

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DYRHAM AND HINTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28th JANUARY 2016**

Item 3: Members of the public to raise matters of concern:

Comment: A resident who was present was invited by the chair to speak on item 20 about a letter of complaint he had sent to the council. The resident stated that, as he did not know what the council was going to say, how could he say anything at this stage? The chair confirmed to him he would not be allowed to speak when that item was reached. The resident asked for that to be minuted.

Item 6: Matters arising from the minutes:

Cock Lane dumping

Comment: the PC will spend a couple of hundred pounds erecting a sign advising fly-tippers not to dump their rubbish there. As if the dumpers will take any notice! It's a problem with society, not one that our PC can solve. The damaged sign in Dyrham is eloquent proof of this. Someone obviously with malice aforethought crashed their car into it because they were irritated at being told to drive carefully. So expect our parish funds go down, even more dumping in Cock Lane and a wrecked sign.

Waste collection

Comment: This up for consultation. See

<https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/wastestrategy2015/consultationHome>

Get your view in before it's too late.

Big Spring Clean

Comment: This year it will be held on Sunday March 13. For several years the community has done this led by the WI and it has proved effective in maintaining community spirit, but this year the PC has decided to use the "payback team" (people on community service). Were we consulted? The PC has checked that none are sex offenders, so children can roam freely. But what if they are convicted burglars ...?

Item 8: Planning Applications

Comment: The council voted to support the development at Green Gates. In future, councillors will vote online so the public will not know how councillors vote. It's the new regulations. Planning concerns residents so how our councillors vote should be disclosed. Otherwise, how do residents know if there might have been a conflict of interest or whom to vote for in the next election?

Item 12: Community Benefit Money

Comment: The Village Hall Trust has asked the PC for £500 from this fund to buy a table for the kitchen area for meetings and as a work surface when the kitchen is used. The PC was concerned that the VHT might not spend all the money on the table, as the VHT does not publish annual accounts. It was pointed out that these are freely available via the Charity Commission website but the VHT will publish accounts from here on as there was nothing to hide. The PC proposed the VHT accounts should be accessible via the PC's website (not on the VHT's pages in the Community website). Not raised at the meeting as the public aren't allowed to speak (!) is the fact that the PC has not published i.e. on noticeboards or the community website, their accounts for the past four years at least. We look forward to them doing so. The fact that such a discussion should even have occurred in public is indicative of our current

council's attitude.

Item 14: Daffodil planting

Comment: Hinton has been “done” and Dyrham will be done next year. But were Hintonians consulted? Dyrham is a conservation zone so the PC should apply for planning permission and consult Dyrhamites before going ahead.

Item 15: Grass cutting

Comment: Various contracts were discussed. One councillor suggested the grass on Dyrham triangle only needed to be cut half as often as grass in Hinton!

Item 16: Screening the substation at Talbot Byre

Comment: This is going ahead and the barbed wire fence will be funded by the PC at a cost of over £500.

Item 19: D&H PC website

Comment: This is “up and running” now. The PC is securing public funds to add to money taken from the precept to finance it. The clerk, already apparently overwhelmed by ordinary parish business according to recent council minutes, is running it and will shortly go on a course, funded by the PC, to improve her website skills.

20: Letter from E Walsh:

Comment: This was a letter to the PC informing them that this resident had made a formal complaint to South Gloucestershire Council's Legal department as he claimed the PC had not followed the conventional procedure for handling his complaint and he been advised by the PC to do so.

The chair read out this letter and then her refutation of all his complaints. The PC will publish both on the noticeboards. Will this help relations within the parish?

At that point, our reporter the made his excuses and left, so we regret we are unable to report on later items in the meeting.