 187. Chairman reported that on advice from DAPC the minute had been removed from the website and noticeboard and he had been to see Mr. Mrs. Court. Resolved that:-

a) Parish Council would seek legal advice from Monitoring Officer

b) Parish Council confirmed the wording of the minute.

c) Reply to be sent to Mr. Mrs. Court after legal advice received.

d) Proposed Cllr. Burnage seconded Cllr. Boyes that the Parish Council will not get involved in neighbour disputes/enforcement issues, but advise anybody to go direct to Enforcement Officer of TDC. All agreed.

### ***CARETAKER'S CONTRACT***

666. Agenda item next month

### ***ACCESS/USE OF PLAYING FIELD/EDGEFIELD***

667. Councillors had all tried contacting Monitoring Officer for advice on this matter (min.614 page 186 refers). No replies received. At training session on the Code of Conduct those Councillors present asked Monitoring Officer for advice. Cllr.Lock reported being told that as he was not a neighbour of the playing field , saw no reason why could not discuss the playing field. Cllrs.Jury and Partridge told the matter would be looked into. Cllr.

Genge had sent e.mail – no reply. Discussion took place on the question of access into the

Playing field. Cllrs.Boyes, Burnage and Partridge requested that letter be sent to TDC stating that a new access was required into the playing field to enable the muga/skateboard projects to proceed, from wherever this new access may come from, together with a new drainage system. *At this stage of discussion, Cllrs.Genge and Berkley-Sage were not happy to continue with such discussion until obtaining advice from the Monitoring Officer and left the room*) Cllr.Grigg then asked what was wrong with the current access to the football field, the new entrance for Edgefield was much more dangerous. The Chairman stated to Cllr.Grigg that Edgefield was not the matter under discussion – but the playing field entrance. No further discussions took place. Resolved that letter be sent to TDC.

*(Cllrs.Genge and Berkley-Sage rejoined the meeting)*

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### ***PARISH PLAN REVIEW***

668. Cllr.Burnage, Lock and Jury had an initial look at the Parish Plan on all categories. Notes of this meeting to be supplied to Cllr.Genge. A further meeting of the working party to be arranged.

### ***FLAGPOLE/UNION JACK***

669. Clerk had contacted Planning Dept. of TDC who said “should not be a problem” but Awaiting written reply from them. Resolved that Clerk look into prices.

### ***DENNIS CROSS***

670. Cllr.Jury reported that two funding applications had been turned down. Awaiting to hear from Awards for All before proceeding with further applications.

### ***MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS***

671. Cllr.Lock:-

a) MCTA meeting – Mary Harris was collating all village plans – only two left to complete. He was attending a Transport meeting in November.

b) DAPC AGM – interesting meeting with such topics as code of conduct, post offices and

PCSOs included. Attended work shop on affordable housing.

### ***CORRESPONDENCE***

672. TDC Housing Renewal Development grants – information in reading file.

673. TDC press release concerning area offices at Holsworthy and Torrington. These to remain open until public consultation exercise completed.

674. D & C Police – meetings to be webcast – information in reading file.

675. Torrington Area Advisory meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

676. Cllr. Grigg:-

- a) Seat at Furze Park Cross grass needed cutting. This came under Dowland Parish Committee not Dolton Parish Council.
- b) Aller Road hedge still needed trimming.

677. Date of next meeting November 5<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business the chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

Signed.....chairman.....dated