

# DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD At DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON  
11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 7.00pm

## Attendees

**Councillors:** Doug Challoner (Chair), Geoff Dibble, Carol Ell, Christine Oliver, Alan Vicary, Tessa Williams, James Morley and Peter Finney

**Clerk:** Mrs Sarah Towells

**Other:** Christine Lawrence (SCC) Marcus Kravis (SWaT and SCC) Andrew Speed and Nick Kelly

## Apologies

**Councillors:** Kevin Sully and Jackie Meakes

**Other:** Steve Griffiths (SwaT)

Prior to the start of the meeting Andrew Speed and Nick Kelly updated the Council on the restoration of the Deer Park. It would take 2 to 3 years to complete.

**22/75 To note apologies for absence:** As noted above.

**22/76 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations:** There were none. Cllr Dibble would not vote on planning 6/10/22/116

**22/77 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for approval:** It was resolved to approve the minutes.

**22/78 County Councillor Report:** Cllr Lawrence reported she had chased all the complaint logs with SCC. Food and energy bills support can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/somerset-household-support-fund)  
SCC have started work on two summer highways maintenance programmes covering verges and road surfaces.

**22/79 District Councillor Report:** Cllr Kravis reported he was trying to get the grass cut back on the cycle paths.

## **22/80 Appointment of Councillors to committees:**

22/80.1 Pack horse playing field: It was resolved to keep this to 2 councillors which are C Ell and G Dibble.  
22/80.2 Staffing Committee: It was resolved Cllrs Challoner and Ell would be on the Staffing Committee.  
22/80.3 Grievance committee: It was resolved Cllrs Oliver, Finney and Vicary would be on the Grievance Committee.  
22/80.4 Disciplinary Panel: It was resolved Cllrs Morely, Williams and Dibble would be the Disciplinary Panel.  
22/80.5 Appeals Panel: It was resolved Cllrs Meakes and Sully would be on the Appeals Panel leaving a vacancy if a new councillor is co-opted onto the council.

**22/81 Risk Register:** It was resolved to note there were no updates.

## **22/82 Accounts**

22/82.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list.  
22/82.2 Current account expenditure analysis for June 2022: It was resolved to note the income and expenditure for June, and this was signed by Cllr Finney.  
22/82.3 Bank reconciliation for May 2022: It was resolved Cllr Finney could sign the bank reconciliation for June.  
22/82.4 Buttercross Orchard balance: The Clerk had received up to date figures.  
22/82.5 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring. Cllr Finney would sign this.  
22/82.6 PAYE figures for June 2022: These were checked and signed by Cllr Dibble.  
22/82.7 Grant for Village Gardens: It was resolved to grant the gardens £400.00

**22/83 Planning:**

22/83.1 To consider the following planning applications:

ENP	6/10/22/116	Proposed replacement of existing outbuilding with a garden room and store at 12 West Close, Dunster	It was resolved to note there were no objections.
ENP	WTCA 22/09	Works to trees in a conservation area: Remove ash tree at Dunster Surgery	It was resolved to support this application
ENP	6/10/22/114 and 115LB	Proposed retention of existing temporary electricity cable and associated works at Dunster Castle	It was resolved to ask how long is temporary

**22/84 Toilets:** The new gents' toilets are now complete with the exception of one. Someone locked themselves in the mother and baby unit and the police were called. After he left it was discovered that the toilet was not connected to the floor and was flooding when flushed. The plumber replaced this leaving the one gent's toilet still to be replaced. This should be done over the next few weeks.

**22/85 Cemetery:** The Clerk would submit the planning application over the next few weeks.

**22/86 Allotments:** The notice board should be fitted by the end of the week.

**22/87 Correspondence:**

22/87.1 Complaint from visitors for not being able to enter Buttercross Orchard: The Orchard Committee have agreed to order more signage.

22.87.2 Response from Tim Parish: Work has started to clear footpaths and is ongoing.

**22/88 Dunster Recovery Group:** There was no update.

**22/89 Dunster Working Group:** Cllr Challoner had been approached by a Park Street resident about the length of grass in the sports field. The cricket club had taken the mower when they left, and the football club can not manage to maintain the field all year round with out a new mower. If the DPC/DWG fund a suitable mower the grass could be maintained all year round.

**22/90 Sea Lane Flooding:** There was no update.

**22/91 Stone Wall on cemetery side of allotment:** The Clerk reported Peter Creech would not be conduct the repairs and had contacted Mr Welsh who would carry out the repairs in the Autumn.

**22/92 Steps at top of West Close:** It was resolved to ask the insurance company what the outcome would be if the Parish Council repaired the steps.

**22/93 Ash Tree behind pavilion:** The planning application had been submitted.

**22/94 Caravans on old A39:** It was noted there was now only one caravan.

**22/95 Leaking Leat:** Nick Kelly reported the leak had been identified and would be repaired.

**22/96 Dunster Marsh Street Lights:** No update and the lights are still on.

**22/97 Sports Field fence blown down:** Nick Kelly would arrange repair.

**22/98 Broken Fence post at Dunster Steep:** There was no update.

**22/99 Missing cobbles by Chapel House:** These had been repaired but not to a very high standard.

**22/100 ATM at Memorial Hall:** The asbestos survey had been done and the ATM would be removed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**22/101 Candlelight:** Candlelight would go ahead this year with some changes. A Restart grant has been secured but finance is still needed. Ridlers Bus Company has halved their donation. Bus tickets will raise from £4 to £5 and £2 for young people up to 17. There will only be 4 main centres which are Minehead, Williton, Watchet and Wheddon Cross. No pickup from Porlock. The National Trust can only give 70 spaces in the Castle grounds this year and in the past, they have given 150. The cost of an outside stall has risen from £25 to £50.

**22/102 Drainage on High Street:** Cllr Vicary would look at this when it next rains.

**22/103 Damaged posts on High Street outside the Newsagents and Dunster Living:** Work has started, and it was resolved to order 3 more posts.

**22/104 Report from Bus Partnership zoom meeting:** With current problems such as cost of fuel and HGV driver availability only £11.9 m out of £163 m has been awarded. Somerset Bus Partnership believes that with the possibility of future grants it would be better to put most of the money into one area (Taunton) to prove Somerset's ability to utilise future money.

**22/105 Items to Report and matters for the next meeting to be held on 08<sup>th</sup> August:**

Western Power Substation on Church Street/West Street is need of repair.

Cobbles missing outside of 31 West Street

Stone still blocking Gully in St Georges Street

Cllr Finney attending a tourism network meeting and they plan to create a forum and move forward with a tourism plan. Cllr Finney also attended the Somerset Climate meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Meeting closed 9.10 p.m.

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