



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Duston Parish Council
Duston Community Centre
Pendle Road
Duston
Northampton
NN5 6DT

Extraordinary Meeting of the Community Services Committee

Clr Maitland, Clr Enright-King, Clr Golby, Clr Roper, Clr Ennis-Clark

15th November 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a extraordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Tuesday 21st November 2023 commencing at 7pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens
Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

AGENDA

CSC48/23. To receive apologies for absence

CSC49/23. To receive and approve the minutes of the Community Services Committee on 9th November 2023 (APPENDIX A)

CSC50/23. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda (*Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business*).

CSC51/23. Public Participation Session (*Persons wishing to address the committee on an agenda item may register their intention to do so by telephone or email by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes*).

CSC52/23. Four Year Plan Review

- To review the Four Year Plan and identify projects to prioritise (APPENDIX B)

CSC53/23. Annual Events Programme

- To discuss whether to make a recommendation / amendment to the draft budget.



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Community Services Committee Minutes **Thursday 9th November 2023**

Chair: Cllr S Maitland

Councillors Present: Ennis-Clark, Enright-King,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

Alison Grantham – Business and Community Development Officer

Jenny Evans – The Grow Together Allotment Coordinator

Cllr Craven

CSC33/23. To receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllrs Golby and Roper.

CSC34/23. To receive and approve the minutes of the Community Services Committee on 30th August 2023

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th of August were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSC35/23. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda

- Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests in the items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. There were no interests declared.

CSC36/23. Public Participation Session

- There were no members of the public present.

CSC37/23. Community Service Committee Working Parties

- **RESOLVED:** That the reports from the working parties be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee.

CSC38/23. The Grow Together Allotment Report

- The Grow Together Allotment (TGTA) Coordinator gave a Autumn 2023 update presentation. The presentation refreshed Councillors on TGTA's core values, aims and objectives. 'What and who do we grow' was also explored as part of the presentation, highlighting two of our most frequent users, Better Lives and Affinity Daycare, make use of the space, what activities they engage with and how it provides unique enrichment to their users.

The Allotment has evolved over time to support more users, who may not want or cannot participate in the general activities, through providing alternative craft based activities. Furthermore, by increasing the number of 'no dig' beds they have decrease the overall hard maintenance of the plot. The green house has been taken fully advantage of this year, all plans have been grown from seed, reducing costs and also allowing for plants and seedlings to be given away at Community Events.

Additionally, £3000 has been secured via the Grow Cook Eat Project. Our TGTA coordinator has received training to be a Community Champion of the scheme, this means that users can use the allotment can learn where food comes from and how to grow it, learn valuable life skills by being introduced to simple and nutritious one pot meals.

The presentation also noted the TGTA's plans for 2024. The introduction of a polytunnel will provide more space that can shielded users from the elements as well as increasing the growing period. Goals to expand the Grow, Cook, Eat Project were set out, along with the aspiration to increase the amount of sheltered seating areas via a new pergola. The expansion of the allotment timetable to include pop up evens & open days has been identified in its plans for 2024.

The presentation thanked its volunteers for their continuous support of the allotment and that the coordinator is looking to expand their volunteer base.

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the report on the recent activities of The Grow Together Allotment was received and noted.
 - b) That the Committee thanked The Grow Together Allotment Coordinator, Staff who are involved and the volunteers for all of the hard work that has been put into establishing, running and enhancing this wonderful community asset.

CSC39/23. Duston Resident setting up a Charity

- **RESOLVED:** That the presentation from the resident be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee.

CSC40/23. DPC Health & Wellbeing Strategy

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) It was noted that full Council has agreed to do with a Health & Wellbeing Strategy.
 - b) This will be discussed further at a future meeting of the Community Services Committee.

CSC41/23. Limehurst Square Resurface

- It was discussed about whether to do a launch for the resurfacing of Limehurst Square. It was also suggested the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council could go and speak to the shops to see what they would like.

CSC42/23. Lamp post Hanging Baskets

- **RESOLVED:** That the purchasing of 8 lamp post hanging baskets was approved to be installed at the following locations:
 - a) Four Limehurst Square / Pendle Road area
 - b) Five around the shops at Weggs Farm Road
 - c) To be funded from CIL. No more than £1000 in total (excluding VAT)

CSC43/23. DPC Four Year Plan

- **RESOLVED:** That an extraordinary meeting of the Committee be called to discuss this item for the next Council meeting.

CSC44/23. Youth Provision

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk sign the Service Level Agreement after consulting Cllr Roper and Cllr Maitland.
 - b) To discuss this again at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

CSC45/23. Successful Grant Application Report

- **RESOLVED:** That the report on successful grant applications (APPENDIX D) was received, discussed and noted.

CSC46/23. Local Dog Parks

- That item be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee.

CSC47/23. Parish Council Noticeboards

- **RESOLVED:** That item be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee.

DRAFT

DELIVERING FOR DUSTON

FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2026

Introduction

This year marked the 30 year anniversary of Duston Parish Council (DPC). Over this time the Parish Council has gradually taken on more of a role in making Duston a better place to live and work. There are notable things that happened in that first decade or so that are still here benefitting residents today. In 2001 the Parish Council installed Triumph Gardens play area and the path linking it to Aquitaine Close. In 1998 DPC installed the commemorative bench on Bants Lane to mark the passing of Princess Diana funeral cortege. The work continued in the next decade as well such as putting in a path around the perimeter of the Quarry Park and then installing the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) at Errington Park.

The Parish Council has also played a role in more difficult times. Following the closure of the British Timken site the Parish Council, despite being a relatively small organisation at the time, worked hard with the developers to try and get the best deal for residents. It secured the future of the Sports Club and Field and ensured this much valued asset stayed in local control and could be safeguarded for future generations.

In the first half of 2000s Northamptonshire County Council took the decision to restructure schools in Northampton and bring it in line with the rest of the county and most of the country. Northampton went from Lower, Middle and Upper Schools to Primary and Secondary. This meant a surplus of school sites and many, such as the Ryeland Middle School, were sold for housing. A strong campaign helped secure the future of St Lukes Lower School and Field as a community facility which DPC now proudly maintains for local residents.

Duston Parish Council has now for some time put on an annual community festival. Not always in the same location or with the same name. Presently it is held at St Luke's Field with the name "Duston Fun Day". This annual community event has become a key event in the local calendar. In recent years there has been a change in the nature of local government across the country.

Both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council began to focus more on their core statutory services. This has meant DPC has taken on yet more of a role in the community to fill a void. Most notably it has taken on the freehold and running of the Community Centre at Pendle Road and installed more play and gym equipment. These are the kind of things that principal authorities once did.

Duston has always had a strong sense of community and identity. After the demise of the previous Duston Parish Council in 1965 when the village was incorporated into the Borough of Northampton the community picked up the pieces. The previous Duston Parish Council (1895 – 1965) had an Old Peoples Welfare Committee and after 1965 this became Duston Old Peoples Welfare Association (DOPWA). DOPWA have carried forward the work in helping the older residents. Duston Community Association (DCA) coordinated a huge range of volunteer activities over many years such as running Duston Community Centre and teaching young children to swim at the local swimming pool.

Where we are

Duston Parish Council now finds itself amongst change. The village has gone from being one out of ten parishes in Northampton to one out of 165 parishes in West Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is one of the larger local authorities in England. Many principle authorities will be focusing on issues like social services, infrastructure projects, schools places and strategic housing growth. Duston Parish Council now has a simple choice. It can either be a talking shop and just administer itself or it can choose to take on a bigger enhanced role and actually deliver for residents. Duston Parish Council can fill some of the space left by the now defunct Northampton Borough Council. We will look favourably with West Northamptonshire Council about devolving services locally to Duston Parish Council.

Our surroundings are continuing to change as well. Until very recently Duston was on the edge of Northampton surrounded by countryside to the east. Large scale housing development is now taking place in Dallington Grange, Upton Lodge and in Harlestone/Harpole. Despite this change the Parish Council is determined to keep Duston's character and identity.

The Purpose

The core purpose of Duston Parish Council will be to make the Parish a great place to live and work and the guiding overarching principles will be -

1. To protect and enhance both the history and identity of Duston. This will help preserve and enhance the sense of community pride in Duston.
2. To improve the environment and public open spaces in the Parish.
3. To provide cost effective services that meet local needs and aspirations.
4. To keep our local amenities such as shops and restaurants that help to bring the community together and provide for local employment.
5. Provide Community Leadership. The Parish Council alone can't make our locality a great place to live and work. So Duston Parish Council will work in partnership with West Northamptonshire and other stakeholders. We will work alongside all sections of community including young people.

Our Aims

To be implemented by both Councillors and Staff.

Engagement & Wellbeing	
Annual Magazine. DPC "Annual Report" Highlighting local business, community groups and events.	Dec-22
Set Up from Friends of Park Groups.	Dec-23
Quartley Councillor Surgeries	Ongoing
Suck up grass cuttings left by Veolia / Idverde	Dec-24
Engage with Limehurst Square Shops	Ongoing
Christmas Carols at Limeshurst	Ongoing
A resident survey to all domestic properties in Duston	Dec-22
A feasibility study & consultation into a band stand in Errington Park	Feb-23
Be proactive at opportunities in adopting Public Open Space so it doesn't go to management companies	Ongoing
Now Duston is no longer part of the Borough of Northampton the Parish Council will need to become the leader of local civic events.	Ongoing
Re-surface Limhurst Square but keep trees and bins. An improved design.	Dec-25
Continue to run our usual calendar of events.	Ongoing
Develop links with PPG & Mind. Both mental and physical wellbeing is vital to our residents.	Ongoing
Build up a volunteer base that is willing to help and support Parish Council initiatives.	Ongoing
Divide Parish into 12 areas for each councillor to monitor	Ongoing

<u>Environment</u>	
Replace the small noticeboards with double noticeboards in approx same location	By December 2022
Use non-toxic spray to help wildlife	Once Veolia contract expires
To obtain to Public Open Space from West Northants & put it in Parish Council ownership	Ongoing
To obtain ownership of both Bants Lane Allotments & Berrywood Road Allotments	Ongoing
To see how we can enhance both Duston Cemetery & St Luke's Churchyard	Ongoing
Employ an additional "Community Ranger" so DPC has two out in the Parish	By December 2022
A litter bin near Quarry Road shops	Sep-22
Install "Welcome to Duston" signs at Weggs Farm Road, Chiltern Avenue & Cotsworld Avenue	Jun-22
To install finger directional signs around parish	Feb-24
Install "a trim trail" somewhere in Duston in an appropriate location like Mendip Park or Sports Field	Dec-24
Adopt a biodiversity policy. We will look to have some rewilding to support wildlife.	Dec-22
Install more new play equipment at Melbourne Lane, the Quarry and Haydown Green aimed for the younger children.	Jun-22
Do a public consultation on putting in a gateway between Timken Estate & Mendip Park	Dec-25
Keep all four of our defibrillators for the next four years.	Ongoing
Identify Areas for Rewilding to help wildlife	Ongoing
Look to install planters & hanging baskets in each shopping area	Dec-23
Village green status for each park we own and maybe also St Luke's Field	Dec-23
Tree Planting	Ongoing

Consider funding a PCSO for Duston	Ongoing
Install a bench by Bus Stop opposite Timken Way North	Aug-22
Paving outside Duston Library	October 2022
Clerk to bring to Council a tree Policy	Feb-22
To ensure we provide an effective youth provision	Ongoing
Get an additional Vehicle Speed Sign	Dec-23
Commerative bench on verge opposite Timken Gates	Apr-23
Look to improve the entrances to DPC owned parks	Ongoing
Refurbish equipment MUGA at Errington Park, Mendip Park & Grafton Way	Ongoing

Planning	
To revise and update the Neighbourhood Plan	Complete within 2 years
To look at all unregistered land in the Parish	Ongoing
Install 2 – 3 public information boards explaining the history of the parish and its various buildings.	Complete within 2 years
Establish a working party to see how we can enhance Rosevilla Hut & Timken Gates	Dec-26
Get installed electric charging points in appropriate location	Dec-26
Establish a working party to make recommendations to council on CIL / S106 can be spent	Ongoing

Duston Together & Wellbeing

Duston is made up of various estates. Residents do not always know the groups out there that can help. Therefore Duston Parish Council will help bring this all together as we are about “connecting the community”. It should be easy to sign post what organisations are out there

that can meet particular needs of our residents. Knowing what local organisations are out there will improve community wellbeing and satisfaction.

Our Amenities

Shops, restaurants, café and pubs play both a vital economic and community function. Keeping these facilities are vital in making Duston a great place to live. Having our basic amenities nearby, in a reasonable walking distance, helps to reduce car travel and thus pollution. We will look to support each of our shopping areas in the ways that we can.

Concluding Remarks

It is a key role of Duston Parish Council to provide community leadership and take things forward. To make Duston a great place to live and work we need vibrant communities. Duston Parish Council is ambitious for the future. Our aim is for the Parish Council to be responsive and delivering for residents. *To be the best parish to live in West Northamptonshire.*

