

Dalwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Dalwood Parish Council Meeting Held in Dalwood Village Hall on Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mrs KFG Laing (Chairman), Cllr T Hodges (Vice Chairman), Cllr AP Benger, Cllr PH Lawrence, Cllr GJ Perry, Cllr B Trott, Cllr Mrs CM Wyatt, Mrs D Wiltshire (Minutes)

In attendance: Mr R Beak, Mrs S Beak, Mrs S Cooper, Mrs H Horley, Mr O Morgan, Mr A Ross, Mrs D Scott-Stephens, Mrs M White

1) Welcome and apologies

Cllr Laing welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence. Cllr Laing stated the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of assisting with the Minutes, there were no objections to this.

2) Minutes of the meeting held 24 April 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held 24 April 2023 were accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings. Cllr Laing signed the Minutes.

3) Matter Arising

Jubilee Oak – Cllr Benger confirmed there had been no further progress on this action.

4) Financial Matters – DALC Membership Renewal

Following a brief discussion, the Council agreed to renew the membership of DALC. Cllr Trott agreed to undertake this.

Cllr Trott recommended contacting the SLCC, he had sent the link to the website to Cllr Laing to review prior to the meeting; SLCC are an organisation who can provide a locum Clerk to assist the Parish Council in getting the financial matters up to date until such time they appoint a permanent Clerk.

5) Planning Matters

Newbrae – opposite Beckford Bridge – conversation of workshop to one bed annex.

Sewards – conversation of coach station mess room to 2x holiday lets.

Sunnylands – replacement agricultural dwelling and garage.

Mowbars Hayes – conversion of garage to habitable use – passed retrospectively.

Cllr Trott declared that he knew the applicant for the Sewards' application and was therefore unable to take part in any discussion on this planning application.

There were no objections to any of the current planning applications.

6) Highway Matters

A number of small potholes had been filled on the road leading to Carters Cross; the Council noted that these had started to deteriorate already as they had only been partially filled with tarmac. Cllr Laing confirmed that she had not been successful in

her attempt to contact Devon Highways. Mr Beak raised that the road from Carters Cross was beyond pot hole filling as it had deteriorated to such an extent that the road now required total resurfacing. The Council were asked to pursue Devon Highways and to get the village roads surveyed. Cllr Laing agreed to endeavour to arrange a meeting with Dave Ashford; Cllr Perry agreed to attend the meeting, once it had been arranged.

7) **Parish Footpaths**

Footpath 10 – Gate is rotten and requires replacing.

Footpath 15 – Brimblecombe Farm – stile is broken.

Footpath 23 – Stile is broken approximately half way up path. Unable to contact one landowner so the stile will be repaired.

Bridleway 2 – Footbridge requires a gate to prevent the livestock accessing.

Owain Morgan had circulated the repair costs to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The costs will be covered by Devon County Council (DCC) under the P3 footpath grant. Mr Morgan stated that in order to obtain the grant from DCC the Parish Council Financial Statement and an Invoice are required as part of the DCC application process. Mr Morgan had not received the financial statements from the Parish Council therefore he is unable to proceed with the application.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Laing, Cllr Bengier and Cllr Hodges would meet separately to review the current financial information; it would then be submitted to the auditor to review. Once finalised, a copy of the financial information would be provided to Mr Morgan to assist with the footpath grant application process.

Sue Cooper raised that there was one other gate to a footpath that was sticking. Mr Morgan agreed to investigate further.

The Council approved the quotations for the repairs to the footpath stiles and the new gate for bridleway 2. This was proposed by Cllr Bengier and seconded by Cllr Wyatt.

8) **Maintenance Matters**

Willow Tree - A report had been prepared on the Willow tree a number of months prior which contained some options on how to manage the tree. Cllr Bengier and Cllr Laing agreed to review the report. The tree surgeon had recommended that tree management was carried out in the summer months to allow the tree to recover prior to the winter months. It was noted that there is a Nuthatch nesting in the tree and therefore the works would be postponed.

Cllr Trott asked if there was a tree management plan for the village; to which the Council replied no. It was noted there is a village tree warden. Cllr Trott recommended the Council obtain a register of all trees it is responsible for and their location. He also recommended that the Council obtain a professional report on each of the trees it is responsible for; the Council noted that 2 reports should be obtained; one in summer and one in winter. Cllr Laing agreed to speak with the current tree warden.

Public right of way through river and across the river banks –Mr Ross raised the issue of the public right of way through the river and across the river banks. Cllr Ian Chubb had agreed, at a previous meeting, to investigate whether there was an existing public right of way across the river banks. The Council had not received information from Cllr Chubb on this matter; Cllr Hodges agreed to follow up with Cllr Chubb.

Cllr Trott raised the issue of a public space protection order for the land along the river bank where the willow tree is located. Cllr Bengler confirmed there are no Deeds for that part of the river bank. Cllr Trott agreed to investigate public space protection orders.

Noticeboards - Cllr Laing confirmed the lock on one side of the Parish Council noticeboard has now broken and will require replacement. The Council noted that other noticeboards, located around the village, are difficult to affix notices to because the board backing is too hard/soft. Following a short discussion, Cllr Lawrence agreed to contact Stephen McKennie and Ray Herbert to obtain quotes to refurbish the noticeboards located within the village.

Telephone Box - the phone box will be painted on Tuesday.

Bus Shelters

A35 Bus Shelters - the Council noted that the concrete bases for the bus shelters have now been removed by Highways England and have been replaced with grass.

Village Bus Shelter – Ray Herbert has declined undertake repairs to the shelter; however, Derek Gould has agreed to do. Cllr Bengler confirmed that the surplus tiles he has would be made available for the shelter roof.

Lighting - Cllr Bengler confirmed that he had written to DCC regarding the changes to street lighting, to reduce the light pollution at Mowbar Hayes, agreed at the April meeting. He has had a response; he agreed to follow up with DCC for the action plan.

Mr Ross quoted sections from the village plan regarding the dark skies policy. It was raised that the village plan covers future development and not retrospective developments. Cllr Laing highlighted that the affordable housing development did not have street lighting. Cllr Laing stated that the Council had received a letter from another resident of Mowbar Hayes requesting that the street lights were not removed or turned off. Cllr Laing agreed to write to the resident acknowledging receipt of the letter.

Boundary Stone - Cllr Laing had spoken to Adrian Jenkins of Kilmington Parish Council regarding the plaque placed on the stone; Kilmington are against having a plaque on the stone as it is a listed monument; they consider the placing of the plaque to be an act of vandalism and have sent a letter requesting the stone be returned to its original condition; Cllr Laing confirmed she had not received a letter from Kilmington. The Council agreed it was not possible to remove the plaque as in doing so would leave the fixing holes visible. Cllr Laing had inspected the stone prior to the fixing of the plaque and reported that the stone had been neglected to the point it was overgrown and almost not visible. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that no further action would be taken to remove the plaque.

King Charles III Coronation Plaque - Cllr Bengler showed the meeting the design of the plaque which would be placed on the stone alongside the platinum jubilee plaque near the village bridge. The quote for the plaque is £220 +VAT. Following consideration, the Council agreed to proceed with the plaque and approved the expenditure; proposed by Cllr Trott; seconded by Cllr Laing.

9) Clerk Update

Cllr Laing had received one application for the vacant post; the applicant's CV was reviewed by the Council. The applicant is currently a clerk for Fitzhead Parish Council. Their background is law and is currently a non-practicing solicitor. There has been one other expression of interest in the role; the job description/person specification has been emailed. Next step is to arrange interviews. Cllr Laing will acknowledge the application received.

10) Public Forum

Old Iron signpost – Mr Morgan has 2 old iron village signposts which require repainting. Cllr Laing agreed to ask John Gosling if he will undertake this task.

Bridleway sign at Larkshead – Cllr Lawrence raised that the bridleway sign had vanished. Mr Morgan to add under P3 issues.

Signpost opposite Rose Lea – Cllr Laing raised that part of the signpost at the junction opposite Rose Lea is missing – the sign to Axminster and to Studhayes have vanished. This is a Devon Highways issue.

Gigaclear apparatus located within the Parish Boundary – Mr Ross raised the issue of the Gigaclear apparatus which continues to litter the village. It is unlikely to be of any use to future broadband infrastructure; he requested that the Council investigate its removal. A number of residents have received letters from Air Band regarding the installation of more infrastructure onto National Grid poles located on residents' properties. Cllr Hodges will follow up with Air Band on their plan for the village.

Blocked ditches – Mrs Horley raised that the ditches that run along the houses near Yetene have still not been cleared. Cllr Laing agreed to follow up.

Coronation celebrations – Mr Beak thanked the Council for the excellent celebration event organised for the King's Coronation – he said it was a well organised and enjoyable event.

Parish Council Meeting Dates – Mr Beak requested that Parish Council Meeting dates were listed on the Parish Council Noticeboard. Cllr Laing said that this would be done, once a permanent Parish Clerk had been appointed and meeting dates were agreed.

11) Date of next meeting

Meeting date agreed as Tuesday 31 May 2023; venue Village Hall. Following a short discussion, it was agreed to invite Luke Reed of Total Renewable Solutions to be the speaker at the next meeting. Cllr Trott agreed to extend the invite.

Meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

KG Laing
28-6-23