

DOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Monday 7th July 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, 21 members of public

Apologies: none

A minutes silence was held in memory of Cyril Dumbleton

The minutes of the meeting held 2nd June 2008, having been duly circulated, were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Giles

Seconded: Cllr Byrne

All agreed

38 (08/09) MATTERS ARISING - no matters arising that were not subject to an agenda item

PUBLIC SESSION

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

39 (08/09) FINANCIAL MATTERS

39.1 Accounts to Pay

The Clerk presented the following accounts for agreement to pay

1.	B Smale	Grass Cutting	£85.0
2.	M Harris	Clerk	£284.67
3.	South West Water	Playing Field	£26.91
4.	K Hardy	Caretaker	£60.0
5.	Zurich	Policies	£920.22
	<small>(Combined Local Council Policy £553.53. Engineering Inspections £366.69 (17.5% VAT of £54.61)</small>		
6.	Victoria Sawmills	Playing Field maintenance	£178.52
	<small>(Vat claim £26.58) Breakdown (Wood £169.71 - Vat £25.27. Nails £8.81 - Vat £1.31)</small>		
7.	G. Jury	Expenses for Paint – Playing Field	£10.95
8.	DAPC	Village Green mag	£22.0
9.	D & D Village hall	Hire of	£15.75
10.	M Stubbings	Relief caretaker	£66.24

Proposed: Cllr Boyes

Seconded: Cllr Giles

All agreed

Cllrs Grigg and Partridge signed the cheques

39.2 Any other financial matters

(a) VAT return - sum of £2733.07 – the Council received notification of a BACS transfer into the current account.

(b) It was proposed that the administration for cheque signing be conducted following the AOB agenda item and prior to the Chairman closing the meeting.

It was resolved that cheques for payment be signed at the end of a Parish Council meeting prior to the Chairman closing the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Grigg

Seconded: Cllr Rolls

All agreed

(c) Discussion took place regarding the possible closure of the two Nationwide deposit accounts (Clerks Gratuity of £312. and the Dennis Cross Account of £951) and the opening up one account at a local Post Office. It was agreed that the Gratuity Fund for the Clerk could be closed and its balance be included into the Dennis Cross funds.

It was resolved that the Nationwide accounts be closed and the balance of £312 from the Clerks Gratuity fund be deposited into the Dennis Cross Fund

Proposed: Cllr Byrne

Seconded: Cllr Rolls

All agreed

It was resolved that the newly formed Dennis Cross account be held within a Post Office Savings Account.

Proposed: Cllr Grigg

Seconded: Cllr Rolls

All agreed

40 (08/09) PLANNING

(a) Applications to consider

1/0565/2008/FUL RHT Developments Ltd 10 units , land off Aller Rd , Dolton

The advice letter on pre-determination and bias from the Monitoring Officer was read in full to the meeting along with a letter from Christine Beedles requesting that Councillors consider their interests prior to the agenda item. In a letter to the Council on July 1st, the Monitoring Officer said that he had received a copy of the letter from Christine Beedles and that he had spoken to the Torridge District Council officer , Maria Bailey about the two planning applications; Edgefield and Aller Road. To quote the Monitoring Officer

...even if Councillors had shown support for the Edgefield application , this would not mean that they were necessarily excluded from discussions on the Aller Rd application and vice versa. However , if Councillors have spoken against or in favour of the Aller Rd application , then they may be excluded through pre-determination or bias as they would normally.

Cllr Burnage then made a statement to clarify his position to members of public and refute the written allegation in the letter concerning his impartiality:

"I thank Ms Beedles for her letter dated 22nd June 2008 in which raises concerns that in my role as a Councillor I have promoted Edgefield and sought to undermine the position of the Rural Housing Trust

To address those concerns and reassure other members of the public, I would like to state categorically once again that I have done nothing in my role as a Councillor to promote the Edgefield application and have never attempted to influence the thoughts of my fellow members on that issue

Your letter suggests that supporters of Edgefield have claimed Aller Road to be a rival site. I have not stated that at any time and I know as a Council we have not made that distinction and furthermore, Dolton Parish Council are certainly not under any directive to make a choice between the two proposals

Finally, I also strongly refute any suggestion that I have tried to undermine the Rural Housing Trust. The importance of working as a Community in shaping the future of Dolton is not something I take lightly and I wholly appreciate that things have to be done in the right way. By proposing that Dolton Parish Council informed Torridge District Council that the Community of Dolton have not been as closely involved in putting together a scheme for affordable housing as the District Authority may have been led to believe, is not an attempt to undermine anyone's position, it was simply reporting the facts"

Proposed: Cllr Grigg

Seconded: Cllr Boyes

All agreed

1/0667/2008/FUL Nea'ls Butchers. Conversion to form one 2 storey building

Cllr Boyes declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting room

It was resolved that the following comments be forwarded to Torridge District

Council: *"Design and Access statement is not considered accurate with regard to some timescales referring to the length of business years. Joint Access; Loss of amenity to the village; The character of the building may be lost to the centre of the village.*

Proposed: Cllr Rolls

Seconded: Cllr Partridge

All agreed

1/0636/2008/FUL Tockley Farm, Dolton 2 storey extension

It was resolved that the following comment be forwarded to Torridge District

Council: *"No objection "*

Proposed: Cllr Giles

Seconded: Cllr Jury

All agreed

(b) Permissions granted

None

(c) Refusals

None

(d) Any other matters

Cllr Rolls agreed to attend the Torridge District Council Planning meeting on July 10th to represent the Parish Council in respect of Planning Application 1/0452/2008/FUL Edgefield

41 (08/09) DENNIS CROSS RECREATION GROUND – UPDATE

There was no new update regarding funding applications. The maintenance works to the hedges and barriers had been undertaken by Councillors and residents and everyone was thanked for their efforts. Cllr Jury had received a quote for safety surfacing – sofa grass and this would be considered at the September meeting.

42 (08/09) PARISH PLAN – UPDATE

Cllr Burnage gave an update from the last meeting and discussed the need for a consultation process.

It was resolved that the Parish Plan Working Party be supported in their proposal to circulate an initial questionnaire.

Proposed: Cllr Rolls

Seconded: Cllr Giles

All agreed

43 (08/09) PARISH PLAN SURGERY REPORT

No report. The next meeting - Monday 11th August.
Cllr Partridge and Byrne agreed to attend.

44 (08/09) CPRE VILLAGE COMPETITION – UPDATE

No report

45 (08/09) COUNCIL PROCEDURES – UPDATE

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should undertake to compile a Dolton Parish Council Procedures and Practices Handbook

46 (08/09) PARISH MAINTENANCE – UPDATE

The Chairman to arrange a meeting with Devon County Council Highways.
Cllr Byrne agreed to maintain the war memorial flowers.

It was resolved that approval be given to residents wishful of erecting a memorial plaque at the base of the flagpole.

Proposed: Cllr Burnage

Seconded: Cllr Grigg

All agreed

47 (08/09) PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

A future agenda item once all the maintenance implications and information had been compiled

48 (08/09) DRAFT NEWSLETTER

Cllr Burnage had previously circulated the draft newsletter for consideration.

It was resolved that the draft newsletter be approved with additions subsequently approved by the Vice-Chair and Cllr Partridge.

Proposed: Cllr Boyes

Seconded: Cllr Jury

All agreed

49 (08/09) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sutcliffe Play - Compliance report on the meeting - **Send copy to Zurich**
2. Cllr J Lock- Amendment to Register of Declaration of Interest - **Add to register**
3. D & D Horticultural - Request to hire field on evening of Sat 9th August – **Agreed**
4. TDC - Do Parish want a free composter – **No**
5. Sally Berkely Sage - Letter ref Breach of procedure - **send clarification letter**
6. Village Hall - Request for intervention in the matter of key holders- **to write to holders**

50 (08/09) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The VAT tax refund rec'd June 2008 to be deposited into the new Dennis Cross Account
The Clerk to contact the bus service to request a timetable for the bus shelter
The caretaker to be informed of graffiti in bus shelter
Agenda item requests and reports for September's meeting

1. Air Ambulance landing areas: Cllr Jury
2. Parishioner comments referring to a planning application: Cllr Boyes

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated

Date of the next meeting Monday September 1st 2008 at 7.30pm

Public Speakers

Name	Issue
D Panton	Barlands Rd Bus Shelter lack of timetable and graffiti
D O'Brien	Comments on level of hostility in the village
P Gander	Freedom of Speech
J Cotter	Flag
D O'Brien	Development of Housing
Cllr R Lock	Boundary Commission
D O'Brien	Parish Council opinion on Boundary Review