

DEAN PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held on **WEDNESDAY 4th May 2022 at 7.00pm.** in the Village Hall in Dean Prior

Present – Cllrs Chew , Bailey (Chair), Rutley Thorn and Wetherall
Clerk - Karen Gilbert

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

Full reports available from the Clerk - all reports circulated to Councillors in advance

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - Cllr Guy Pannell

Council Tax Energy Rebate - Just over 9,000 households who live in Council Tax bands A to D and who paid by Direct Debit on 1 April have now been paid their £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate by South Hams District Council. Despite guidance issued to councils stating that payments should be made by the deadline of 30 September, South Hams District Council knew that their residents needed this extra help as soon as possible.

Staff worked rapidly to set up the systems to those already registered by direct debit, so they could be paid as early as possible. Whereas some councils nationwide have told their residents that they won't receive payment until as late as the September deadline. To date, the Council has issued just over 9,000 payments, which was paid to residents' bank accounts last week.

Those with different direct debit payment dates throughout April will receive similar payments soon. An application form is live on the Council's website, for those who do not pay by Direct Debit, and these will be processed from May.

WASTE UPDATE - Significant disruption to the garden waste collections continue due to staff shortages. These are mainly due to illness and the difficulty in recruiting workers. The waste and recycling collections are fully resourced and are operating as we would wish. FCC are unable to carry out any recovery of the garden waste as recovery of black bins and recycling is being prioritised. If a resident's bin is not collected on their scheduled day, we are advising residents to keep their brown bin out until 5pm the following day and if it isn't collected, then to take their bin in and present on their next collection day.

Officers continue to work closely with FCC to ensure as many collections are made as possible, but in order to ensure we can hold FCC to account contractually please encourage all residents to report their missed collection online. We do not yet know when those areas which have not switched to the box recycling system will do so.

DNPA

National Park Grant Funding

Our formal grant letter regarding National Park Grant for 2022/23 was received on 1 April 2022 (ie after the start of the new financial year). It confirmed what has previously reported – a flat cash settlement for 2022/23 which means the same amount as per 2021/22 which was the same as for 2020/21. The figures for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are indicative (also flat cash). Our grant letter states that in 2022/23 we are to “use grant funding to support implementation of the Government's response to the Landscapes Review, particularly:

- Nature and Climate –increasing the role of our protected landscapes in delivering nature-based solutions to help address the twin biodiversity and climate crises.
- People and Place – improving access to our protected landscapes for all parts of society and supporting the communities that live and work there”.

The timing is interesting as we have already set our priorities for 2022/23, our business plan and budget. Whilst this focus is not surprising cultural heritage is, again, a missing dimension – it was largely missed in the Landscapes Review and the subsequent Government response

There is a growing gap between Government expectations and the reality of what we can deliver with ever reducing resources. It is with envy that we note that the Welsh National Parks got a 10% increase in core funding in 2021/22 and the Scottish National Parks have received another almost 5% increase in their grant....

Staff sickness - We have a number of staff off sick (some with Covid) at present and particular pressures in planning administration and business support. We only have 1 fit member of the planning admin team (normally 3) and one is a new starter and thus not yet fully trained. Other planning staff are assisting but this has knock on implications for their work programmes. One of the absences may be long-term so we are looking at options for external support.

We also have a particular pressure in business support, where two key staff are currently off sick and other colleagues are staffing reception and answering the main phone line. Again, this has knock on implications. We would appreciate your patience while this pressure is on.

Rangers to trial body-worn video cameras. Dartmoor Rangers are to trial the use of body worn video cameras in a bid to deter anti-social behaviour. Recommendations to introduce their use were unanimously approved by Dartmoor National Park Authority at its February meeting and they'll start wearing them once they've completed training. Rangers will trial them for 24 months with a review after 18 months to evaluate their effectiveness.

The primary aim of their use is to further protect their health, safety and welfare by reducing the risk of incidents of verbal and physical abuse towards them but, if necessary and appropriate to do so, could provide evidence to support legal action.

The body worn video cameras will provide transparent and clear accounts of interactions between Rangers and members of the public. The camera, worn attached to Rangers' uniform, will be clearly identifiable and will capture moving images and audio. Alongside the Authority's existing health and safety policies it will give them an extra layer of protection when they are at work.

Their use is incident-specific. Rangers will turn the devices on in situations where they believe they may be subject to physical or verbal abuse or where someone is perceived as being threatening/aggressive towards them. They will always clearly announce they are turning on the device so people know they're being filmed.

The estimated total cost of the cameras for the 24-month period is £8,019.

22/05/01 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Wetherall nominated Cllr Bailey - a vote was taken - with all in agreement . Cllr Bailey took the Chair

The Vice Chairman - Cllr Thorn was nominated - all in agreement

22/05/02. To confirm the 2022/23 Meeting Schedule – as generally the first Monday of every month, excluding August and January subject to sufficient business to be discussed
Confirmed and **NOTED**

22/05/03. Apologies for absence - Cathie Pannell , Dist Cllr Guy Pannell / Smerdon and County Cllr Thomas

22/05/04 Approval of Minutes

To consider , amend as agreed by the Council (if required) & approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th April 2022 - **APPROVED**

22/05/05- Declarations of Interest None from Cllrs **Dispensation requests** - None

22/05/06 Clerks Report -

The Clerk commented that the works to the bus shelter had yet to commence

ACTION : CLLR CHEW TO CONTACT CONTRACTOR

It was **NOTED** that the Chairman had ordered the Noticeboard and arranged for 50% to be sent as a deposit

22/05/07 Planning - Nothing to consider

22/05/08 - Finance

a) **Approval of cheques - APPROVED**

Karen Gilbert	Expenses 04/22	£63.41
Hawthorns Acc Servs	Internal Audit	£60.00
Roadware	Dog Poo Bin	£285.54

b) **To consider the Internal Auditors report - NOTED**

c) **To consider & approve the Parish Council Accounts y/e 31/3/22 /exemption form**

The Clerk presented the Accounts for Dean Prior Parish Council for the year ending 31/3/22

The Clerk also presented the Exemption from Audit form

Both were **APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE ACCOUNTS AS ADOPTED AND SIGN THE EXEMPTION FORM

c) **To consider/ agree Annual statement of Governance y/e 31/3/22**

The Clerk read out the statement of Governance

APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

d) **To consider & approve Statements on Annual return y/e 31/3/22**

The Clerk presented the Annual Return - previously circulated

APPROVED by all - SHOW OF HANDS

IT WAS **RESOLVED** THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE RETURN

22/05/09 Highway matters

Dog Bin - Despite having written three times to South Hams for confirmation of the siting and also that the contents would be collected at £3 per week , the Clerk had had no reply - She had however ordered the Bin to expedite the matter and would continue to chase SHDC

The Councillors also asked the Clerk to contact National Highways regarding the footpath along the A38 to the Layby - having ascertained that the authority had replaced the path from the Layby to the Church

ACTION ; CLERK TO CONTACT NATIONAL HIGHWAYS RE A38 PATH

22/05/10 - PC admin - NOTHING

22/05/11 - Correspondence - correspondence had been emailed during the month.

22/05/12 Councillors business for next agenda

22/05/13 Date/time of next meeting MONDAY 6th June 2022 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.30pm