

# **Dunchideock Parish Council**

Minutes of Dunchideock Parish Council Meeting  
Held at the Village Hall on 12 May 2025 at 19:30

**Present:** Councillors Dudley Swain (DSw) (Chairman), Trevor Baker (TB), Derren Summers (DSu), Edward Ellis (EE) and 5 members of the public.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Annual Parish Council Meeting**

### **190 Election of Chairman**

DSw proposed DSu for Chairman, seconded by TB. DSu declined the role at this time. EE proposed DSw continue as Chairman, seconded by DSu and this was accepted unanimously.

### **191 Election of Vice-Chairman**

EE proposed TB, seconded by DSu as Vice Chairman, which was unanimously supported.

### **192 Minutes**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 13 August 2024 were agreed and signed off 16/09/2024 as part of the meeting minutes of 13/08/24.

## **Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

### **193 Apologies for absence**

David Barclay-Watt.

### **194 Declarations of Interest - None**

### **195 Public Discussion**

A member of the public asked about the bus stop shelter and village noticeboards. It was explained these are on the agenda for discussion.

A member of the public asked if the PC would be allowed to provide a grant to an unnamed local group. Yes, this was possible.

### **196 Minutes**

Minutes of the PC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were agreed and signed off.

### **197 County and District Councillor's Reports – Neither apologies nor reports had been received.**

### **198 Financial Report**

DBW had not provided any information. The Chairman reported the current balance is £21,674 and that the costly Weebly & Google payments had now ceased. He added that some £240 VAT could now be reclaimed and needs to be progressed. Lloyds have now suddenly introduced a monthly fee of £4.25 for our account. This is obligatory; it is an affordable overhead.

### **199 AGAR and Internal Audit**

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the 2024/25 has not yet been prepared. Penny Clapham is progressing the internal audit and is to meet with Chairman 23 May 2025 to discuss details.

### **200 Items of Expenditure**

The subscription to DALC for 2025/26 of £115.15 was approved. To be paid forthwith by the Chairman.

**201 Speed Limit on Dunchideock Roads**

DSu reported that the DCC highways manager had stated that “Due to lack of incidents over the past few years there was no justification of change of speed limit from 60mph to 30mph in Dunchideock”. DSu had replied that this contradicted the recent Police speed awareness campaign at the Haldon Car Park, on the main road into Dunchideock. Since two local villages have 30mph speed limits, DSu will continue to pursue this issue with police and DCC.

**202 Bus Stop Shelter**

DSu reported that further details are still required for the updated shelter design from the previous parish council. He added that TDC said that planning permission will be required and EE, as the landowner, will need now to progress an application. Further meeting EE, DSu, Callum Lamont and Mike Gardener (the proposed shelter provider) on site to review.

**203 Notice Boards**

It was agreed to replace the boards at Dunchideock Bridge and Underdown with more permanent boards since the previous temporary proposal from DSu has transpired to not be practical. TB and DSu to research suitable boards.

**204 Parish Clerk & RFO**

It was agreed that a potential applicant from Barnstaple was not a practical option so the situation remains as advertised. It has been renewed on the DALC website.

**205 Casual Vacancies** - Co-options advertised on the notice board. There have been no responses.

**206 Removal of Phone Box**

Chairman to respond to TDC that we request the box is retained by BT or failing that, the Parish Council will consider adoption for £1 to ensure it remains as a village presence.

**207 Parish Council Website**

Investigations will be progressed by Chairman with Weebly to access the previous PC website so that it may be brought back into use. This site has already cost the PC considerable sum (ca.£2,000) to make it access accessibility compliant. Alternatively, DSu will investigate the option of using WIX as hosting provider.

**208 PC Files and Computer**

The location of the PC's printer remains unknown. Since replacements are not currently time dependent, options for a computer will be investigated in due course.

**209 Public Discussion**

Member of the public thanked the PC for the work done over the past year.

**210 Date of Meeting**

Date of next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:20*

Signed .....

Dated .....