

DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON
12th February 2024 7.00pm

Attendees

Councillors: Kevin Sully (Chair), James Morley, Peter Finney, Tessa Williams, Tony Melnyk, Carol Ell and Alan Vicary

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Towells

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

Apologies

Councillors: Jackie Meakes, Geoff Dibble, Chris Oliver

Other: None

23/212 To note apologies for absence: As noted above. Cllr Sully Welcomed Christine Lawrence back to meetings following a short illness.

23/213 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations: Ref item 23/223.5 – C Ell, P Finney and T Williams will not vote as they are on the Tithe Barn Committee.

23/214 Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 08th January 2024 for approval: It was resolved to approve the minutes.

23/215 Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr Kravis reported that work was starting tonight cleaning off the cycle path between Dunster and Carhampton.

Cllr Lawrence reported that despite recent increased government funding the scale of the Councils financial woes in Somerset have been set out in papers to the Executive meeting held on 7th February. In the papers a budget gap of £36.6m for 2024/5 is predicted to increase to £147.9m in 2026/7 if no actions are taken. Without taking these actions the Council will have no choice other than issue a section 114 (bankruptcy) notice. The Taunton park and ride will now be run by Stagecoach Southwest. Buses will run Monday to Saturday from the Silk Mills and the Gateway sites. The cost of a ticket will remain just £1.00 for any single journey. Buses run every 20 minutes.

23/216 Accounts: It was resolved to renew SLCC membership.

23/216.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list via internet banking except for PAYE.

23/216.2 Current account expenditure analysis for January 2024: It was resolved to note the figures. These were signed by Cllr Finney.

23/216.3 Bank reconciliation for January 2024: It was resolved to note the bank reconciliation which was signed by Cllr Finney.

23/216.4 Buttercross Orchard balance: It was resolved to note the figures.

23/216.5 Dunster Working Group Balance: It was resolved to note the figures.

23/216.6 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring which were signed by Cllr Finney.

23/216.7 PAYE figures for January: These were checked and signed by Cllr Finney.

23/217 Planning:

ENP	6/10/24/001LB	Listed building consent for the proposed alterations to existing internal doorways; new openings in internal partitions; alterations to existing fireplaces; alterations to bedroom to create en-suite, wardrobe and airing cupboard and installation of new bathroom, together with associated drainage.	It was resolved there were no objections
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23/218 Toilets: The ladies and gents would be closed from 1st April.

23/218.1 Cleaning contract: It was resolved to ask our present contractor to quote for cleaning the 2 cubicles once the ladies and gents have been closed. It was further resolved to get a price for putting the mother and baby unit onto mains.

23/219 Cemetery: It was resolved to ask Paul Storey to spray the paths in the cemetery.

23/220 Allotments:

23/220.1 Parking at the allotments: It was resolved to ask the school to provide permits for staff cars to be placed in the windscreen. It was resolved to put back the original fence in the first car park. This would give 3 more spaces.

23/221 Buttercross Orchard: Wassailing went well on 17th January 2024.

23/222 Riverside Walk: There was no update other than what is initiated under item 23/223.3

23/223 Correspondence: A letter had been received from a resident of Mill Gardens stating that the top end of Mill gardens is perpetually covered in mud, making it very slippery to walk on plus all the bushes on the sidewalk are all overgrown.

23/223.1 Letter from Dunster Pre School: It was resolved to donate £1000.00 towards the upgrade of the new out-door project. It was further resolved to note that daffodils from the orchard would be sold in aid of Dunster Pre-School this year.

23/223.3 Email regarding metal memorials in the cemetery: It was resolved to note that Dunster cemetery does not allow metal memorial.

23/223.3 Email from Rights of Way team: An email had been received from SC to say a fence was down along Riverside walk and that the Parish Council is responsible. It was resolved to write back explaining that the fence is on a piece of land that they own and we have also written and asked them many times over the past 6 months to fix it.

23/223.4 Email regarding Hedgehog Highway Project: It was resolved to defer this until the next meeting.

23/223.5 Letter from Tithe Barn Committee: It was resolved to ask the committee for quotes for the works, once we have quotes, we can then discuss the letter further.

23/224 Risk Register: It was resolved to note there were no updates.

23/225 Highways: The Clerk reported she had asked for the three posts on the old A39.

23/225.1 Underpass: It was resolved to report the graffiti to Somerset Council.

23/225.2 Dunster Steep: Highways had carried out some work but the drains are still blocked.

23/225.3 SID's: It was resolved not to install these in the village.

23/226 Additional Defibrillators: CLS Electrical had fitted the additional defib on the Tithe Barn. We are waiting for the ambulance service to notify us when they have two more.

23/227 Dunster Parking Review: There was no update.

23/228 Weed spraying map for the village: Cllrs Sully and Vicary would mark up the maps.

23/229 Bike Racks: It was resolved to note there was no update.

23/230 Proposed closure of Williton Recycling Centre: Cllr Kravis reported that the closure of the Williton recycling site is being reviewed and they are in talks with Biffa. Williton Parish Council held a meeting which was well attended and are sending a group letter from many of the surrounding Parishes.

23/231 Items to Report and matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 11th March 2024:

Cllr Finney reported we are no longer eligible for a water fountain grant.

Traffic light blinds.

Meeting closed 8.39 p.m.

Signed Date.....