



Dodington Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES of the Meeting of the **Community Leisure & Environment Committee** held at Dodington Parish Hall (Foxall Powell Meeting Room) on **Monday 8th April 2024** at **7.30pm**.

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Evans, David Fitt, Louise Harris, Christine Howard, Adrian Hutton, Paul Hulbert, Sandra Jee, Laura Pearson-Tong, Jean Thomas and Chris Zapata (Chairing the meeting).

Also present: Hannah Saunders – Clerk to the Council – Clerking the Meeting & Pip Tymon – Deputy Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence and request for approval

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Hurley.

2. Declarations of Interests Under Localism Act 2011 and Requests for Dispensations

None

3. Public participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. Approval of Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting on 5th February 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes, as printed and circulated, be confirmed as a true record. Cllr Chris Zapata signed a copy of the minutes.

Matters arising – not covered off during course of agenda:-

Clearing of wood at Wapley hasn't been carried out yet as still waiting for drier / warmer weather.

Easter Extravaganza run by Yate Town Council had been a successful event – we have received a thank you for our financial contribution. The duck has been named Sir Quackalot!

Clerk confirmed that garden competition had been pushed as much as officers could, signed license for hedge around Tern Inn Car Park has been sent back to SGC (fence is being erected).

Three Phase electric upgrade will be going ahead on 22nd and 23rd April 2024 and all the Newsletters have been delivered.

5. Planning Matters

Applications considered and decisions published on the SGC Planning Portal were noted and can be viewed in **Appendix 1** attached to these minutes.

6. Grants to Consider

- **Yate Town Council – Armadillo** – Members had visited the Armadillo previous year and had a chance to speak with officers – and see venue in operation. They had received breakdown of number of children attending from Dodington Parish (approx. 25 – 27%)...and they had received information about cost / session and how that is allocated. During budget setting process last Autumn monies were budgeted accordingly for Armadillo. Members were shocked by amount requested by YTC – but Clerk reminded them that in 2022 – 23 the spend for Dodington children was in excess of £17k....so that the amount of £24k was realistic. Clerk had already warned YTC that Dodington may not be able to meet the full request. It was RESOLVED to grant £12,000 to YTC towards the Armadillo.

Cllr Christine Howard declared interest in next item as she sits on committee of Friends of Kingsgate Park – she will refrain from comment.

- **Yate Town Council – Yate Rocks** – Clerk confirmed that had paid monies to YTC in 23 – 24 for this event £1000. YTC were requesting £1500. Further information had been requested and received...very similar to what had been sent prior year – but event management is outsourced. After due consideration it was RESOLVED to grant £1000 to YTC for this event in June 2024.
- **Rotary Racer – Green Power** – Members were keen to support students at Chipping Sodbury School and for this STEM initiative. It was RESOLVED to grant £300 to Rotary Racer.

7. Consultations to consider

Local Nature Recovery Toolkit – was currently being consulted upon by WECA. Consultation open until 10th May 2024. Both Cllr Louise Harris and Paul Hulbert felt that it was an important consultation for members to be aware of and for Dodington to respond to. It was duly agreed to delegate drafting comments to Cllr Paul Hulbert – and for these to be reviewed / agreed at Planning & Transport Committee the following week. Area's that Cllr Paul Hulbert would like to see included are stream in Lilliput Park – and work that we are doing in Lilliput.

8. Wapley Bushes

Cllr Paul Hulbert gave members an update on most recent works carried out at Wapley – including pruning of the fruit tree's in the Orchard in front of Wapley Rank Cottages.

Clerk presented draft gaant chart regarding next tranche of Ash Dieback works to members and explained how Estates Officer is marking up the tree's on plan using 'What Three Words'. Due to the weather and Wapley being so wet – the schedule has slipped slightly.

The conservation group had received a request from local resident wanting to use Picnic area for some Tai Chi / Relaxation events. Conservation group had directed them to Parish Council.

After due consideration it was agreed to delegate this matter to Clerk. Clerk to go back and find out more from resident – as to whether they would be charging participants, how many participants expecting and how often looking to run events (or is it a one off). It was felt that if there was a charge to participants that a donation towards Wapley Conservation Group should be suggested.

Finally, the antisocial behaviour in car park outside Wapley Bushes (Besom Lane) was noted – sadly there is nothing that members can do. It had also been noted that there were signs of scooters / trail bikes having been up and around woods.

A couple of items to note – the Conservation Group are spending on 2 large items over the coming year – new notice boards and pruning of the fruit tree's.

9. Play Area's and POS

Clerk informed members that the replacement rocker (Sidney the Snail) had been installed at Goldcrest...so works planned for that Play Area are not up to date.

All other play areas are currently in order. Project officer is applying for Groundworks grant towards new play panels for Lilliput.

Fence repair at Lilliput has been carried out and after Easter hols Culverhill DofE students will be starting work on replanting of the Boules Court.

10. QEII

As discussed earlier (Item 5) the planning application for circular walking track at QEII is live on the Planning Portal. It is open for comments until 20th April 2024 and it is hoped that it will be determined by 22nd May 2024. However, if SGC need more time – they are at liberty to request this.

To date there have been no comments made.

We are asking local schools / user groups if they would support application – as the landscape architect has said that this will help.

Clerk confirmed that the pitch reinstatement works will commence on 13th May 2024 – and all football teams have been warned of this.

Football teams and caretaker have approached the council – to ask for new goal posts. The existing goal posts are old / heavy and rusty and weren't new when we got them 10 years ago (they were Pucklechurch's old ones). Newer goal posts will require different sockets – and depending on the pathway pitches may be moved slightly – so teams had been informed that this would be something to be sorted with all the work to field.

With new goal posts – need to establish how to put them up / take them down each weekend....as unlike existing ones don't really want to leave in situ all the time. Discussions to be had with caretaker / football teams later this year.

11. Allotment Association

Cllr Richard Evans reported that a new container has been purchased and installed on Site 1 (at a cost of £2400)...so old wooden shed has been taken down. They have had enquiry (again) about installation of toilet on sites, and have also noticed that one plot holder is using a lot of astroturf. Both sites are very wet currently.

SGC carried out some investigation works into blocked drain pipe on Site 1 and following excavation found that pipe was broken / blocked by a blue plastic water pipe running at a 90degree angle to the drainage pipe. Committee are at a loss to know when pipe was installed and where it goes to / from.

Cllr Paul Hulbert suggested that Clerk speak with SGC and try and get a copy of pipework in area.

PMN – Clerk has spoken with Nick Blanchard at SGC who confirmed that specialist materials had to be ordered to carry out the repair – once received work will be completed and he will ask engineers to map out some drainage plans.

Clerk confirmed with Cllr Richard Evans type of bench to be ordered for Betty / Charlie to be made of recycled plastic and wasn't needed until later this year (being presented in September). Just need clarification whether bench or picnic table & bench – and what to put on plaque – and where to have it delivered to – and who would install on Site 2 (it is definitely to go on Site 2 – where Betty / Charlie normally put their picnic chairs out and sit).

Cllr Adrian Hutton – is happy to have bench delivered to his warehouse ahead of the AGM.

12. Local Nature Action Plan

Clerk reminded members that they had until 19th April to comment on Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) information that deputy had emailed out the previous month.

Cllr Sandra Jee stated that she had read and didn't think there was anything else to add she also confirmed that she would happily be on working group for LNAP going forward.

Cllr Paul Hulbert stated that needed more volunteers to get involved with LNAP (in particular to work on actions drawn up from Lilliput Management Plan). It was suggested that this matter be pushed at Annual Parish Meeting at end April 2024. Clerk confirmed that officers don't have time to drive this forward, as got so much on.

13. Finance Matters

Clerk confirmed that she had taken Chair's and Vice Chairs of committee's through EMR movements / transfers for 23 – 24 and they were happy with this.

Cllr Paul Hulbert wanted to thank Clerk for clear explanation provided and felt it was a useful exercise.

14. Items to report

1. Cllrs David Fitt and Laura Pearson Tong confirmed that they had completed the deliveries to Woodchester – had seen approx. 20 % of the resident’s face to face. Everyone was pleasant and pleased to see them and they invited them to view website – and see what was going on locally. They both confirmed that they would do again – choosing a different road – and encouraged other councillors to do.
2. Cllr Louise Harris had been contacted by local residents on Shireway – questioning what was happening with the Shireway Site – when are Paul’s Place taking it over....so she along with Cllr Wilmore have been trying to find out what the state of play is. Also, Abbotswood Residents Group have got a Car Boot Sale on 20th April at St Nicks Car Park.
3. Cllr Jean Thomas reported that some of the DPC notice boards could do with a clean as looking a bit dirty . She also gave members a brief update following the Yate Town Centre Strategy Meeting.....Re car parking – the parking fee’s haven’t been introduced yet – SGC still consulting on this. Details of new police Sergeant that has taken over at Chipping Sodbury – following PC Rob Turner leaving were announced. It is hoped that there will be a bin in C Sodbury soon for the knife amnesty. The number of people going over Tesco Threshold each month is in excess of 300k and the shopping centre has seen 14% increase in footfall over the last 3 months. It was confirmed that Shoe zone isn’t closing down – it is actually taking on the old Hinds unit next to it – to increase in size. There are currently 9 vacant units. Andy Lowrey said that in a recent meeting with shopping centre owners they are looking at updating all the signage – and making it digital (so that it is easier to change / update going forward). The leisure centre is changing its wording from Health and Fitness to Health and Wellbeing. The library budget has been decreased – but it isn’t closing. Armadillo remains busy and they have seen an increase in children from years 9, 10 and 11. 20th April the Heritage Centre will be celebrating St Georges day and later in year for D Day Celebration Whirlpool will be opening up their underground bunker.
4. Clerk reported that she will be including item regarding Litter Pick / Spring Clean on Planning and Transport Committee Meeting agenda (as she had missed it off this agenda). Clerk also informed members that she had received an email from The Twinning Association updating us on fact it was voted for the association to go into ‘hibernation’ due to lack of interest currently. This would be reviewed on an annual basis.. Clerk had also received notification from Green Community Transport who were pleased to announce that they wouldn’t have to increase fayres to bus pass holders as they had previously thought due to WECA continuing with funding.

The next meeting for the Community Leisure & Environment Committee **Monday 24th June 2024 (Chambers)**

As there was no further business – the meeting was closed at 9.20 pm with Chair thanking Everyone for their time.

Signed Committee Chair

Date 8th April 2024

APPENDIX 1

Applications Considered:-

P24/00608/F

Use of site as storage (Class B8) and, demolition of storage buildings erection of 1no. timber framed office building (retrospective).|

Land At Wapley Poultry Farm Sodbury Lane Westerleigh South Gloucestershire BS37 8RR

<https://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S9YONGOKKKI00&activeTab=summary>

After due consideration it was decided no comment necessary.

P24/00622/F

Erection of rear extension to agricultural building (retrospective).|

Land At Wapley Poultry Farm Sodbury Lane Westerleigh South Gloucestershire BS37 8RR

<https://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SA0JC9OKKML00&activeTab=summary>

After due consideration it was decided no comment necessary.

P24/00759/F

Installation of circular exercise path. |

QEII Playing Fields Kelston Close South Gloucestershire BS37 8SY

<https://developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SARDNSOKLDV00>

This is DPC application – to date no comments have been made. Open for comments until 20th April 2024 and date to be determined by has been set as 22nd May 2024.

DECISIONS TO NOTE

P23/03166/F

Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of 1no. detached dwelling with associated works. |

The Wetlands Sodbury Lane Westerleigh Bristol South Gloucestershire BS37 8RR

REFUSED – due to inappropriate development in the Green Belt – by virtue of the size of the proposed dwelling compared to the existing dwelling.

P23/02568/F

Change of Use to caravan storage (Class B8) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) (retrospective).|

Land At Lydes Farm Dodington Lane Dodington Bristol South Gloucestershire BS37 6SB

REFUSED

Reason for refusal being inappropriate development in the Green Belt. An appeal was lodged and went live on 6th April 2024.