

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD At DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON 10th June
2024 7.00pm

Attendees

Councillors: Geoff Dibble (Chair), James Morley, Peter Finney, Chris Oliver, Tony Melnyk, Carol Ell, Tessa Williams and Alan Vicary

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Towells

Other: Marcus Kravis (SC) and Christine Lawrence (SC)

Apologies

Councillors: Kevin Sully

Other: None

24/31 To note apologies for absence: As noted above.

24/32 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations: There were none, but Cllr Morley did not take part in discussions or vote on grant decisions for the Dunster memorial Hall.

24/33 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 for approval: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

24/34 Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr Lawrence reported that 201 applications for voluntary redundancy had been accepted by Somerset Council. Within this number are 49 voluntary redundancies where costs to the council exceeded £100,000 per redundancy. The total cost of the voluntary redundancies is £12.8 m with an expected ongoing wage bill reduction of £8.2 m. The Council has launched a 45-day consultation on restructuring which could lead to significant reduction in executive and service directors. The consultation runs from mid May until June with those being made redundant leaving the authority between November 2024 and March 2025. Consultations on restructuring and any consequent redundancies at lower tier levels will take place later in the summer.

Safe disposal of small gas canisters: Due to the increasing number of gas canisters being put out with recycling, crews have to manually check recycling ahead of the automated sorting process to avoid fires. This year more than 1000 gas canister fires have been avoided. The small canisters mainly used for camping stoves are often mistakenly put in kerbside recycling in the blue bag. This bag can be used to recycle empty aerosol bottles but should never be used to dispose of gas canisters.

Cllr Kravis reported the yellow lines by the school are in the work plan to be done this year.

24/35 Accounts

24/35.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list via internet banking except for PAYE which would be paid by cheque.

24/35.2 Current account expenditure analysis for May 2024: It was resolved to note the figures. These were signed by Cllr Finney.

24/35.3 Bank reconciliation for May 2024: It was resolved to note the bank reconciliation which was signed by Cllr Finney.

24/35.4 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring which were signed by Cllr Finney.

24/35.5 PAYE figures for May: These were checked and signed by Cllr Finney.

24/35.6 Internal Auditor for next year: It was resolved to stay with Tammy Roper.

24/35.7 Report from Finance Committee and agree any recommendations: It was resolved to pay the following grants:

£350.00 Packhorse Playing Field

£350.00 Marsh Playing Field

£500.00 Tithe Barn

£200.00 Parish magazine

£950.00 Dunster Memorial Hall

It was further recommended to ask the Packhorse Playing Field why they are asking for a further £850.00 as they have some reserves in their bank account.

24/36 Planning:

SC	3/10/24/001	Replacement of windows at flat 4 Avill Court, Marsh Street, Dunster TA24 6PN	It was resolved there no objections
----	-------------	--	-------------------------------------

24/37 Toilets: The Clerk reported the disabled lock had been vandalised. The handyman had caught a gentleman thief with a self-made device stealing the money out of the collection box. Several complaints had been received by the Clerk both on cleanliness of the toilets and the fact that two cubicles are not enough for Dunster. It was resolved the Councillors would have a meeting to discuss a way forward on 18th June at 6pm.

24/37.1 Return to a pay to use facility: It was resolved to defer this until after the toilet meeting.

24/38 Cemetery: It was resolved to note there was nothing to report.

24/39 Allotments:

24/39.1 Quotes for rabbit fence: The Clerk had contacted MSMG, G A Sully & Sons Ltd and Philip Farmer. It was resolved to give the contract to G A Sully & Sons Ltd.

24/40 Buttercross Orchard: The Clerk reported she had not received any bank statements.

24/41 Riverside Walk: The fence had been repaired. There are some trees down in the river and the river is very overgrown. It was resolved the Clerk would contact the environment agency.

24/42 Correspondence:

24/42.1 Letter from Tithe Barn Committee: There was no update from the Tithe Barn Committee.

24/42.2 Email from Rights of Way team: It was resolved not to take on any rights of way.

24/42.3 Chairs awards for service to the community: It was resolved to nominate Cllr Sully.

24/43 Risk Register: It was resolved to note there were no updates.

24/44 Highways:

24/44.1 Posts on Knowle Lane: It was resolved to note the Clerk had forwarded all the relevant information regarding the original planning application and no response had been received to date.

24/45 Dunster Parking Review: Cllr Lawrence had spoken with Steve Deakin who informed her that there is no money so the project can not be delivered. It was resolved to remove this item from the agenda.

24/46 Bike Racks: It was resolved to place one by the public toilets and one by the Ball.

24/47 Car Park by Tithe Barn: The Clerk reported the sign had been delivered.

24/48 Weed spraying Contract: It was resolved the Clerk would try to get 3 quotes.

24/49 Rep for defib in village: It was resolved Cllr Dibble would look after the defib at the Luttrell Arms.

24/45 Dunster Beach: It was resolved to note the reports regarding the state of the beach but as this was a private beach there was nothing Dunster Parish Council could do.

24/51 Memorial Hall Insurance: It was resolved to note the insurance had doubled and the Trustees are looking into who owns the building.

24/30 Items to Report and matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 08th July 2024:

There is a tree pushing the stonework out on the Packhorse bridge
Lorry hit the wall on St Georges Street

Financial regulations

Meeting closed 8.40 p.m.

Signed Date.....