

A MEETING OF DOWN ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2017, 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr J Tucker, in the chair

Mrs J Giles-Bullock, Mr M Austin, Mr D Skelton, Mrs I Harris and Mr J Daw

Mr A Martin (Clerk) was unable to stay for the meeting as his elderly Mother was unwell.

Mrs Harris took the minutes on Mr Martin's behalf.

1. Apologies

Mrs M Squires, Mr D Cooper and Mr A Clark.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held 10th January 2017, which had been circulated electronically, were agreed by all present and signed by the Chairman.

3. Public Question Time

None, as there were no members of the public present.

4. Matters arising:

(i) Highways (inc. signs)

The Clerk is awaiting response from Highways about this matter. Mrs Harris explained the problems and dangers she and her family have endured while farming beside the B3220, especially taking their milking cows across the road, which has become busier and faster in recent years. She is particularly concerned when traffic is unexpectedly diverted off the A377, usually due to an accident at Bury Bends, Lapford and sent down the B3220 without any warning. Despite the 3 signs already in place on the approach to Yeo Bridge from Morchard Road warning of tractors and livestock crossing, traffic continues to travel too fast along that stretch of the road. A Solar Powered Warning Sign in addition to a larger Cow Sign would help slow the traffic coming from Morchard Road which would also benefit traffic emerging from the Down St. Mary road onto the B3220. Mrs Harris explained The Harris Family had contacted the Council several times over the years expressing concerns for the safety of their machinery, livestock and themselves but have yet to receive a satisfactory reply.

(ii) Village Hall

Nothing to report.

5. Parish Website and Broadband Connection

Nothing to report.

6. Finance: Monthly Report

Current Account balance as at 30.12.2016..... £4,151.64

Income

None

Expenditure

Cheques cashed

324 South and West Internal Audit £50

Balance as at 18.02.2017 £4,101.64

Cheques not yet cashed

326 Information Commissioner £35

Estimated balance £4,066.64

Business Reserve Account balance as at 06.01.2017 £6,521.33

(Interest: December 0.05)

Appointment of Auditor and Appointment of Accountant

Sadly, due to ill-health, Mr Ken Abraham, whose firm has done our internal audit for some years, has had to retire and we need to appoint a new auditor. After discussion, it was agreed The Clerk invite Alison Marshall Local Council Administration Services of Thorverton to the next meeting to explain the services she offers, before appointing an auditor and accountant.

7. Planning

None

8. Correspondence

(i) Note from The Clerk "Mrs Squires says business rates will not be charged on toilets in 2018/19 and if we receive a bill for 2017/18 we should appeal".

(ii) Note from The Clerk "I will try to write to Lightsource later this week".

(iii) The Town, Parish and Community (Tap) Fund

After discussion, it was agreed The Clerk apply for signage as discussed under matters arising. The deadline date for applications is 28th February 2017.

9. Any other Business:

(i) Grasscutting

Note from The Clerk "awaiting response from Mid Devon over grass cutting but note the prices quoted for 2016/17". After discussion, it was agreed to accept the quotation submitted by Mr M Leach dated 02/02/17 for a 3 year contract price of £85.00 per cut. Proposed: Mrs J Giles-Bullock, seconded: Mr M Austin. It was agreed the grass might need 7 cuts instead of the usual 6.

(ii) Defibrillators

After discussion, it was agreed not to proceed with the purchase of a defibrillator at the present time.

(iii) Dog mess on The Green

The Clerk to ask the Dog Warden to visit Mr C Pluck.

(iv) Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 11th April to be cancelled.

(v) Blocked culverts on the Bow road leading from Down St. Mary

The Clerk to report this to the Highways Department

(vi) Car Parking Notices. Clerk to report progress at next meeting

10. Opportunity for members of the public to comment on the meeting

None, as there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

11. Date of next Meeting Tuesday 14th March 2017, 8pm at Down St. Mary Village Hall

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.