

Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council held at 20.00 on Thursday 3rd November 2011, Parish Room, (adj. Village Hall), Church Lane, Doddinghurst.

Present: Clrs. Mrs D Dicker (Chairman), Mrs A Richards (Vice Chair), Mrs J Le Page, Mr G Smith, Mr G W Bateson, Mr A Farrow, Mr A Smith, Mrs D Rogers-Harrison, Mr A Oliver, County and Borough Councillor Ann Naylor; Borough Councillors Mr K Parker and Mr R McCheyne.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr. P Davenport and Cllr Mr C Enderby.
2.  **Resolved.** Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th October 2011 approved and signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests from Members.** None declared.
4. **Noted: Clerk's report back on progress following the meeting of the 6th October 2011:**
 - i. Letter to Tracy Chapman (ECC Cabinet member for Highways) issued requesting data on the financial expenditure on highways in the Parish of Doddinghurst for the past 2 years.
 - ii. Letters to the parents of the skate park petitioners and letter to the main signatories issued.
 - iii. Three new applicants for allotments made in the month.
 - iv. One ashes interment carried out in September.
 - v. Parish Council background Precept data (property bandings) received from Peter McKenzie.
 - vi. Neighbourhood Planning consultation and a new introduction to NP guidance papers received which clarified some issues.
 - vii. Legal topic note on the plans for the introduction of compulsory pension arrangement from 2012 to 2017, for all qualifying employees received.
 - viii. Queens Jubilee cover page leaflet received and adapted for A5 brochure.
 - ix. Risk Assessments summary completed for 2011.
 - x. VAT reclaimed up to end September 2011.
 - xi. Footpath condition reviewed and FP 10 inspected.
 - xii. Eileen Ehren's memorial bench on Peartree Green broke with the seats and arm joints coming apart. Unsafe to sit on, it has been removed.
 - xiii. One of the Teen Village roof supports has been wrenched out of its socket.
 - xiv. Forty bags of road salt have been received and the majority have been distributed for local use.
5. **Noted: Schedule of Correspondence received up to the 25th October 2011.** Noted: "Thank You" letters from the Doddinghurst Community Pre School and Doddinghurst Scouting Group for Grant awards from the Parish Council.
6. **Financial Reports and Minutes and Feedback from Committees.**
 - a.  **Resolved:** Approved the Financial Reports for October 2011.
 - b.  **Resolved:** Approved the Schedule of Payments for October 2011.
 - c. **Information:** Noted: no October Planning Committee meeting held.
 - d. **Information:** Noted: GP meeting minutes of the 19th October 2011. Concern was expressed at a recent proposal from Essex County Council to close Footpath 10 for yet another 6 months, which means that it could be closed for over a year because ECC had failed to carry out repairs to a major bridge on the pathway. It was noted that ECC funding for the work was only available until the end of March 2012, a fact that had been pointed out to their Major Structures repair team by the ECC rights of way officer.
 - e. **Information:** Feedback from Members relating to Committees attended in prior month. Cllr Dicker has attended the site of the new surgery for the planting of a "time capsule" by the village school, and reported that at present work was ahead of schedule for completion by August 2012.
7.  **Resolved:** Approved a proposal for working arrangements in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan, including up to 5 hours additional time on Mondays, in addition to the existing Clerks hours of 21.5 hours per week.

The additional time is to be charged against Neighbourhood Plan Funding at existing hourly rates. Also agreed was the formation of a neighbourhood planning team comprising 2 named villagers, 2 councillors and the clerk.

8. 🖐️ Resolved: Approved action relating to make safe the elevated section of the teen village - made unsafe due to criminal damage in which a handrail section and roof support were broken away, wrenched off and removed. (NB: missing handrail and damaged roof support pole has now been found and recovered. It is to be welded back into place (at minimal cost to the Council).

9. Information: Update on Skate Park petition. Noted, the Council has written to the parents of the young petitioners but to date no reply has been forthcoming. Estimates of hiring a temporary skate park had been put at £1000 per week plus VAT and transport costs. Cllr A Farrow to follow up.

10. Information: Noted: 2012 Jubilee Event planning briefing prepared by Julia Le Page and call for volunteers to assist on the day. The event would have free admission. The Dagwood trust is to be approach to see if they are prepared to fund £250 for commemorative bookmarks for the schoolchildren. A front page for the event's pamphlet has been prepared and circulated for comment. The provision of bunting and a flag/ flagpole is under discussion.

11. Information: Noted: A revised "partnership agreement" has been received from Borough Cllr Tony Sleep incorporating a new two tier discretionary grant structure. This proposal is to be reviewed, with a view to its approval, by the Finance and Resources committee. There is currently no update on the likely level of the grant for 2012/13 and the recommended assumption is that it will be the same as 2011/12 but only on the basis that the new partnership agreement is signed by the Parish Council.

12. 🖐️ Resolved: Approved: With regret, the Parish Council could not undertake to provide a Christmas bonfire in 2011. The decision to stop holding a Christmas Bonfire was made by Village Church groups after youths set fire to Village Hall fencing after last year's 2010 bonfire. The Church Groups are to continue to hold a Carol singing event.

13. 🖐️ Resolved: Approved, the December 2011 Newsletter and publication/ distribution fee of £200.

14. Other urgent information (No council actions/letters/undertakings permissible on this item).

- It was noted that the December Parish Council meeting will be for one hour from 20.00 and held in St Margaret's Hall on the Doddinghurst Road. The meeting will be followed by a Christmas buffet.
- Cllr Le Page asked if the provision of a Bus for young people to access the Blackmore Youth Club could be considered in January 2012.

The meeting closed at 22.00

Minutes signed:

Date: 1st December 2011

Comments in public session:

- Cllr Naylor advised the Council to be involved in the ECC "Health Watch" forum.
- Mr R Parrott volunteered to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting was attended by three members of the public.