

DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, School Lane, Dunchideock, EX2 9UG

Present: Cllr Sharpe (Chairman of the Parish Council), Cllr Bean, Cllr Cook, Cllr Ellis, Cllr McCarthy, Cllr Moor, Cllr Robson. Parish Clerk, Mr Harvey.

Residents of the Parish: 8

Cllr Sharpe, as Chairman of the Parish Council, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the annual meeting for residents of the parish which gives them an opportunity to discuss parish matters.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received from TDC Cllrs Foden and Nuttall.
- 2. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2018 were presented for approval and signature. Proposed by Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Bean that they were an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed.
- 3. Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2018/19:** Cllr Sharpe gave her report which is attached to the minutes.
- 4. Village Hall Chairman's Report for 2018/19:** Cllr Robson gave her report which is attached to the minutes.
- 5. Public Discussion:** The residents asked questions regarding the following matters:-
What were the number and type of requests received under the Freedom of Information Act.
What was the cost of responding to these requests and what action could be or had been taken.
What is the present financial situation of the Council and does it face a financial risk.
What would be the situation if the Council became bankrupt and who would administer the parish.
Why was an election necessary and what was the cost.
What is the income of the Council and does it have a reserve.
What is the predicted reserve for the end of the current financial year.
Did the Devon Association of Local Councils provide any assistance to the Council.
The Chairman was congratulated on a good and comprehensive report.

The Chairman and the Clerk gave full and factual answers to all the questions.

- 6. What would you like to see in Dunchideock in the future? :** Items mentioned were:-
Shelters at the Bus Stops.
A Welcome Pack for new residents and an up to date map of the parish.
Names of Roads eg. Webberton Lane.
Speed Restriction on Blacksmiths Hill.
Another (4th) Defibrillator at Underdown.
Clarification of who uses or can use and who controls the parking outside of Sideling Close.
Could there be an event in between the bi-annual Village Fête.
Could there be an Air Ambulance Landing Site with remote controlled landing lights.

Cllr Sharpe thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and taking part in the discussions.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm and was followed by refreshments provided by the Parish Council.

Minutes Approved

Signed

Appointment

Date

DUNCHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2018-2019

This has been a turbulent and challenging 12 months for myself and fellow councillors. I have been privileged to have been the Chairman throughout the 12 months and have sought to bring about some stability to a council that has had a difficult past.

Much of the 12 months have been overshadowed by the efforts of two of our parishioners who appeared to be determined to submit formal complaints to Teignbridge District Council about myself and fellow councillors, challenge the majority of our decisions and processes, constantly email both myself and our various Parish Clerks in what seemed to be an orchestrated effort to undermine us and waste parish money. The communications that we have received from these individuals have at times been personally offensive and abusive. No one should have to be exposed to such unpleasant behaviour and in December of last year the Parish Council sent both individuals a letter informing them that they were being held as vexatious. This sadly did not deter them and at a recent meeting our Clerk reported over 100 emails in a 6-month period from them, requesting information and related enquiries, in contrast to 6 other local parishes that had collectively received 1 enquiry in the same period between them.

This level of activity costs everyone in the parish as it is the parish precept in the Council Tax which pays our Clerk's salary. I am pleased to report that latterly this communication has subsided and I hope that with the landslide election results where our community have had an opportunity to express their views, this will continue to be the case.

Our Clerk, Carol Retallick stayed with us as a locum Clerk until November when we ran a recruiting process. Sadly, the successful applicant was only with us for a few weeks, having to resign due to ill health. A further recruiting process was run in January of this year and we have been very fortunate to secure the services of Norman Harvey. As a retired bank manager, Norman has meticulously gone through our finances, and has successfully taken us through a recent independent audit. We have successfully challenged our bank on two occasions, both of which were upheld and we received financial compensation which has helped towards our finances.

In January when we set our budget, Norman highlighted the financial risk being faced by the Parish Council. This was due to a number of issues including a large donation to the village hall for the repair of the ceiling, which was in excess of the financial standing of the previous council, the need to fell the Lime tree at the junction of School Lane on public safety grounds and the cost of an election in May 2018 for 3 contested Parish Council seats at a cost to the parish of £1258. In isolation any one of these issues would have caused a financial strain but in combination they presented a significant risk.

I would like to pay tribute to the village hall committee who, on realising the effect of their grant on our finances, agreed to pay back half of the grant. The village hall funds are raised through the dedication of a small committee of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to put on events. The building is costly to run and the return of these funds in our time of need was a selfless act which demonstrates the excellent working relations between us. This support reduced the amount of your contribution needed in your Council Tax and for that we are immensely grateful and ask as many of you as possible to support their events now and in the future. (You will find a list of projects that they are hoping to fund at the rear of the hall so that this vital community asset is preserved for us all to enjoy).

On a more positive note, we had incredible support from our residents and businesses when we started fundraising for community defibrillators. In 3 months, we raised £5,800 which was enough for 3 units. Two have been installed and the third will be shortly.

We replaced the road safety mirror at Manstree Cross following a parishioner raising it at this meeting last year. We have set up our own independent website to ensure we can comply with our legal obligations and I would encourage you to use it to find all the information about the Parish Council, village hall, local information and events in the parish. We have run 2 successful litter picks but I would also like to thank those of you who regularly pick up litter on your walks in order to keep the village tidy.

The Easter Egg hunt was a first for the parish and it was lovely to be able to involve all ages of the community both in supporting and taking part in the event. It also gave us the opportunity to review one of our public rights of way to establish any work that may need to be done to it.

We ran a free first aid session thanks to our resident paramedic, Stuart Holt who generously gave his time to refresh so many people's skills. Our partner charity for the defibrillators, The Community Heartbeat Trust, ran a defibrillator awareness session which was also well attended and has given people the confidence to know what to expect if they need to use one of our defibs.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who have worked with energy and enthusiasm, giving much of their own time to deliver our projects and events. I would like to thank my Vice Chair Stephen Moor who has stepped into the breach when I have been incapacitated and has ensured that our business continues seamlessly. Our partners and family have put up with regular intrusion and I thank them for silently, in the background, keeping us going. Finally, I would like to thank our community for your enduring support. Few parish councils have the numbers and regular attendance of the public at their meetings that we enjoy. You have made our task worthwhile.

Cllr Sarah Sharpe
Chairman
Dunchideock Parish Council

DUNCHIDEOCK VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

This last year has been extremely difficult for the Village Hall Committee.

The running costs for the Village Hall are expensive and as a general principle for all Village Halls the aim should be for these costs to be covered by the income from hiring fees. If this income is not sufficient to cover the costs it is necessary for the Committee to hold fund raising events.

Our hiring income is limited and does not cover the running costs. We have therefore tried to hold several events during the year but unfortunately a number of these events have had to be cancelled due to not enough tickets being sold to make the events viable. This is a concern to the Committee as it is very important to have sufficient income to continue to make the Village Hall available for use by residents of the parish.

The Village Hall is the only and vital community asset in the village. It needs to be available as a focal point for everyone to use and meet, not only now, but also to preserve it for use by future generations. We shall continue to arrange events and look forward to your support as we do not want the village to lose its Village Hall.

The Committee has lost some members and we are soon to lose our long serving and excellent Secretary. Fortunately we have recently been joined by two new members and we would welcome more new members onto the Committee to assist with the running and maintenance of the Village Hall and organisation of events. We would especially welcome someone who could become our Secretary and if you are available to do this would you please let me know.

We have a regular Pilates class every Monday evening and during the autumn and winter months we have had some enjoyable Film Nights. Our monthly tea afternoons have proved to be a very popular and well attended social event and the 100 Club continues to be very well supported with the surplus funds providing income towards the running costs of the Village Hall. We are planning to hold further events such as a Big Breakfast, an auction, a music night and possibly talks by celebrities and details will be confirmed when arrangements have been made.

It is our intention to gradually improve the Village Hall and have identified the following projects:

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|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. New Roof | 2. Improve kitchen | 3. Repaint exterior paintwork |
| 4. Repair leaking porch | 5. Improve pavement | 6. Resurface car park |

Our aims are – To be a community hub for all the residents

To bring the heart back into the village

To help us achieve these aims – Your Village Hall Needs Your Support.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for all their hard work and the residents that have supported our events.

Karen Robson
Chairman