



Dodington Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES of the Meeting of the **Community Leisure & Environment Committee** held the Council Chambers adjacent to Dodington Parish Hall on **Monday 29th July 2024** at **7.30pm**.

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Evans (RE), David Fitt (DF), Louise Harris (LH), Christine Howard (CH), Sarah Hurley(SH), Adrian Hutton (AH, Chairing the Meeting), Sandra Jee (SJ), Laura Pearson Tong (LPT), Jean Thomas (JT) and Chris Zapata (CZ).

Also present: Hannah Saunders – Clerk to the Council – Clerking the Meeting, 4 members of public.

1. Apologies for absence and request for approval

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Hulbert.

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

None

3. Public participation

There were 4 members of public in attendance. Cllr Chris Willmore had come to update / speak about the issue with buses (Y1, Y2 and Y6). Chair agreed to bring item 9 forward to facilitate this.

Cllr Willmore explained that bus companies are at liberty to review timetables twice a year – and unless they are subsidized routes (which these aren't) they can do this without consultation. The process was later than usual due to the general election.

The leak of information was due to bus drivers being told before the official announcement was published. The changes proposed are that Y1 and Y2 don't service South Yate (this includes Birds and Shireway from 2nd September 2024 and the frequency of the Y6 is reduced from every 60 minutes to every 90minutes).

Cllr Willmore has had several meetings – and as per posts on social media First Bus are stating that no students / children use the service – as such seeking evidence from parents / carers / students that will be affected by this change come new school term in September.

It was agreed that Clerk / Cllr Louise Harris would help collate this. Sadly a petition is unlikely to work – need evidence of need. Cllr Willmore has a meeting scheduled end of the week and will report back following that, Clerk will include on Planning & Transport agenda.

Cllr Chris Willmore was thanked for attending meeting and for all her help with this matter.

There was a further question from member of public (local resident with interest in Wapley) regarding item 6 on the agenda. There was concern over the type of footpath and if it was to be a metal pathway to aid accessibility?

Clerk explained that it would be PROW standard – with type 1 and stone dust top (as per current paths in Wapley), and illustrated on screen which part of Wapley path was intended for / why. Resident was satisfied with this and thanked Clerk for clarifying.

There were no further items for public participation, Clerk explained that as there were residents present – if there was something that they didn't understand – to raise hand – and at Chairs discretion question could be asked.

4. Approval of Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting on 1st July 2024

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

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

Clerk confirmed that garden competition judging took place and just waiting for trophy to be presented.

Still awaiting Octopus to carry out switch over for the 3 phase electrics.

Cllr Paul Hulbert confirmed that he has now received license from SGC for installation of new notice board off Shireway by Sargeants Bridge.

QEII – neither football have come back regarding storage / or banners

As mentioned at FC previous week Brass not on the Grass was a great event.

Summer Playscheme has started and first day went well. If members want to visit – let Clerk know.

PSA, Estates Officer and Clerk are meeting with Phil Dye re the tree surveys on 8th August 2024.

Agenda has been sent out for LNAP meeting on 19th August 2024, if members want anything printed out for ease – let officers know.

The weeds growing through wetpour at Lilliput that were reported last month have now been dealt with.

5. QEII

P24/00759/F – application for circular exercise path at QEII had been determined by SGC – and permission had been granted following Sport England withdrawing their objection upon receipt of the revised plans.

Members were delighted and agreed to a photo being taken at QEII so a good news story for website, Facebook, Gazette and Voice could be produced (given that gazette were quick to pick up on the objections last month).

Clerk briefly took members through the next steps of process:-

- End August 2024 – PSA and Clerk to have meeting with Andrew Sanders from SGC to sort out documents required for the tender process and Sec 106 reporting
- Works will have to be advertised via contract finder, AIM to get all loaded up and live by end September 2024.

- As with previous project installing adult fitness equipment at Lilliput – Andrew Sanders will help with the tender process, etc. ...
- There is a question about costs already incurred if they can be reimbursed via the Sec 106 process? Clerk to ascertain this.
- Subject to contract finder going live on time – aim is to review the tenders and appoint contractor at end of the year (December 2024) – with an anticipated start date of May 2025

6. Wapley Bushes

Clerk presented quotes for footpath through centenary wood (wellbeing area), which had been brought back to meeting following discussions at last committee meeting (when quote came in higher than anticipated). As such Clerk had outlined scope of work and gone out to other companies.

Scope of Work:-

- . Public Rights of Way Specification Path
- . No edging – path to blend into existing vegetation and landscape
- . Path needs to be 1.2m wide and extends approx. 130m through the wood
- . Excavate 250 – 300 mm (spoil to remain on site)
- . It will require geotextile sheet at base (weed barrier) along the length
- . Backfill with type 1 sub base (compacted)
- . Surface dressing of 50mm limestone dust (compacted)

Clerk approached 4 companies (including company that had quoted originally).

One stated job too large – and they would need to sub contract out so didn't quote

One stated they are too busy to take on work – and it is bit far for them to travel

Two companies met brief / quoted as outlined below

Company	Met Brief	Cost / Metre	Total Cost	When can deliver
A	YES	£65.00	£8450	From Sept – Oct 2024 onwards
B	YES	£72.88	£9475	From March 2025 onwards

After due consideration it was agreed to avoid further delay – financial regulations would be waived – as Clerk had tried to get 3+ quotes.

With regards budget – some monies included in current revenue budget under Well Being Area. The rest of monies would have need to come from either CIL monies that had been paid this year &/or EMR – Clerk suggested Rural Area's / Projects. Another option was to split costs over 2 years (which one of the quotes would facilitate in timings).

Clerk also informed members that since measuring up at centenary woods there were a couple of other stretches of lower path that needed patching up – as get very muddy.

After due consideration – members agreed that work should be done sooner rather than later – and as such Cllr Louise Harris proposed company A should carry out work, this was seconded by Cllr Sarah Hurley and unanimously RESOLVED.

Clerk updated members on how Estate Officers work plan was going at Wapley....they are on target to complete works by end August. Clerk agreed to circulate report to members so they could look at detail.

Members noted further request from local resident hoping to use Wapley over summer to offer Sound Baths / Forest Bathing type of classes to local people.

It was agreed to delegate this to Clerk – who would ensure necessary indemnity forms signed and would give dates to Wapley Bushes Conservation Group – so they are aware.

7. Play Area's and POS

Clerk gave members an update following removal of the tyre / chains (part of cantilever swing) at Woodchester. Once these had been removed – contractor was able to take swivel joint apart and see damage – and there is a chance that it can be repaired.

Clerk has given permission for this – and once done will have it re inspected and if okay – then it can be put back into use (having saved the council a considerable amount of money).

Following reports of erosion to streambank at Lilliput and concern that bench may fall in – estates officer has shored up the sides with large rocks – and is going to secure these in place with wire and post crete / mud – so looks natural but stops erosion.

Issues at Goldcrest will be covered under item 10.

8. Allotment Association (DAA)

Cllr Richard Evans reported that DAA had taken a table at Yate Aging Better Festival – which had been a good event and generated some interest in Allotments. They have 146 plots over the 2 sites – and approx. 50% of people want ½ plots – as they find these more manageable.

There is currently no waiting list. Matters that the committee are looking into / working on include new locks for gates – as current ones aren't working and looking into provision of toilets and whether it is feasible.

The association received a worryingly high water bill (arrived that morning) and it would indicate that there is a leak somewhere – as such the water has been turned off at the mains while matter is being investigated. Clerk has spoken with both Water2Business and Bristol Water. It would appear that another property on Besom Lane may have received a large bill too.

9. First Bus

This item was covered earlier in the meeting during public participation. Nothing to add at this point.

10. Litter Bins

Clerk explained that there are several issues with litter bins across the parish.

- One dual purpose bin (by bus shelter at Chedworth) is in bad state of repair...clerk has put off replacing and asked SGC if they have any second hand bins that can be repurposed (as have in the past). SGC don't and have quoted £595 net to replace. Clerk confirmed have monies in EMR or CIL to cover this. It was duly agreed to get bin replaced.
- There has been an issue with 2 dog bins at Goldcrest Park / Play Area. Being old style – the black lining bags can easily be removed. The previous week this happened and the contents were chucked into the play area – and then mess then smeared on equipment. In order to stop this happening again (it has occurred in the past – but litter only left on footpath by bin) SGC have agreed to replace one of the bins – if Dodington pay for the other one (Buy one get one free). Clerk has approved this – due to nature of issue and fact that estates team had to spend 3 hours clearing up. Cost to DPC - £447. Again monies in EMR / CIL.
- Finally – SGC Streetcare – who empty the dog bins -have noticed that some of them are getting very full – and have suggested through the summer an uplift from one empty to two empties / week for a number of the bins. It was agreed that during summer this was necessary – delegated to Clerk – and will be reviewed in Autumn and discussed when budgeting.

11. Tern Inn

Clerk confirmed that solicitor acting on behalf of DPC had now received lease for signing – and it was exactly the same (apart from change to car park plan) as the lease signed on the agreement to lease 2 years previously. All the area's of concern have been addressed and Clerk recommends that it is signed by Chair / Vice Chair of Council by Wednesday so can get it back to Wards Solicitors in readiness for completion by longstop date. This was duly agreed.

Clerk informed members that she had been in touch with the manager of Co-op who was concerned that if no management was in place for car park – that it would make it difficult for customers to park / access store. As such they are keen to work with Parish Council.

Clerk confirmed that license for land on boundary of car park – by fence is in place – SGC confirmed no further action required. They have also confirmed that parish council aren't responsible for the tree's – but will be responsible for grass cutting...and any planting that is carried out in the future. The management plan hasn't been finalised yet – as Clerk has some concerns regarding other areas surrounding site to address first.

12. Policies

It was noted that the following councillors (RE, CZ, JT, PH, LH, AH) would review policies listed below with Clerk / Deputy Clerk over the next month – 6 weeks.

- Herbicide Use Policy, Memorial Bench, Tree & Garden Policy, Volunteer Policy, Drone Flying Policy and Climate and Biodiversity Policy.

13. Finance Matters

Members reviewed spend YTD (month 4) against budget and also looked at EMR movement. All in order.

14. Items to report

1. Clerk informed members that there was going to be a 'getting around Yate' better meeting and drop in session on Wednesday – but due to the heatwave it had been postponed. However, Cllr Jean Thomas and Clerk are still meeting with one of the SGC Officers to discuss the Blue Line and improving signage for footpaths. Cllr Chris Willmore asked to be copied in on correspondence – as 'Getting around Yate better is something that she has been involved with from the start.
2. Clerk reminded members that the A432 improvements would be included on Planning & Transport agenda for comment, along with Regulation 18 consultation re the Local Plan. There are pop up sessions scheduled this week if members interested. Cllr Chris Willmore gave some brief details about consultation....and background to it – and explained that it didn't really impact on DPC – due to there having been no sites put forward in area (NE and NW ward have no land for further development and S ward is protected by Green Belt).

The next meeting for the Community Leisure & Environment Committee **Monday 9th September 2024 (Chambers)**

As there was no further business – the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm with Chair thanking Everyone for their time.

Signed Committee Chair

Date 9th September 2024