

# DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting on 30th January 2018 held in the Garden Room of The Lord Haldon Hotel

**Present** Cllrs. Baker, Dow, Ellis, Goodchild & Swain (Chairman) and 33 Dunchideock residents. Ward Cllrs. Lake and Goodey

**1) Apologies for Absence – None**

**2) Declarations of Interest – None**

**3) Public Discussion** – A statement on behalf of the Village Hall Trust Committee was read out; this is attached as they requested, so not repeated here. It modified the Agenda request from £3,300 to £3,400 as consequence of grants secured by the Village Hall Trust Committee and their decision to not contribute towards repairs. Their bank balance of £7,681 is set aside for future running and maintenance expenses. In response to a question, the PC Chairman said our balance is some £5,800 (post-meeting check it is £5,945). There was extensive, vociferous public opinion that the Parish Councillors should support this request. The Chairman thanked villagers for attending and taking part in this active discussion. He highlighted the vacancies for a Parish Clerk and two Cllrs. on the PC.

**4) Request for a Grant to support repairs to the Village Hall Ceiling**

The PC discussed the PC financial situation taking account of the anticipated receipt of £1,500 from the Norman Family Charitable Trust money (see attached statement) and voted to grant the Village Hall Trust Committee £3,400.

**5) Planning Applications:**

**5.1 17/03000/MAJ – Haldon Quarry, Kennford, EX6 7YR**

A considerable number of concerns were discussed regarding this proposal. These included the scale and local impact of the proposals, the effect on wildlife, the adjacent SSSI and AGLV, traffic movements and ability of the lanes to accommodate these, water supply, sewerage, etc. The concerns raised at the Scoping Opinion stage prevail. There was a unanimous agreement to raise Objection to the proposals. Cllr. Goody will investigate whether the Application can be “called-in” to take to TDC Planning Committee.

**5.2 17/03039/MAJ - West Exe Park, Alphington, EX2 9SL**

Cllrs. Goodey and Lake contributed a great deal to the background of this present re-application from 16/03251/MAJ that was refused (currently beingAppealed). There are fundamental failings associated with TDC Local Plan and the locality housing and employment land proposals for this part of Teignbridge along with a lacking Devon & Exeter Strategic travel plan. Both these mean this proposal continues to illustrate disconcerting features, similar to the first proposal for this location. These include traffic impacts on locality, villages and rat-runs, junctions, emergency vehicles access, the flawed traffic studies, dangerous proposals for a bus stop, cycling and safe pedestrian access, water supply and drainage. The proposals will impact the environment and visual landscape along with noise and light pollution from industrial development. There was a unanimous agreement to raise Objection to the proposals.

**6) Any Other Business** The dates of 2018 meetings will be reviewed. Meeting closed at 9:40pm

**Date of the next meeting:-** Tuesday 20th March 2018

**Statement Read Out by the Village Hall Trust Committee to  
Parish Council Meeting 30th January 2018**

The VHC would like to present a short statement which has been approved by all the Committee members. The members ask for this statement to be appended to the minutes of this PC meeting in order that villagers who have been unable to attend the meeting can be kept fully informed and to ensure that a complete record is kept on the PC books.

The VHC has applied to the PC for a grant towards the repair of the VH ceiling which had partially collapsed in early December and has necessitated the Hall's closure on H&S grounds. This repair work required is not covered by the hall's insurance policy. The VHC believes that the PC should help provide this funding from the local precept surplus which has accumulated over the past few years.

A contractor has been appointed and anticipates starting work on 12th February with the required works taking approximately a week to 10 days to complete. The contractor's fee will be £6,322.46 inc VAT.

The VHC Secretary has spent considerable time going through funding sources; the vast majority are either not applicable to the VHC as they do not cover emergency repair works, cannot be applied for retrospectively, do not cover organisations such as village halls, or timescales would not enable the VH to be back up and running within a reasonable time. A full list of organisations contacted/looked at is available from the Secretary.

During the past few weeks, the VHC has successfully secured a total of £2,900 for the repair work from Councillors Goody and Lake (£700 each) and Councillor Connett (£1,500.00). The VHC would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank these Councillors for their support, which is very much appreciated. The VHC has additionally applied for a grant of £1500 from the Norman Family Charitable Trust who are meeting to discuss the application on the 5th Feb (so this cannot be counted as guaranteed funding).

Once secured funding is taken into account, there is a shortfall of just over £3,400 from the expected costs of work. The VHC propose that the PC provide this shortfall (we had initially requested £3,300) which could be refunded in part were the VHC to receive the funding from the Norman Family Charitable Trust. The VHC had originally said they would use £2,000 of its own funds, but there is now a strong feeling amongst Committee members that the PC should make a more substantial contribution towards the repair of this important community asset. The VHC is a registered charity and relies on contributions from the public to raise funds - these funds are used to support and maintain the village's main asset, the village hall. Costs for general maintenance and

running repairs have averaged approximately £3,000 per annum over the last 3 years and the VHC feel that they must have a large balance in reserve in order to deal with the annual costs and to cover any additional costly work that may be required: these include electrical works, new hot water system, etc.

The application to the PC for precept funding has now taken over six weeks, following the VHC's initial contact with the PC chairman in early December 2017. An attempt in early January 2018 to have the matter included on the 16th January PC meeting agenda was initially ignored: the PC meeting was subsequently cancelled; the reason given was that there were insufficient urgent agenda items for discussion.

The subsequent process has been punctuated by frequently-repeated requests from the PC for information on matters such as VAT registration; most of these were issues that were either irrelevant or had already been satisfactorily answered in the opinion of the VHC - this level of detail has not been required by Cllrs Connett, Lake and Goodey or by the other funding sources in this instance (nor by Viridor or other funding providers in funding applications for previous projects).

The required information has been duly and promptly provided to the PC, yet unfortunately it appears that the VHC responses have not been deemed satisfactory for the PC.

A great deal of time and effort has been put into satisfying PC requests or answering emails from the PC Chairman - it should be pointed out that all members of the VHC are volunteers and work extremely hard in their free time to support the village in looking after the village hall and in putting on popular and much appreciated events for the community.

The VHC would therefore like to express publically its disappointment at the manner in which this process has thus far been conducted and would like to be reassured that the PC will now engage positively with the VHC in helping them financially from the PC funds. It is the firm view of the VHC that the repair of the VH ceiling is a perfect example of how this communities financial contributions should be spent and for this reason as a matter of principle the PC should not only support this but be keen to do so. There is no better example of the benefit of the community than the village hall being kept in good and safe repair. The VHC therefore urges all Councillors on the PC to fully support this request for funding.