

## Dunkeswell Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes** for the Annual Parish Meeting held in Highfield Community Hall at 8pm on Monday 15th May 2017. Ten members of the public attended.

- 1 **Introduction** of the Parish Councillors appointed at the 2015 uncontested local election, those co-opted in the interim and the parish council officers appointed at the election of Officers held at the Annual General Meeting of The Parish Council on 8th May, 2017 and appointment of chair for this meeting.

The Chairman: Cllr John Barrow  
(Also Footpaths P3 scheme Representative, Tree and Snow Warden)  
The Vice Chairman: Cllr Brendan Procter  
Planning Committee: All parish councillors (quorate at three)  
Canine matters: Cllr Tim Clewer  
New Century Park: Cllr Philip Stevens, Churchill Playground; Cllr Brendan Procter  
Councillors; Cllrs Kerri Webber, Tina Page, Andrew Luscombe, Andrew Maynard

- 2 **Minutes** of previous meeting held on Monday 16th May 2016 were signed as a correct record of that meeting.

### 3 REPORTS

#### 3.1 COMMUNITY POLICING - PC Vickery/PCSO Anning

There were 43 Crimes – 2016/17, 32 Crimes – 2015/16, 38 Crimes – 2014/15, 46 Crimes – 2013/14 broken down as follows:

- **8 Theft**
  - Male left accommodation without paying
  - Tools stolen from building site
  - Parachute stolen from field
  - Keys stolen from commercial premises
  - 2 x theft of harris fencing
  - Animal trap stolen from private land
  - Parcel delivered to wrong address stolen
- **7 Assault**
  - At private residential location assault between 2 persons
  - Assault over driving incident
  - Domestic incident – assault between partners
  - Father assaulted his son
  - Domestic Incident – Male assaulted his partner.
  - Juvenile assaulted adult by spitting
  - Juvenile female assaulted by kicking
- **2 Public Order**
  - 2 x Juvenile male being abusive to staff
- **9 Criminal Damage**
  - Tractor windscreen smashed
  - Damage to property at private location
  - Juvenile male damaged property at private location
  - Road rage – damage to car
  - Calor gas pipes cut at industrial unit
  - Juvenile female damaged car at private location
  - Juvenile female damaged items at private location
  - Car parked up hand windows and tyres damaged
  - Damage to perimeter fence of industrial unit
- **1 Communication Act**
  - Unwanted contact via mobile
- **1 Dog Incident**
  - Member of the public bitten by a dog
- **1 Wasting police time**
  - Male made false report of theft and burglary
- **1 Murder**
  - Domestic Incident
- **1 Dwelling Burglary**
  - Forced entry nothing stolen
- **6 Non Dwelling Burglary**
  - At private home male entered room and stole property
  - Male entered shed stole TV and later returned it
  - Shed entered and red diesel stolen
  - Shed entered and garden equipment stolen
  - Various items from shed stolen
  - 2 Males attempted to enter industrial compound
- **2 Drink drive**
  - Male found over limit after accident
  - Male found with engine running over the limit
- **1 Harassment**
  - Domestic Incident – Ongoing harassment
- **1 Internet crime**
  - Order placed on line with false card details
- **2 Resist arrest**
  - 2 males involved in other offences resisted arrest

Our Rural area of Honiton (consisting of 15 parishes and 23 villages) excluding the town, has a total of 139 recorded crimes for the year from 01/04/16 to 31/03/17. This compares to 120 for the previous year. Taking this figure into account the Dunkeswell recorded crime for the year equates to 31% of the total recorded rural crimes.

**3.2 PARISH COUNCILS YEAR – Chairman - Cllr Barrow** reported that the main road (C131) through the village has been repaired and Highfield Road is scheduled for this year. Cllr Barrow thanked Cllr Paul Diviani in his absence for all his work during his time as Devon County Councillor for our parish, he has helped us greatly in many projects and aspirations for the village. Cllr Iain Chubb was welcomed as our new Devon County Councillor. The Parish council continue to comment on Planning Applications and hope that the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by the local council during the year. We have installed three bus shelters on Highfield Road as a result of parishioner requests and planted wildflowers on two main verges in the parish as a trial to see how well they establish to improve the habitat and also make areas more attractive as grass cutting is being reduced by DCC on financial and environmental grounds.

### **3.3 YOUTH CLUB – Anne Barratt**

Victoria Robinson - Community Development Worker for EDDC brought news of a 'Switch' Outreach Arts and Crafts and Circus Skills Fun Day to be held in conjunction with Thelma Hulbert Gallery the proposed date (to be confirmed) is 10-1pm Monday 31st July 2017 at New Century Park. the day will be free of charge with teas and cake donated by Highfield Stores (which may be at a small charge to raise funds for the Youth Club who will be serving them, there are no costs to the village, the hall would be a wonderful backup for a wet day.

Dunkeswell Youth Club has been running now since 2003. We now keep our register on the laptop which has the added benefit of us being able to analyse attendance. Last term 75 young people attended Youth Club. Our register still has over 100 who we keep on record for trips, shows and special occasions.

Youth club is run completely by our team of volunteers. Adult volunteers Jo and Tracey are in the first session, overlapping with Paul and Tia who stay for the second session. We have also had two occasional volunteers in the past year, Annette and Richard. So, with myself and the young volunteers we are currently well "staffed".

We have several young volunteers who do a sterling job setting up the equipment, running the tuck shop, supporting games and clearing up at the end. Our committee is particularly strong this year with much discussion and a real sense of ownership for the young people.

At our AGM the young people asked for lanyards to identify those volunteering. These have proved successful and have encouraged even younger members to come forward showing their intentions to become future volunteers. All very encouraging for our development and continuity.

Megan Ross who volunteered with us before going to uni succeeded in graduating with a 2:1 degree, receiving a 1<sup>st</sup> for her final dissertation which was based on our youth club with members' interviews.

I was proud too of the young people who waited on tables and ran the raffle at Netta and Lappo's recent St. George's Day Carvery, we are very grateful for the £200 raised for our club and thank everyone who worked so hard and supported the event.

There has also been in November, a Casino Night in Honiton, raising funds for our club for which we thank everyone who supported us and especially Ian Morrison. This event paid for our Christmas Party.

We are currently planning a camping trip for the volunteers to test this as a possible activity for all of us. We will, weather permitting do a trip to see the Red Arrows in Sidmouth in August. That will be after our annual BBQ in the park which may well include a "Fun Sports Evening"! We are working on that one.

Although we haven't started rehearsals yet we are already making plans for our Big Show 2017 which will be in September. We plan to include Dunkeswell Pre School as well of course our own Youth Club members. This show will hopefully raise the final amount we need to complete the fundraising for the stage lighting for the hall.

Last October we put on a show with some of our members singing and some performing the Charleston, supporting several local adult artists singing in the variety show. We are so grateful to all those who helped raise £700 towards the new stage lights.

Our Christmas Party included Sean Moon, a brilliant magician. The young volunteers excelled in organising the food boxes and drinks whilst Jo ran her annual Christmas Quiz.

We are planning our biannual trip to Luppitt panto as a winter trip January 2018.

As I said earlier, our current committee is particularly strong and meetings are very encouraging, they really work well as a team. Due to the two elections this year being on Youth Club night, we have taken advantage of one Thursday for an extra committee meeting and the general election for the committee's film night at mine.

We are pleased to be providing, for all young people including many disadvantaged or with special needs, a place where they can grow and socialize in Dunkeswell and become a valued part of our community.

At the AGM the committee looked in detail at our accounts and discussed many issues. They would like to join with me to thank everyone on the Parish Council for all the encouragement and support we have received over the past

14 years. I am hoping the Parish Council will look favourably on our future and consider supporting us again this year. Thank you from all youth club members, Young Volunteers and Youth Leaders.

**3.4 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS/TREE WARDEN** – John Barrow Bridleway 12 has been open for this year and well enjoyed, Burnsme Lane has also been open for a year and more plantings will be added to the surface this year. Regards trees, if any parishioner requires free advice regarding a tree please feel to ask.

**3.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – Cllr Tim Clewer** - Although it must feel this has been going on for a very long time, but we are now close to the Government Inspection stage which will take place in June this year. A referendum should be held in this calendar year when our Neighbourhood Plan will, we hope, be agreed by parishioners and adopted by the District Council as Planning Policy Guidance.

**3.6 SPORTS FIELD – Cllr John Barrow** - sadly we have seen the benches vandalised this year, even parts which have been broken have been removed preventing repair, this is very selfish behaviour. If you do see this happening please tell the police immediately. There has been a mains sewage leak on the dog walking area, this has been curbed for now, but the main sewer is up to capacity (by SWW own admission) and so vulnerable to a repeat. The field and BMX track are well used and the dog walking area much appreciated.

**3.7 CHURCHILL PLAYGROUND - Cllr Brendan Procter** - gladly the children continue to enjoy the play area, it is kept maintained and the grass cut regularly.

**3.8 NEW CENTURY PARK - Cllr Philip Stevens** - a new climbing wall has been put up this year and a new toddler seat, and if funds permit we hope to replace the two benches. Again this park is much enjoyed by all and remains an important community asset.

**3.9 ALLOTMENTS** - Update from Cllr Tim Clewer who has an allotment and explained that they are well used and very productive with virtually 100% occupancy year round.

**3.10 FINANCE** – Tracey Bell (clerk) reported that the parish council have been involved with several projects this financial year Parishes Together funding resulted in a projector for each hall and laptops to use with them, while Highways fund has supported off road improvements and the opening of Burnsme Lane.

**3.11 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Colin Brown** - This is my second year as your District Councillor and during the past 12 months I have worked along side your County Councillor Paul Diviani and among the things that have been achieved are some of the main roads into Dunkeswell have been resurfaced and repaired.

After giving 8 years good service to the community Paul has decided to stand down from being our County Councillor, and as leader of East Devon District Council, to concentrate on the new move to Honiton Heathpark which we are informed will be completed by the end of 2018, in the recent election Iain Chubb was voted in as your new County Councillor

In Dunkeswell the Neighbourhood plan is nearing completion which will give the parish more control over its development when it is adopted, and I would like to thank Tracey Bell the parish clerk, Tim Clewer and all of the Parish Councillor's for the time and effort that they have put in to achieve this outcome,

With regards to the broadband issue some areas will have high speed connections but those that don't the portfolio holder for corporate services is working alongside Voneus to try and achieve a far better service than you have at present they are in the final stages of these surveys.

Tracey as well as winning tourist awards for her own business has kept the Parish in line with her knowledge of the Council systems.

Dunkeswell will soon be adopting the new bin collection services which your new County Councillor will be only too pleased to tell you about, but before Iain speaks I would like to thank all the community that is both the councillor's and the residents for the efforts they have all put in to make Dunkeswell a safe and enjoyable place to live.

**3.12 COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Iain Chubb**- the meeting recorded thanks to Cllr Paul Diviani who leaves the role of Devon County Councillor and our appreciation for all he has done to assist the village during his term. Iain Chubb was welcomed as the incoming Councillor. He gave a brief history of his involvement with the EDDC prior to his new role at DCC and gave the meeting an update on the new recycling system EDDC will be implementing in the next few weeks and its positive impact not just on the environmental but also the lower financial costs for the district council. His new DCC email address is [iain.chubb@devon.gov.uk](mailto:iain.chubb@devon.gov.uk) please get in touch if you have a matter for Devon County Council.

**A report was also sent from our outgoing County Councillor Paul Diviani, who will continue to serve as Leader of East Devon District Council:**

This and next month are obviously busy from the election(s) viewpoint. As you will by now be aware, I decided that I should curtail some of my activities and not stand for County this time. 2016 is not a year I will remember with unalloyed joy but life goes on and even my cancer episodes appear surmountable! I have thoroughly enjoyed my eight years at

County but health, family and friends are very important and need prioritising. Having said that, my colleagues on the Devon District Forum of Leaders and Chief Executives, hearing I was leaving Devon County Council, promptly decided that as I was well placed to be their representative on ... yes, you've guessed it, DCC's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. I also sit on SWEEG (South West Energy and Environment Group) ... So, I probably will keep busy in many similar activities. What I won't have will be 23 parish Councils to attend which is better left to relative youngsters like Iain Chubb whom I am confident will be an energetic and conscientious Division Member. Whilst this is not a numbers game, the difficulties we have in rural areas are more to do with travel than demographics. As Members, we look after the same numbers of people but it is easier to look after ten thousand people in a town than the same number scattered between Axminster and Whimble which are more than 20 miles apart.

I always feel that change is an opportunity to look forward rather than dwelling on the past. When I took over as Leader of EDDC 6 years ago, my first concern was for the delivery of a Local Plan to deliver the development our local communities wanted rather than having it imposed on us by Whitehall or by rapacious developers. Having the first new town in Devon since the Middle Ages was a key plank in our sustainable development plans, concentrating a major part of that in "our" land to the east of Exeter and ensuring our villages which didn't want development were spared it. Getting the balance right is of course essential. Another first for the UK was the fact that the private sector consortium of developers led the Cranbrook development which invariably led to pressures and rows but was an important 2<sup>nd</sup> priority. We are however about to come full circle with the setting up of our EDDC owned housing company to build council houses to circumvent Treasury inspired appropriation of our forced council house sales receipts. I was up in London on Thursday for a regular District Council Board meeting and we are in line with other senior Districts in taking radical initiatives to help solve the housing crisis. Over 86 out of 137 essential services are provided by the 200 District Councils who are Members of the LGA (Local Government Association) so we are much closer to the public we serve than any other form of local government.

The third priority was to move out of our antiquated former hotel and into offices fit for the 21<sup>st</sup>C and with planning positions in place, we are hopeful that we can build on the refurbishment of Exmouth Town Hall for a substantial presence in our biggest town with a new build HQ in our second biggest town of Honiton, hopefully by the end of next year. Our staff are a key resource for the District as without them we cannot deliver those services on which we all depend and having a decent working environment is key. Part of the efficiency drive will be our exploration of joint working with our neighbouring district authorities of Exeter City, Mid Devon and Teignbridge and we are very open to collaboration with other partners across the Greater Exeter travel to work area.

It would be remiss of me to not mention some colleagues who have played a seminal role in for instance, the Blackdown Hills AONB, such as Linda Bennett who is retiring from the Manager role at Hemyock and will be sorely missed (more training to do!) and Dave Black at County who has probably done as much as anyone to sort the blight of the A303/A30 which has been under discussion for a mere 68 years and the Government apparently, still wants to bury its head in the sand at Stonehenge. On a more positive note, "Making it Local" (our RDPE – Rural Development Programme England) finance arm for our 2 AONBs) is currently number one for delivery in the country which is a remarkable achievement.

### **3.13 DUNKESWELL PRESCHOOL**

We have 34 children on the register, ages arranging from 2 to 4 years old. Most of the children are from the village and a few from surrounding areas. Four staff working 28 hours per week and one staff member doing a foundation degree in early childhood studies at Bridgewater and Taunton College. We are gradually extending our hours for working parents and we do flexi time in the afternoon to help parents with different pick up times at different schools in the area. We have children feeding into 8 local Primary schools Honiton, Broadhembury, Hemyock, Culmstock, Upottery, Awilscombe, Kentisbeare and Stockland. Our opening times at the moment are from 8-15 am until 3-30pm. As from September 2017 we are going to offering 8am until 6pm as the government are funding 30 hours free childcare a week for working parents.

We follow the Early years foundation stage which has seven areas of learning- Personal, Social and emotional development, Communication and Language development, Physical development, Mathematics, Literacy, Understanding of the world and expressive arts and design. The children learn through play, we have different areas within the room they are the construction area, creative/ messy play area, water and sand area, book corner, technology are which has two kurio's (children's tablet) and a laptop and a maths table. In the outside area we have a role play road and crossing were the children learn a lot of life skills, garden boxes to grow crops in and pirate ship as a sand tray, a mud kitchen were children can make mud pies. We like to go out with the children into our local community as much as possible often walking around the local community and using the local park. The children enter the Dunkeswell Garden society shows in the spring and summer. We put on a nativity every Christmas, we always have a summer trip out and host a little sports day which can get very competitive amongst the parents. Sometimes the local youth club invite us to take part in a show they are hosting.

We are a register charity managed by voluntary parents and we fundraise to keep us going. We are always very grateful for any support giving to us from our local community i.e. donations from the parish council, letting us run a stall at the local bonfire night, local shop having collection tins in aid of us and all the local people who donate or support are fundraising events throughout the year.

Committee and staff are committed to keeping the Pre-school going for our community. But as every organisation with cutbacks in local authority it is become more of a challenge each year. In the summer holidays we are having some building work done to enhance our space we provide for the children. As the children maybe staying longer hours in

September we want to provide them with a cosy home like space so our large office is going to be change into a Pre-school lounge.

Many Thanks to you all for your continued support - Dunkeswell Pre-school committee

#### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mrs Pymm thanked the parish council for the work they do, and reminded them and all parish organisations that the hearing loop should be used as a matter of course in meetings to prevent a breach of disability and discrimination laws. There is to be a parish event organised by parishioners to celebrate the forthcoming Sapphire Jubilee on 3rd June 2017 and have requested £500 from the parish council - it was confirmed that the parish council were keen to support the event and confirmed that they will be donating the sum of £500.