

SYDENHAM DAMEREL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Sydenham Damerel Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd January 2017 at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Church, Sydenham Damerel.

PRESENT: - Mrs. T Windermer (Chairman), Councillors B Isaacs, S Reddicliffe and P Rogers plus the Clerk.

Also present: District Councillor R Baldwin.

	ACTION
<p>1-18 Apologies for absence: - Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Mrs C Brittan. It was reported that the advertisement to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Mrs D Head has been placed with a closing date of the 5th February. It was resolved that should the requisite number of electors not call for an election, a co-option notice would be place with a closing date the Friday prior to the next council meeting.</p>	Clerk
<p>2-18 Declarations of Interest relating to items on the Agenda: - None.</p>	
<p>3-18 District Council Report: - District Councillor R Baldwin reported that the proposed merger between West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council will not proceed as a result of the West Devon members voting against the motion. It was confirmed that the South Hams members had supported the proposed merger. Councillor Baldwin also reported on other matters including financial savings being proposed by the Borough Council including the closing of the Okehampton office. Other cost saving measures were identified including the transfer of toilets and the implications of implementing the measures. Councillor Baldwin also advised that the Borough Council were taking advice on borrowing money to invest in property with no geographical restrictions on where the property was located. In updating members on the budget, it was announced that the Council will be proposing to raise the precept by 2.99% an increase on the previous year's increase of 2% although this still has to be approved. The Joint local plan in conjunction with Plymouth City Council and the South Hams District Council will be going out to consultation with the meeting in Tavistock scheduled for the 1st March 2018 between 10am and 2pm.</p>	
<p>4-18 Minutes of the previous meeting: - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>5-18 Matters arising from the minutes a) Broadband: - Pursuant to minute 2 there is no real progress to report with the parish still receiving poor connectivity. Councillor Isaacs spoke on the air band project and that the voucher system might be re-instated. Other issues were raised and other providers were being explored. b) One Council Update: - Pursuant to minute 2.2 and as reported by the District Councillor combining the two district Councils will no longer be pursued. c) Future of St Mary's Church: -</p>	

<p>Pursuant to minute 4.2 although there is no further update the PCC have replaced the vicar. The Chairman will meet with the new vicar to ascertain future intentions.</p> <p>d) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): - Pursuant to minute 4.3 whilst members conceded it was probably a useful exercise and beneficial to have an NDP, the protracted and perceived convoluted process has deterred the Parish Council from undertaking this process. Members were also concerned that the Council did not have the resources and volunteers to progress this project. Members were aware that finances are available and several councils are at the consultation stage. It is therefore recommended that this subject is taken forward to the Parish meeting for further consideration.</p> <p>e) Road Flooding: - Pursuant to minute 4.5 (e) the Chairman raised various highways concerns in the parish including flooding, blocked drains and potholes. Although it was conceded that some drains had been cleared, Devon County Council have been contacted by this council and individually by members of the public to undertake further remedial work. Locations at which there are issues were identified and discussed including the problems on the Sydenham to Horsebridge road. It was noted that landowners were responsible for clearing drains on their land. Following further discussion, it was resolved that the Chairman would compile a list of flooding and highway maintenance issues and problems with locations and forward to the Clerk for onward transmission to the local County Council ward member.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk/ Parish Meeting</p> <p>Chairman</p>
<p>6-18 Requested Agenda Items</p> <p>a) Southern Area Link Meeting: - The Chairman drew attention to the circulated minutes of the recent area link meeting drawing attention to funding opportunities from the TAP fund. The Chairman cited examples highlighting awards to parishes on the Bere peninsula and also the use of finances toward funding the traditional parish lengthsman schemes. The Chairman suggested that this scheme may assist in alleviating some of the highway problems recently identified. The Chairman offered to contact neighbouring parishes on this matter to investigate if a joint initiative could be introduced and the results reported back to members. It was noted the next meeting of the group is scheduled for the 15th March in Tavistock.</p> <p>b) Appointment of the new Clerk: - Following discussion on this matter it was resolved that the new Clerk would be appointed on spinal point 21 of the NJC scale for a maximum of 2 hours per week. No additional emoluments would be offered and it is unlikely as a result of the number of hours any "on costs" would be payable by the council. The vacancy would be advertised locally with a closing date of Friday 31st March. The panel (shortlisting and interviewing) would consist of the Chairman and Councillors B Isaacs, S Reddicliffe and P Rogers.</p> <p>c) Production of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment: - Members considered the importance of producing the above documents and the Clerk was asked to produce draft copies for the next meeting of this Council.</p> <p>d) AOB items – Chairman/Vice Chairman The Chairman sought volunteers from the Council to review planning applications and enforcement notices in the parish that had been identified in the notifications circulated by West Devon Borough Council. The Chairman suggested that any contentious or issues requiring discussion could be brought to the Clerk's attention. (District Councillor R Baldwin left the meeting at this point).</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Council</p>

<p>7-18 Planning Applications None.</p>	
<p>8-18 Budget Members considered budget proposals for the 2018-19 financial year. Members resolved to approve the budget that is attached to these minutes as Appendix "A". Key points to note include</p> <p>a) Salaries – Spinal point 21 - 2 hours per week (2/37). The salary calculation is based on a 2% uplift on the current spinal point 21 rate.</p> <p>b) The Council would continue membership of the Devon Association of Local Councils. Members then resolved that the expenditure budget for the 2018-19 financial year would be £1,814 requiring a precept of £1,800. This would result in a parish band "D" of £15.85 per annum a rise of 9p over the previous year as a result of a slightly reduced council tax base for the parish. The Clerk would notify West Devon Borough Council of the Council's precept requirement.</p>	Clerk
<p>9-18 Accounts for payment None</p>	
<p>10-18 Correspondence None</p>	
<p>11-18 Date of next meeting Tuesday 10th April 2018 (Venue to be confirmed).</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 9.05 pm.....Chairman</p>	