

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON
09th October 2023 7.00pm

Attendees

Councillors: Geoff Dibble (Chair), Chris Oliver, Jackie Meakes, James Morley, Peter Finney, Carol Ell, Tessa Williams, Kevin Sully and Alan Vicary

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Towells

Other: Marcus Kravis (SC) and Paula Herron

Apologies

Councillors: Tony Melnyk

Other: Christine Lawrence (SC)

23/122 To note apologies for absence: As noted above.

23/123 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations: There were none.

23/124 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023 for approval: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

23/125 Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr Kravis reported: In a letter to the Minister for Net Zero, Somerset Council's Lead Member for Climate and Environment has voiced her "frustration" at recent changes to green policy.

Every piece of plastic Somerset Council collected from households and via the recycling sites last year was recycled in the UK. The 6,500 tonnes of plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays all went to UK companies to be turned into new products and packaging – everything from plastic wrapping and compost bins to fleece jackets.

Somerset Council's 'Walk for a Life' event, aimed at raising awareness of suicide prevention, returned on Saturday 9 September.

The start of work to build Somerset's first ever carbon net zero school was marked with a timber framing ceremony after land at the Orchard Grove housing development in Taunton was handed from the Orchard Grove Consortium to Somerset Council.

Dunster has become the latest location to benefit from the Council's rollout of electric vehicle charging points. The 22kW fast charge point is located in Dunster Steep car park. It has become one of 305 publicly accessible charge points in Somerset, a figure that has increased 40.5% from 217 in June 2022.

British Telecommunications (BT) has been fined for carrying out work on Somerset's highway network without adequate traffic management or a valid street works permit.

23/126 Accounts

23/126.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list via internet banking except for PAYE which would be by cheque.

23/126.2 Current account expenditure analysis for September 2023: It was resolved to note the figures. These were signed by Cllr Finney.

23/126.3 Bank reconciliation for September 2023: It was resolved to note the reconciliation's which were signed by Cllr Finney.

23/126.4 Buttercross Orchard balance: There was no expenditure.

23/126.5 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring which were signed by Cllr Finney.

23/126.6 PAYE figures for September: These were checked and signed by Cllr Finney.

23/126.7 Online banking- update: The Clerk reported she had received clarification regarding the internet banking and had all log in details. She confirmed it was all set up and working.

23/126.8 Dunster Working Group – Bank account: It was resolved to have a separate account for the working group money.

23/127 Planning: There were no applications to discuss.

23/128 Toilets: It was resolved to contact a glazing firm to look at the roof light to see if that is the problem causing the flooding. The Clerk reported the graffiti had been painted over.

23/128.1 Business Sponsorship for toilets: It was resolved the Chairman would send the agreed letter to the Clerk to put on headed paper to print off for Councillors to circulate to business's inviting them to attend our next council meeting.

23/129 Cemetery: The fence between the cemetery and the field needs new posts. It was resolved to get quotes to have the old posts and all the ivy removed and have new posts but use the existing wire.

23/129.1 Cemetery Charges: It was resolved to increase the charges by 20%.

23/130 Allotments: It was resolved to keep the charges the same for the coming year. The hedges had been trimmed up West Street and around the allotments. It was resolved to ask Sully's if they could cut back the hedge at the bottom and clean the area.

23/130.1 Hedge from Hangers Way into Allotment: It was resolved to note that this had not yet been cut.

23/131 Retail unit: There was nothing to report, all payments are up to date.

23/132 Buttercross Orchard: The fundraising event held on Sunday morning went very well.

23/133 Riverside Walk: The clerk had reported the fence and had received a map to send back to the rights of way team. They are not looking in the right place. Cllr Vicary would contact them by phone.

23/134 Correspondence

23/134.1 Traffic Monitoring: Email from Paula Herron: It was resolved to support Paula's request for a post outside her house. Paula would send a photo that could be submitted to highways. It was further resolved to ask for an additional to sign asking to give way to oncoming traffic.

23/134.2 Flower boxes: A letter had been received from Bish and Julie to say they could no longer maintain the boxes. It was resolved to note that Tessa Williams would take them on and plant them up.

23/135 Risk Register: It was resolved to note there were no updates.

23/136 Highways: It was resolved to note that the Marsh Lane sign had been replaced. Cllr Kravis would chase the bollards on the old A39, and the Clerk would also write again stating that when the caravans are parked it is not a safe route to school for the Dunster children due to the anti-social behaviour of the caravan owners.

23/137 Bus shelters: The Clerk reported only one quote had been received and the others were unable to quote. It was resolved to award the contract to G A Sully & Sons Ltd.

23/138 Additional Defibrillators: The Clerk would submit a Listed Building application to put the defibrillator on the Chapel in West Street. It was resolved to also apply to have one on the Tithe Barn.

23/139 Dunster Parking Review: There was no update. It was resolved the Clerk would ask Cllr Kravis.

23/140 Old Cemetery Gate: It was resolved to get more quotes as only one had been received.

23/141 Broken Post at Tithe Barn: It was resolved to note this should be done this week.

23/142 Disaster Recovery Plan for Dunster PC: It was resolved to defer to the next meeting.

23/143 Gallox Bridge: It was resolved to note the repairs had been done.

23/144 Weed spraying map for the village: It was resolved Cllrs Sully and Vicary would look at this.

23/145 Flood Items in Tithe Barn: During the recent floods no items were required. It was resolved to publicise the items in the monthly magazine in case of further flooding in the future.

23/146 Items to Report and matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 13th November 2023:

Cllr Finney had received an email regarding the grants for drinking fountain.

Bike racks still need to be fitted.

Meeting closed 8.32 p.m.

Signed Date.....