

# DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 7.30pm  
TITHE BARN, DUNSTER

## Attendees

**Councillors:** D Challoner (Chair), A Vicary, G Lamacraft, C Oliver, J Meakes, T Williams, C Ell, S Ashton, G Dibble and P Finney

**Clerk:** Mrs Sarah Towells

**Other:** David Oxendale and 6 members of public

## Apologies

**Councillors:**

**Other:** Christine Lawrence (SCC), Peter Pilkington (SWaT)

Prior to the start of the meeting David Oxendale did a short presentation on 'The Dunster Connection' which is a trial starting at Easter and running until October 2020. A Tuk into Dunster will give 3 passengers a fun excursion of Dunster's main tourist attractions, going no faster than 20mph.

**19/72 To note apologies for absence:** As noted above.

## **19/73 Declarations of interest and dispensations:**

Councillor	Item Number	Interest
Tessa Williams	6/10/19/111	Own business in Dunster

**19/74 Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019:** It was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes.

**19/75 Public Participation:** There were none.

**19/76 Report from West Somerset Councillor:** There was no report.

**19/77 Report from Somerset County Councillor:** There was no report.

**19/78 Any other reports:** The Police reported there had been one potential crime in the Parish of Dunster in August. There were approximately 103 police calls in the whole of the Exmoor area, of which 8 were in the Dunster Parish.

## **19/79 Matters arising:**

19/79.1 Defibrillators: The Ambulance Service would deliver the defibrillators, but they would have to be fitted by a qualified electrician. It was resolved the Clerk would contact both establishments to explain this and to get quotes from Chris Webber, Stuart Nichols and Mike Williams from Crosswell's electrics.

19/79.2 Trees in Riverside Walk: The Cherry picker had been re-booked for 17<sup>th</sup> September.

19/79.3 Raw sewerage out of manhole cover by Packhorse Bridge: Cllr Lamacraft reported he had found the manhole cover and would report any further incidents directly to Wessex Water. It was resolved to remove this item from the agenda.

19/79.4 Benches and bus shelters: It was reported the bus shelters and 14 benches were complete. The bench in West Close could not be done as it was covered in brambles, it was resolved to leave this bench. It was further resolved to pay the invoice.

19/79.5 Cobbles in Council Yard: No update as Melvyn Sully away at present.

19/79.6 Bench outside Memorial Hall: It was resolved to note the bench had been collected.

19/79.7 Slabs outside Ashley Bishop Gallery: The cobble stone outside Five Quarters had been replaced but the slabs are still loose outside the gallery.

19/79.8 Ownership of land over Packhorse Bridge: It was resolved to note that Michael Hintze is the owner of the land. It was resolved to send a letter to alert him to the fact that people are parking there on a regular basis.

19/79.9 Speeding in the village: It was resolved to note the response from Jo Sharp at Highways. It was further resolved Cllr Ell would Contact Linda Brooks for further information and advice.

19/79.10 Blocked gullies in West Street: No update.

19/79.11 Blocked holes in kerbs on old A39: No update.

### **19/80 Accounts Report:**

19/80.1 Approval of expenditure: It was unanimously resolved to pay the payments on the attached list.

19/80.2 Current account expenditure analysis for August: It was resolved to note the current account expenditure analysis and to note the bank balance on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 was £4827.15

19/80.3 Bank reconciliation for August 2019: It was resolved to note that Cllr Challoner had signed the bank reconciliation for the month of August.

19/80.4 Buttercross and Riverside Walk balance: Cllr Lamacraft would send updated account balances to the Clerk.

### **19/81 Planning**

19/81.1 To consider the following planning applications:

ENP	6/10/19/111	Dunster Castle	Proposed change of use to provide café to include the siting of a portakabin for use as cooking and preparation space to serve a proposed indoor seating and serving area within part of the stable building, for a temporary 12-month period. As per Amended plans and additional information.	It was <b>resolved to object</b> on the grounds that it would have an impact on existing businesses in the village and more importantly impact on the stables due to the fact they are a grade 2 listed building. A portakabin would not fit into this setting. In the previous application 6/10/18/113 the Parish Council stated an independent economic impact survey be carried out.
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19/81.2 To note the following decisions:

It was resolved to note there were no planning decisions.

### **19/82 Correspondence:**

19/82.1 To note the correspondence log: It was resolved to note the correspondence log.

19/82.2 Any other correspondence: A letter had been received from Mr Brunt. It was resolved to respond saying his comments have been noted and we are waiting for a review from Steve Deakin of Somerset County Council. An email had been received from the Little Box of Delights asking if the fence could be left down as it was rotten and makes easy access for them. It was resolved to ask the District Council as the fence belongs to them.

### **19/83 Dunster Steep Toilets:** All the door closers have now been removed.

19/83.1 Sponsorship notice board: It was resolved to just have a list of people who had contributed to the toilet block, this would cost approximately £20.00.

**19/84 Allotments:**

19/84.1 Boundary hedge – The Clerk had requested the Statutory Declaration from Mrs Taylor but had not yet received it. It was resolved to wait until we had a copy before fixing a gate. Mrs Taylor asked the Clerk to report to the Councillors that she does not have a dog. It was further resolved to contact the PCSO to let them know about the number of dogs off leads and the amount of dog mess on the allotment plots.

**19/85 Council Meeting Dates – request from Tithe Barn:** A request had been received from the Manager of the Tithe Barn to switch Council meetings to a Tuesday. It was resolved to keep meetings on a Monday but change the time to 7.30 all year round to allow for more activities to be held in the Tithe Barn.

**19/86 Cleaning of bus shelters:** It was resolved to write to the current contractor to say we no longer need the service as it would be carried out by volunteers. The Council thanked Craig for doing this.

**19/87 Annual Review of Risk Management Arrangements during 2019/20:** A risk register had been produced and carried out by the Chairman and the Clerk. Appropriate steps need to be taken to manage the risks identified. It was resolved to buy a metal fireproof safe. It was further resolved to produce a Grievance and Disciplinary policy and a Freedom of Information Request policy. It was also resolved to form a Personnel Committee to enable staff appraisals to be carried out annually.

**19/88 Items on Report:** The weeds in the village had a second spraying last week.  
Cllr Ell would organise the Christmas dinner this year.  
There is a candlelight meeting on Thursday

**19/89 Matters for the next meeting to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019:**

Road bumps – The Green  
Fires in the village

Meeting closed 9.00 p.m.

Signed ..... Date.....