

Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council General Purpose Committee held at 20.00 on the 20th February 2013, Parish Room (adjacent the Village Hall), Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst.

Present: Cllrs: Alan Farrow (Chairman), D Potter, P Arnell, Mrs Diane Rogers Harrison, Colin Enderby, Gerry Smith, Graham W Bateson.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Clr: Julia Le Page.
2. **Declaration of Interests relating to items on the agenda.** None declared.
3. 🗳️ **Resolution:** Approved the minutes of the GP meeting held on the 16th January 2013.
4. **Information:** Update on actions from prior meeting.
 - Response to John Jowers re flooding in Brook Lane - Draft response discussed and it is to be re-issued for comment.
 - Allotment padlock replacement. Currently awaiting replacement (NB replaced 22/02/03)
 - Scout Path Lighting - two lamps replaced on 19th Feb 2013, but one light failed within 24 hours. A professional assessment of the state of the lights to be obtained.
 - Peartree Mounds. Mr Porter instructed to carry out the work.
 - Kompan Product Catalogue and Pricelist obtained and passed to Clr Diane Rogers Harrison.
5. 🗳️ **Resolved:** Approved the adoption of the management of, and costs for, the 2013 May Fair by the Parish Council from the Horticultural Society. Future years action to be agreed by Full Council.
6. 🗳️ **Resolved:** Approved the use of the Parish Room by the Neighbourhood Watch Committee free of charge, on Tuesday afternoons in 2013, because of the overall village community benefit derived from the work of this group.
7. **Fees and Charges 2013/14** - Burial ground and Room Rental annual review undertaken. Parish Room hire fee to be £10 per session from 1st April 2013, an increase of £1 per session. The burial ground fees are to be revisited in March 2013 against a proposal to double the fees over a three year period. The Clerk is to produce detailed proposals as well as comparative costs charged by local burial grounds and a review of income v costs for 2012/13.
8. **Bus Services.** 228 service (Sunday Bus Service) cessation and 261 service issues.

Clr Enderby advised the committee that the 228 Sunday service was operating at a loss of £1000 per month and is most likely to be ceased.

On the 261 service the Parish Council had written to Regal Busways about service failures in January 2013 and a response promising more drivers and more suitable buses had been received. However complaints continued, with even double-decker buses being sent down the Doddinghurst Road and being unable to complete the route. Problems over driver availability were also still apparent but hard facts were needed to support an escalation of the complaint of the service which is now a commercial operation.
9. **Peartree Hedges layering** - Approved, action to obtain quotations.
10. **Highways Repairs** - Noted that a meeting involving Essex Highway Officers, County, Borough and Parish Councillors had taken place and a number of actions put in place to resolve the worst flooding and pothole problems in the Village.
11. **War memorial update.** A planning application has been made and clearance obtained from Diocese and English Heritage. Fund raising will continue at the May Fair and articles in the Link. The Art Club are to create a painting of the proposed memorial for use as a logo.
12. **Smart Water** - Peter Fisk is to be asked about its use by Village Hall to help protect the Hall roof from potential metal thieves - although no lead is now used in the roof construction.
13. **Diversion of Footpath 19.** Noted, the re-routing notification for this footpath.
14. **Any Other Urgent Business** strictly for information only. A "Volunteering" event (for youth matters) is to be held on March 19th at Brentwood Cricket Club.

The meeting closed at 22.00

Signed:

Dated: 21st March 2013
