



**Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2023 at**  
**7.30 pm at Woodah Farm**

**Present:** Cllr W Hole (Chairman), Cllr M Moorhouse, Cllr S Burdge, Cllr E Davis, Cllr J Sawyer and 22 members of the public

Clerk: A Miller

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman welcomed everybody. Cllr Crocker sent her apologies.

As the public had come to discuss the Local Plan, the Chairman gave a brief overview about what the Parish Council has done in order to improve the effect that Parish Council and community comments have on the Planning Authority's decisions – agenda item 5.3.1.

Then the Parish Council discussed the proposed Local Plan – item 5.2.

**Open Forum**

The Open Forum was held at the start of agenda item 5.2.

**2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations**

None.

**3 County and District Councillors' Report**

District Cllr Purser sent his report which was forwarded to the Parish Council.

**4 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Resolved** The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 10 January 2023 were unanimously accepted as a true record.

**5 Planning Matters**

**5.1 To Note Planning Decisions**

None.

**5.2 To Discuss a Consultation Response to the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040**

The item was discussed after agenda item 5.3.1 and members of the public expressed their opinions. The following points were raised.

- The Parish Council's previous general comments that were sent to the Draft Local Plan Review Part 2 - Site Options did not appear to have had an effect.
- The Planning Authority should prioritize brownfield sites and areas which are close to jobs, services and public transport for developments.
- The facilities in the village – bus, school, pub – might not be here in the long term.

- As a result of single planning applications, there were nine homes approved in the village in the last 3-4 years. The required 10 new homes would be achieved without a development site.
- The condition of the roads is critical and the railway bridge has ongoing safety issues.
- The sewage system is already over capacity and regularly causing problems.
- Custom built plots are not favourable for the Parish as there is no CIL income from self-built houses.
- Passive houses would be more favourable.
- A Legal professional should be involved in the response, but no offer for free legal advice was made.
- The District Council is under obligation to provide sites for a five-year supply plan. If it does not happen, developers can build anywhere.

**Resolved** The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the proposal for a building site in Doddiscombsleigh and to raise the following issues.

- The Local Plan Village Sites V8 section is legally non-compliant because it does not take into consideration the Parish Council's previous general comments that were sent to the Draft Local Plan Review Part 2 - Site Options.
- To reiterate the general comments made for the Draft Local Plan Review Part 2 - Site Options, as they are still valid concerns and emphasize that the required number of new homes will be achieved through individual applications.
- The proposed site for home building – V8: Adjacent to Burnt Meadow, Doddiscombsleigh - has not been consulted before.
- The proposed site is outside of the settlement boundary (apart from a very small corner of the area), which was consulted in 2018. The Parish Council objects the use of the land for building.
- Custom built houses are not the best option for the environment – insisting on building passive houses would be much more suitable in a rural location, in close proximity to Dartmoor National Park.
- The Local Plan Village Sites V8 section is unsound because the Plan made overly optimistic assumptions about the facilities of the parish. In reality, these services are very uncertain: the condition of the roads and the railway bridge, the future of the bus service, the pub and the school.

5.3 To Receive and Update about the Joint Parish / Town Council Planning Meeting on 26 January 2023 and to Agree to Doddiscombsleigh's Contribution to the Joint Letter to the District Council

5.3.1 Update about the Joint Planning Meeting

The update about the joint meeting was discussed after item 1.

The Chairman gave feedback about the joint meeting of the parish / town councils which was held on 26 January and was organized by Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council. The meeting was attended by 17 parishes/towns and it was agreed to send a joint letter to Teignbridge Planning Authority. The letter will consist of an outline part, summarizing the general concerns and a specific part, where every parish can write a one page document about their specific issues.

5.3.2 Doddiscombsleigh's Contribution to the Joint Letter

The draft of Doddiscombsleigh's contribution to the joint letter to the District Council was sent to the councillors and it was discussed at the meeting. The draft detailed the parish's experience with the Planning Authority.

**Resolved** The Parish Council unanimously approved the draft letter.

## **6 To Receive Reports and Updates**

### **6.1 To Receive a Highways Update**

#### **6.1.1 Pothole**

A dangerous pothole on Tick Lane at Lakeham Farm had been reported to Devon County Council, but it had not been repaired yet.

#### **6.1.2 Road Warden Scheme**

There is one volunteer to participate in the Scheme.

#### **6.1.3 Lengthsman's Report**

The lengthsman sent his report that he had 7 hours left from the agreed Annual Maintenance Plan. He is waiting for two hedges to be cut before he will clear the gullies in these areas. The work will be done by the end of February.

#### **6.1.4 Railway Bridge**

At the Railway Bridge a further part of the bank fell into the property below. The tarmac is deteriorating. The Chairman is to take a photo and send it to the Clerk, who will report the incident to Devon County Council and Historic Railways Estate.

### **6.2 To Receive a Telephone Box Project Update**

The Chairman reported that the kiosk is ready and the display is being organized by a volunteer.

### **6.3 To Receive a Parish Path Partnership and Footpath Update**

The Clerk reported that the bid to Parish Path Partnership funding was in progress and the necessary forms would be sent to Devon County Council soon.

### **6.4 To Receive an Update about Tree Planting for the Queen's Green Canopy**

The lengthsman sent his report that the tree planting will take place soon and it will cost approximately £275.

### **6.5 To Receive an Update about Tree Cutting at the Triangle**

Devon County Council confirmed that the tree cutting would take place in February. Some wood from the tree was promised for the community. The exact date is not known yet. The details of storing and transporting the wood were discussed. Cllr Moorhouse agreed to contact Sawmills Devon.

## **7 Finance**

### **7.1 To Receive a Finance Report**

The total bank balance (HSBC and Unity Bank together) at 31 January 2023 was £11,637.95. After deducting the amount of earmarked funds and grants, the general reserve was £1,878.58.

The Parish Council noted the accounts.

### **7.2 To Receive an Update about Registration with Unity Trust Bank**

Cllr Crocker has registered with Unity Trust Bank. Further two councillors are to register.

### **7.3 To Receive an Update about Current Grant Applications and to Discuss Further Possible Grant Applications**

7.3.1 District Councillors' Fund

£200 from District Cllr Tume's fund has been approved towards a new fully accessible website. More applications are necessary in the next financial year to raise enough funds for the project.

7.3.2 Locality Budget grant

**Resolved** The Parish Council agreed to apply for a grant from the Locality Budget to buy a new office laptop. The estimated cost is £630.

7.3.3 Tidy Teignbridge Fund

The Parish Council has applied for £2,000 from the Tidy Teignbridge Fund to cover the cost of reinstating the Triangle after the fir tree has been cut down, to repair the raised footpath between the pub and the Church and to repaint the bus shelter. The result will be known later in February.

7.4 To Discuss Insurance Cover for Council Assets

7.4.1 Telephone Box

The Clerk reported that the telephone box is insured for £4,000 replacement value for no extra cost until June. Afterwards it will be £10/year or £8.50-£9.50 if the Council agrees to a new 3-year agreement.

7.4.2 Bus Shelter

The Clerk asked for an estimate from Mike Wye for a replacement value. The estimate is significantly higher, £32,400+VAT than the current insured value.

**Resolved** The Parish Council unanimously agreed to increase the insured value of the bus shelter to £32,400 from June 2023.

7.4.3 Notice Board at the Triangle

**Resolved** The Parish Council unanimously agreed to increase the insured value of the notice board at the Triangle to £1,200 from June 2023.

7.5 To Appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 Financial Year

**Resolved** The Council unanimously appointed Kate Berry, who did the audit in the previous years, to do the internal audit for the 2022/2023 financial year.

7.6 Approval of Expenditure

Venue hire 26 January 2023 £25.00

Venue hire 7 February 2023 £10.00

HSBC fee £8.00

**Resolved** The Council unanimously approved the expenditures.

8 Clerk's Correspondence

The Dunsford & Doddiscombsleigh Twinning Association will hold a Quiz Night on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March at Dunsford Village Hall. A visit from France will be in June.

9 Date of Next Meeting

14 March 2023

10 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36 pm.

Signed.....

Chair

Date