

DALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Dallington Parish Council Meeting
held on 16th July 2019

Present

Councillors W. Miers (Chairman), N. Holyoake (Vice-Chairman),
J. Gray, P. Ridley
Mrs. I. Marchant (Parish Clerk/RFO)
District Councillor G. Curtis
Members of the public

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a pecuniary interest in item 12.1 as she lives opposite the proposed development. She also declared a personal interest in item 8.1 as she is a Churchwarden. The Chairman will not take part in the voting on these two items and will leave the room when item 12.1 is discussed.

Councillor Ridley declared a personal interest in item 8.2 on the agenda as she is the Treasurer of Dallington Village Hall Committee and will not take part in the voting.

2. DISPENSATIONS

Dispensation requests were received from the Chairman for items 12.1 and 81 and from Councillor Ridley for item 8.2. In the event these were not required as the meeting was quorate.

3. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

RESOLVED – to co-opt Jim Gray as a member of Dallington Parish Council. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Holyoake seconded, the voting was by show of hands and unanimous. DPC are delighted to welcome him aboard.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Wilson.

5. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the meetings held on 15.05.19 and 18.06.19 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the proceedings. Councillor Holyoake proposed and Councillor Ridley seconded, the voting was unanimous.

6. OPEN FORUM

6.1 County Council report (ESCC) – Councillor Barnes sent apologies.

6.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor G. Curtis

- Councillor Curtis has been appointed to the RDC Planning Committee and the Property and Investment Panel.
 - He is still very much involved with Speedwatch and said that the DVLA is to increase road policing (maybe just for vehicle tax issues).
 - There are moves afoot for a joint venture for Rother Parishes to work together to control speeding.
 - He is also keeping a close eye on fly-tipping in Rother.
 - He will put pressure on Biffa to provide individual bins for the Glaziers Forge residents.
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- 6.3 Village Hall report – Mrs J. Jeremy
- Progress is being made with some maintenance matters, air-vents will soon be fitted in the toilets and the stage blocks have been removed, making more space for proposed internet training and usage.
 - The bad news is that leaks have been discovered in the roof, remedial work will be done in the school holidays as scaffolding will be needed.
 - Many thanks for some recent generous donations.
 - Estimates for outside decorating are coming in around £4/5K.
 - The Library is a great success, particularly when bacon sandwiches are on the menu!
 - A buyer has been found for un-wanted/damaged books.

- 6.4 Public Question Time
- The Chairman congratulated the organiser of the recent cricket match, £45.00 for the DRG was raised and all appreciate how much work goes in to organising these events.
 - There appears to be a problem with the pavilion cleanliness and we may have a mouse problem.

It was agreed to move item 12. Planning forward

12. PLANNING

- 12.1 RR/2019/1262/P – South Lane, land adjoining Dallington TN21 9NJ
Widening of field gate access, hardening of existing track and construction of vehicle turning area for forestry and woodland management associated vehicle use.
AGREED – to object to this application (DPC's grounds for objection are appended at the end of these minutes.
- 12.2 No other planning matters for discussion.

7. DALLINGTON RECREATION GROUND

- The Gillett family have very kindly donated a triple-gang mower for the DRG. This is a better machine than the one currently being used. DPC would like to thank them for this very generous gift.
- There will be another field event on 24.08.19, hopefully with a barbeque.
- The Chairman thanked all our volunteers for their very hard work with the recent ground improvements.
- The decision for a signboard for the DRG was not made and will be on the agenda for our September meeting.
- **RESOLVED** – to accept the quotation from Fairway Electrical (£750.00) for remedial works to the pavilion electrics. This is necessary for safety and insurance purposes. Councillor Holyoake proposed and Councillor Ridley seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- Replacing the “lost” gate at the end of the footpath to the Sugar Loaf was discussed and this item will be on our next agenda.

8. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

- 8.1 **RESOLVED** – to grant the sum of £600.00 to Dallington PCC for churchyard maintenance. Councillor Ridley proposed and Councillor Gray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.2 **RESOLVED** – to grant the sum of £500.00 to Dallington VHC for fast fibre broadband. Councillor Holyoake proposed and Councillor Gray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- ESCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan – DPC responded that good access and repair are required, and access must be available for the disabled.
- High Weald AONB Building – DPC responded that they welcome that guidance is now available and that it is sensitive to the historic landscape of the HWAONB.
- RDC Parking Places Order – DPC decided not to respond.

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10. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

Still more work is needed on organisation and materials required. This item will be on our agenda for the September meeting.

11. DIGITAL MAPPING THROUGH THE RALC SCHEME

The Members considered the digital mapping scheme – Parish Online, from Geoxsphere, subscribed through our RALC membership at £45/pa. It was agreed that this will be of great assistance to the Clerk.

RESOLVED – to subscribe to this scheme, Councillor Holyoake proposed and Councillor Gray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

13. ENFORCEMENT

13.1 No Dallington items on RDC's weekly enforcement list.

13.2 No enforcement matters for discussion.

14. ROADS/PATHS/VERGES

14.1 DPC will reply to ESCC's disappointing response to the matters raised at the SLR meeting about the Carricks Hill/Earlsdown traffic issue. They have not responded to DPC's request for a lower speed limit and accidents/near misses are still happening.

14.2 The request from the Dallington Tree Warden for more wildlife-friendly verge management from ESCC Highways was discussed and noted.

14.3 Repairs to our fingerposts and the Carricks Hill triangle will be on our next agenda.

15. FINANCE

15.1 Bank balances at 30.06.19

DPC deposit account £17,699.10

DPC current account £482.08

DRG current account £1,182.77

15.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. Councillor Holyoake proposed and the Chairman seconded, the voting was unanimous.

Clerk – salary/home office (Jun/Jul 2019) 672.20

D. Wilson – hire PAT testing equipment and labour for ground improvements 87.00

Grant – Dallington PCC (churchyard maintenance) 600.00

Grant – Dallington VHC (fast fibre broadband) 500.00

Fairway Electrical – electrical review DRG pavilion 150.00

TOTAL £2,009.20

15.3 **RESOLVED** – to approve the first quarter accounts 2019-20 at 30.06.19 as presented by the Clerk. Councillor Ridley proposed and Councillor Holyoake seconded, the voting was unanimous.

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

20.08.19 – Planning Meeting (provisional, will only be held if required)

17.09.19 – DRG Meeting

17.09.19 – Council Meeting (start 7.30pm)

All to start at 7.00pm – unless stated above – in Dallington Village Hall

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PLANNING APPLICATION RR/2019/1262/P

South Lane – land adjoining Dallington TN21 9NJ

Widening of field gate access, hardening of existing track and construction of vehicle turning area for forestry and woodland management associated vehicle use.

Dallington Parish council objects to this application on the following grounds

Safety

- The proposed lorry access/egress is situated on the most dangerous bend in South Lane. This area has seen many near-misses and a school bus has been involved in an accident here.
- South Lane has become a busy rural lane for vehicles and used as a rat-run for rush-hour traffic.
- It is an unclassified road with the National Speed limit, but due its bends and poor sight lines, we believe that 40mph is a safe speed on this road.
- Most vehicles drive at an unsafe speed on this road, overtaking on blind bends is common.
- There is another entrance, owned by the applicant, about 100m further south in South Lane, this would be a much better option as it is on a long stretch of South Lane with no bends and therefore much safer sight lines.
- An even better option would be to site the access/egress for logging vehicles on the B2096 where the applicant has another entrance.

Environmental

- There are six properties opposite the proposed entrance, these will inevitably be affected by noise and air pollution, apart from the safety aspect of the resident's vehicles pulling in and out of their drives.
- We understand from the RSPB that Turtle Doves nest in the area proposed for the entrance, these are extremely endangered birds and their protection should be seriously considered.
- We are also concerned with the destruction of 100's of metres of ancient hedgerow, a home for dormice and other species.

With the above points in mind, we trust that this application will be refused in its present form.

17.07.19