

Minutes of a meeting of Durleigh Parish Council on Wednesday 18th. JULY 2018 held in Wessex Water Offices, Durleigh Reservoir, Durleigh at 7.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllr. John Vassalli (Chairman), Cllr. Ted Cobley and Cllr. N. Myers. New Members Cllr. C. Ellicott and Cllr. N. Smith.

In attendance: Chris Sidaway (Clerk), Cllr. M. Caswell, Cllr. G. Slocombe and Mr. Simon Osborne (Wessex Water) and Mr. N. Lewis.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. J. Johnstone, Cllr. I. Dyer, Cllr. A. Bown and Cllr. R. Caswell.

33/18 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

34/18 Public Question-time

There were none.

35/18 Chairman's Comments

The Chairman introduced Mr. Simon Osborne from Wessex Water who would give a presentation on the Companies ambitions at Durleigh reservoir at the end of the business meeting. He also introduced Mr Nigel Smith and Miss Charlotte Ellicott as candidates for co-option onto the Parish Council and for their information introduced the District and County Councillors present.

36/18 Election of Co-opted Members

The Chairman proposed that Miss Charlotte Ellicott and Mr. Nigel Smith to be co-opted to Durleigh Parish Council with full voting rights and responsibilities and this was seconded by Cllr. Nathaniel Myers. **Agreed unanimously.** They were duly co-opted on to Durleigh Parish Council.

The Clerk then witnessed Mr Smith and Miss Ellicott sign their Declarations of Office and instructed them to complete and return their Declarations of Interest and provided copies of the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

37/18 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, after the following amendments were made: Item 30/18 ii. "footpaths would like to have" and 29/18 "swales" not swires. Proposed by Cllr. T. Cobley and seconded by Cllr. N. Myers. **All agreed.**

38/18 Matters Arising

There were none.

39/18 Financial Matters

1. The Clerk reported that the Bank balance was £11,611.97 and tabled the monthly income/expenditure balance sheet for Member's information.
2. Accounts to be approved:
 - The Clerk's expenses and overtime for April/May/June = £174.76
 - The Clerk for Petty Cash = £100.00

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- Mr B. Bicknell for Viewing Platform maintenance = £75.00
Proposed by Cllr. T. Cobley and seconded by Cllr.N. Myers – **All agreed.**

40/18 Planning Matters

Items for decision:

23/18/00009: Mrs Fletcher, 3, Mayfield Drive for single storey extension – no observation. **Action:** Clerk respond.

Update:

Push Energy variation of Condition to provide swales at Cobbs Cross Solar Farm withdrawn.

41/18 Items from last Agenda and Meetings attended:

1: **Highways and traffic:** The Clerk had resumed contact with Katherine Tyson on behalf of Durleigh PC and Enmore PC and was pressing for agreed work schedule to be prioritised. **Action:** Clerk
It was reported that a number of drains in the area were blocked and Cllr. Cobley would liaise with Cllr. Slocombe to resolve how often they should be cleared. **Action: TC**

2. **Footpaths:** It was reported that Queenswood Lane was not as well maintained as it could be and Cllr. Slocombe enquired if the Parish Council could make a financial contribution as it had previously and, indeed, set this as a regular payment in the budget? Clerk to check lawfulness of this as the National Association of Local Councils had ruled that Parish Council's may not contribute to Churchyard maintenance and Section 137 of the Local Government Act determined that community grants should be for "additionality" not statutory requirement from higher tier Councils.

3. **Meetings Attended:** The Chairman reported on the SW Parish Cluster meeting and the main topic was EDF and transport. The Police had argued against speed restrictions on the basis that danger was caused by bad driving not speed, Cllr. Caswell responded that the SCC Highway's were considering an improvement scheme from Combwich to Claylands Corner that would include a 50mph. restriction.

42/18 Any other business

1. It was recorded that Wessex Water would be requiring a road closure of Durleigh Road from the following Wednesday and any problems to be reported to Cllr. Slocombe.
2. Cllr. N. Smith raised the question of disturbance to 10 or so resident's of 24/7 generators from the Wessex Water temporary depot on Spaxton Road which Simon Osborne would investigate.
3. Mr Simon Osborne's presentation was made and noted under Appendix: A.

23/18 Date and Venue of next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th. SEPTEMBER 2018 at 7.30 p.m.** in the Wessex Water Offices.

(There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.20 hrs.)

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

APPENDIX: A Presentation by Mr Simon Osborne of Wessex Water

Simon Osborne introduced himself as a Senior Wessex Water Engineer and the Project Manager of a £43 million scheme to refurbish Durleigh Reservoir facilities and improve the environs to provide managed wetlands as flood defence, wildlife protection and enhanced public access as leisure facilities.

Simon acknowledged that there would be some public disruption and road works but the major refurbishment of the reservoir works and enhancement of property portfolio, newly constructed wetlands would have long term benefits to the Bridgwater community. There would be continuous public engagement and consultation in accessible ways.

The Chairman enquired that consequences for the Parish Council who had enjoyed the generosity of Wessex Water for many years in providing a free venue for Council meetings. Mr Osborne replied that the future reservoir facility would not have a conference room and, unfortunately, Durleigh Parish Council would be given notice as of January 2019. It was proposed that Wessex Water would compensate the Parish Council for a number of years by way of finding and financing an alternative venue. Suggestions included the club rooms of the fishing or sailing clubs and the Education Centre at Ashford Reservoir. There was no community hall in Durleigh Parish and St. Mary's School and the skittle alley of the West India House had been negated for logistic and legal reasons. The Enmore Memorial Hall had been used by DPC and was a strong possibility.

Mr Osborne then invited Members to a circular viewing chamber which hosted a 360-degree digital projection unit and screens to have a "virtual" tour of the reservoir, its environs and the planned building programme.

The Chairman thanked Mr Osborne for his presentation and the Council's enjoyment of this "state of the art" technology. (The meeting concluded at 21.25 pm).