



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2024

Chair: Cllr P Enright-King

Councillors Present:

Craven, Dickinson, Ennis-Clark, Liddon, Littlewood, Liddon, Mumford, Roper

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

174/24. To receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllrs Barnes, Golby, Maitland and Mumford

**175/24. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2024
(APPENDIX A)**

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

176/24. 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.

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177/23. Public Participation Session

- No members of the public were present.

178/24. To receive any information update on Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy

- The Clerk and Cllr Ingram verbally updated the Council upon the two submitted S106 applications for Mendip and Errington Park, noting that West Northamptonshire Council have not process either application due to a backlog of applications. Cllr Ingram highlighted that a follow up meeting the Head of Enforcement has been scheduled.

179/24. Councillor Reports – Information Only

- Cllr Liddon provided Council with the findings from the review, conducted by West Northamptonshire Councils (WNC) Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of the VOI E-Scooter Trial.

The report recommends that WNC extends the trial until May 2026 but notes there is a need for improvements and a Road Map for development of the improvements should be a condition of any contract extension offered. The report highlights 5 areas that a Road Map should address the following issues:

1. Review the current scheme to seek improvements and changes in respect of Geo fence areas where:
 - Speed controls and restricted zones to be reviewed and extended.
 - E-Scooters cannot be parked on an individual basis in specific key locations (ie. disabled access and emergency access points).
2. That parking is reviewed to improve end location via use of improved technology (AI) and infrastructure (parking frames) are implemented where appropriate.
3. That new and emerging technology is assessed and timescale set for the implementation in regard:
 - Eliminating twin riding.
 - Preventing scooters from riding pavements
4. That E-Scooter safety is reviewed improving visibility at night, ensuring registration numbers are more visible and that campaigns and messaging to existing riders are increased and more regular in regard to best practice and also to include the wearing of helmets.
5. That a review of the complaints procedure is undertaken with the aim of improving the process of tracking complaints via a reference number with timely action and communication.

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Cllr Liddon noted that the general view from key activist who have followed this process, is that the they fear report and subsequent recommendations will not solve the underlying issues.

180/24. Police Report

- The Clerk updated the Council on the police's shift away and stop attending Parish meetings in order to provide Council update on issues faced in the Community. Instead, the Police have instructed Parish Councils to view crime information online. The Council noted that the online report / heat map covers both Duston, Upton and Sixfields and does not provide much relevant information. The Clerk informed the Council of the change in staff of the Local Policing Team. The Council raised frustrations due to the high turnover of neighbourhood policing staff effecting the established relationships.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the online police report is no longer presented to Council.
 - b) That the Police Laison Representative raises the online police report and the high turnover issues at the next PLR meeting.

181/24. Bank Reconciliations

- **RESOLVED:** That the bank reconciliations for February 2024 was received and approved. (APPENDIX B)

182/24. Payment of Invoices

- **RESOLVED:** That the invoice payments for February 2024 was received, discussed and noted. (APPENDIX D)

183/24. Committee Updates

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the report in the form of minutes of the Planning Committee was received discussed and noted. (APPENDIX E)
 - b) That the report in the form of minutes of the Community Services Committee was received discussed and noted. (APPENDIX F)
 - c) That the report in the form of minutes of the Environment Committee was received discussed and noted. (APPENDIX G)

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184/24. Environment Committee Recommendations

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk purchase 100 30mph stickers for to display on Telecom Boxes for £124.50 (APPENDIX H)
 - b) That the Clerk contacts Harlestone Manor Parish Council to inquire about the status of the bicycle barrier at the New Sandy Lane traffic crossing and that the Clerk seeks quotes for Finger Posts to direct members of the public to local facilities.
 - c) Note that the local crime data does not say Limehurst Square is especially worse in relation to the wider area. It was also noted the official crime statistics do not really justify expenditure on CCTV in Limehurst Square. That the CCTV in Limehurst Square project be revisited by the Environment Committee once a meeting with the local Designing Out Crime Officer is conducted.

185/24. Biodiversity Duty

- Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. So Parish Councils have a legal duty to consider biodiversity but it up to the parish council itself to monitor and enforce this legal duty.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Model Biodiversity Policy and the draft Model Action Plan (APPENDIX J) be noted.
 - b) That the Environment Committee bring to Council a Biodiversity Policy for consideration and adoption.

186/24. Councillor Laptops

- The Council discussed at length the kind of laptop that would be needed to do their Councillor role. The Clerk spoke of the range of laptops that had been considered. As this was unbudgeted expenditure this would need to be paid from General Reserves.
- **RESOLVED:**

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- a) That the Clerk purchases 12 laptops (£5118.48 + VAT total) for parish councillors paid for from General Reserves (APPENDIX K)
- b) That the Council continues to provide of MS 365 Business Basic accounts for Councillors.

187/24. Tree of Hope

- **RESOLVED:** That the update on the next part of the project which is installing a identified space surrounding the Tree of Hope was received and noted.

188/24. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

- The Clerk explained that the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave principle authorities like West Northamptonshire Council the power to do "Public Space Protection Orders". West Northamptonshire Council can use PSPOs to prohibit specified activities, and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, within a defined public area. PSPO provides for restrictions to be placed on behaviour that apply to everyone in that locality. Breach of a PSPO without a reasonable excuse is an offence.
- **RESOLVED:** That the contents of current West Northamptonshire PSPO relevant to Duston was noted (APPENDIX L) .

