
Minutes of a meeting of Durleigh Parish Council on Wednesday 10TH. JANUARY 2018 held in Wessex Water Offices, Durleigh Reservoir, Durleigh at 7.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllr. John Vassalli (Chairman), Cllr. Janet Johnstone, Cllr. J. Bates, Cllr. Ted Cobley and Cllr. N. Myers.

In attendance: Chris Sidaway (Clerk), Cllr. R. Caswell, Cllr. M. Caswell and Mrs. Mary Bates.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. G. Slocombe, Cllr. A. Bown, Cllr. I. Dyer and Cllr. S. Mason

1/18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Bates declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 23/17/00012 as it was his application. Cllr. Vassalli declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a neighbour and objector. Cllr. Michael Caswell declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as an objector was his sister-in-law, and he was Portfolio Holder for Business Strategy and Development Management. Cllr. Rachael Caswell declared a personal and prejudicial interest as her mother was an objector and neighbour to the applicants. The Clerk, Mr. Sidaway, declared a personal interest as his mother was a neighbour.

3/18 Public Question-time

Councillor Vassalli left the Chair to join the public gallery and read a prepared statement objecting to the application 23/17/00012 on the grounds of restricted access, size and character of proposal in contrast to the original application and concerns over over-looking and privacy. Cllr. J. Johnstone had taken the Chair and it was **resolved** to debate this item immediately and all Councillors who had declared prejudicial interests, as above, left the room.

4/18 Planning Item 23/17/00012

The Clerk tabled all the papers and plans which the remaining Councillors scrutinised and observed that the original outline application for a two- bed bungalow within the footprint of and slightly extending from the existing garage had grown to a two-storey, three bed dormer bungalow. The Councillors debated the issue and came to the conclusion that although dismissed by planners in the outline stage access was still an issue and that neighbour's concerns over over-looking and loss of privacy and over-development on a small site were justified and **agreed** to object. **Action:** Clerk to respond accordingly.

(All Members were invited to re-join the meeting).

5/18 Chairman's Comments

Councillor Vassalli resumed his role as Chairman. He had no further comments.

6/18 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, after the following amendments were made: add Cllr. Bates to present; 54/17 1C. "average speed"; 1c. If not of; 2b. Cllr. Cobley not Cllr. Mason and 2c. Luxborough Road not Queenswood Road.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Mason and seconded by Cllr. T. Cobley. **All agreed.**

7/18 Matters Arising

The Clerk had obtained costs from SDC for a dog bin of which there was some considerable choice in models and prices with initial outlay compounded by on-costs of SDC empties. It was **resolved** that as it was some expense and there had not been a public demand that this item be on hold until further investigations into cost and demand be made.

8/18 Financial Matters

1. The Clerk reported that the Bank balance was £11,629.73 and tabled the monthly income/expenditure balance sheet for Member's information.
2. The Clerk put before the Council his salary and expenses for October, November and January which came to = £674.86 which was **approved**.
3. The Clerk went through the draft budget and Precept considerations and explained that nothing significant had changed, that there were one or two inflationary increases that could be absorbed within the existing budget. There was a strong feeling amongst the Finance Working Group to not increase the Precept as the upper authorities probably would and felt the Parish Council should not add to their constituent's financial burden if not necessary.

Recommendation from the Finance Working Group: that Durleigh Parish Council adopt the draft budget and set the Precept for 2018/2019 at stand-still which would be £5695.

Proposed by Cllr. T. Cobley and seconded by Cllr. N. Myers. **All agreed.**

10/18 Planning Matters

Items for decision:

(Councillor Michael Caswell declared an interest in the next item as he is Portfolio Holder for Business Strategy and Development Management and left the meeting).

51/17/00016 Forelle Estates – extensive changes to Greenway Garage application. The Planning Meeting on the 21st November allowed the applicant to post-pone this item in order to carry out more extensive investigations to highway issues. This was allowed and both Wembdon and Durleigh Councils exercised their right to reserve their comments until this application was reconsidered. The Chairman and Clerk had attended a Wembdon Parish Council Planning meeting where amendments such as denying access from Skimmerton Lane and “adjusting” the ghost lanes. Both Councils felt that these still did not satisfy safety requirements and were minded to continue their objections.

Recommendation: that Durleigh Parish Council continue to strongly support Wembdon Parish Council in opposing this development on traffic health and safety grounds. **All agreed.**

11/18 Items from last Agenda and Meetings attended

- 1a: Highways and traffic: The Clerk was continuing to chase SCC Highways for improvement works.
- 2a. Footpaths: the control and maintenance of Queenswood Lane was reverting to Sedgemoor District Council. There had been flooding along the Durleigh Brook affecting footpaths and Wessex Water were planning further “wetland conservation areas”.
3. Meeting attended: SW Parish Cluster meeting - this had concentrated on EDF issues particularly fly-parking, buses, road damage and “convoys” of vehicles. Chairman to attend a Highways Meeting.

12/18 Any other business

There was none.

13/18 Date and Venue of next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14th. MARCH 2018 at 7.30 p.m.** in the Wessex Water Offices.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.05 hrs.)

Signed..... Date.....
(Chairman of Council)

