



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY 11th July 7pm 2024

Chair: Cllr P Enright-King

Councillors Present:

Littlewood, Ingram, Maitland, Roper, Liddon, Ennis-Clark, Golby, Craven

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

42/24. To receive apologies for absence

- Apologies were received from Cllrs Barnes, Mumford and Dickinson.

43/24. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th June 2024

- That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2024 (APPENDIX A) were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

44/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda

- None were declared.

45/25. Public Participation Session

- There were no speakers from the public.

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46/24. To receive any information update on Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy

- Applications forms for new play equipment and a path around the perimeter of Errington Park has been submitted. We are waiting to hear back from the WNC S106 team.
- In the Autumn the Clerk will try and get another meeting with S106 officer. Two have happened already between the S106 officer and the Clerk (Gary Youens) and Cllr Ingram.

47/24. Councillor Reports – Information Only

- Councillors gave various reports on their activities.

48/24. PLR Report

- Cllr Liddon presented his PLR report. He raised the relationship between the Parish Council and the neighbourhood policing team.

49/24. Village Hall Hedge

- Usually Duston Parish Council does not get involved in maintaining private and commercial land. However, this land is owned (freehold) by the charity of Duston Village Hall (Duston Institute). Duston Village Hall is a not for profit charity.
- Duston Parish Council has received requests from residents to do something about the overgrown hedge blocking the pavement.
- It is noted that there is a lot of local history with the Duston Village Hall which is now over 100 years old. It is understood the previous Duston Parish Council used to have some of their meetings in that hall.
- Council discussed the report presented by the Clerk which gave various options for Council to choose (APPENDIX C).
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) The Grant from Duston Village Hall (APPENDIX B) was not approved
 - b) That the hedge should be kept and not removed.
 - c) Duston Parish Council, with agreement of Duston Village Hall, should maintain the hedge going forward. This helps the Village Hall Charity, Village Hall users and all nearby residents who use the adjacent footpath.
 - d) For the time being the Clerk will use contractors (money virement from the Grants budget). In due course Council will consider how best to fund this long-term during its annual budget setting process.

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50/24. Planters

- Views were expressed that planters should be a core service that DPC delivers to the local community.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) To purchase and install two planters (APPENDIX D) for the amenity shops on Weggs Farm / Bordeaux Close. Using CIL.
 - b) To purchase and install 25 lamppost planters along Main Road and Quarry Road once permission has been obtained (APPENDIX D). Using CIL. Sponsorship will be later sort.

51/24. Bench Sponsorship Policy

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) Not to have external organisations sponsor Duston Parish Council owned benches.
 - b) In due course organisations will be informed about sponsorship of lamppost planters.

52/24. Duston Fun Day

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the staff are thanked for another successful Duston Fun Day. This has become a real highlight in the local calendar.
 - b) Councillors gave feedback on Duston Fun Day. Following serious concerns raised by the Chair of the Council in relation to security of the event this matter will be referred to the Community Services Committee for further discussion.

53/24. Timken Gates

- **RESOLVED:** The Timken Gates and adjoining railings are refurbished using CIL. Cost is approximately £1540 + VAT (APPENDIX G).

54/24. Local Insight Data

- Recently there has been a meeting between Cllr Golby, the Clerk, BCD Manager and WNC Public Health Officers on the large volume of data available about local communities. Using Artificial Intelligence the data can be summarised into some key points.
- Cllr Gobly presented a summary of the data and how it can be used at the local level (APPENDIX H). Cllr Golby and the Clerk are both keen to use this data to inform the DPC Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

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- **RESOLVED:** To note the Local Insight Data and that it should be used to progress the DPC Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

55/24. Remembrance

- The Clerk gave an overview of what DPC currently does for remembrance. This usually includes decorating the bank at St Luke's Centre, armed forces flags at our centres and poppies on lampposts. DPC also keeps the war memorial tidy and free of weeds.
- A view was expressed that the Parish Council should support initiatives for peace and promote individual stories of the detrimental impact of war.
- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) To note the what DPC currently does for Remembrance such as decorating the bank at St Luke's and poppies on lampposts.
 - b) That individual stories of war are promoted whenever possible so it helps with bringing about peace.

56/24. Devolution

- There was a discussion about whether DPC would welcome services from WNC being devolved down to the parish level. Broadly speaking DPC would welcome devolution of some services but concern was raised about whether they would be adequate funding.
- Whilst devolution was a welcome idea many were sceptical that WNC will consider it in the foreseeable future.
- **RESOLVED:** For the Environment Committee to discuss devolution of Environmental Services at its next meeting.

57/24. Bank Reconciliations

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the bank reconciliations for April 2024 (APPENDIX J) were received and approved.
 - b) That the bank reconciliations for May 2024 (APPENDIX K) were received and approved.

58/24. Payment of Invoices

- **RESOLVED:**

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- a) That the invoice payments for April 2024 (APPENDIX L) were received and noted.
- b) That the invoice payments for May 2024 (APPENDIX L) were received and noted.

59/24. Updates from Committees

- **RESOLVED:** That the report in the form of draft minutes from the Environment Committee (APPENDIX N) was received, discussed and noted.

Meeting Closed at 20:57

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