

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DYRHAM AND HINTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2016 (OPEN MEETING)

On Thursday 28th April, EdWeb sent the website's parish council correspondent to the annual open meeting in the village hall. Twelve representatives of various parish bodies had been invited to speak about their year – see the minutes for what they said when they are published. Only one resident who was not either presenting, or a partner of a presenter, was there, which was a pity as presenters had obviously made an effort to inform us. Maybe the evening's final instalment of "Line of Duty" had a stronger pull.

One omission from the list of invitees to speak was the community website. Not surprising perhaps, but in the end the chair allowed our representative to speak. This is what he told the meeting:

1. The website is now in its 6th year.
2. It continues to provide news, notices of events and other information to our community without any cost to local ratepayers or UK tax payers.
3. Over 72,000 pages have been viewed in the past five years.
4. The site is viewed in D&H and all round the country and indeed the world. Google Analytics of the site reveal in the past month the website has been viewed in several places in China, Australia, the Philippines, India, USA and South America. Dyrham and Hinton is now on the international map!
5. EdWeb would like to thank residents who have contributed and urges more to do the same.
6. No complaints have been received from residents about the website in the past five years, but last year the parish council complained twice – see previous blog.
7. The website's "boffins" completely redesigned the website in 2015.
8. EdWeb urges residents to keep tuning in to D&H.Com - it makes it all worthwhile for the staff in EdWeb Towers if their stuff is read.

At the end of the evening, our representative was instructed to ask two questions of the council:

1. [Could the council supply him a copy of their complaints procedure as the Parish Toolkit backed by various august bodies says all councils should have one?](#)

(<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Parish%20Toolkit%20April%202009.pdf> - section 10, pages 71 -73).

It turns out they don't have one, which may explain why our parish council doesn't entertain complaints from residents. Councillor Reade said the only complaints procedure is the four-yearly election - but that doesn't allow for harmonious living in a small community such as ours if someone has a valid complaint.

2. [Why the chair of the council banned WebEd from emailing one of the councillors for having invited said councillor round for a coffee and a chat?](#) The chair said that advice wasn't personal. But at that time and for some months after, edicts from the clerk banned all residents from emailing all councillors. However, the chair now reassured us that for 2016 all residents will be allowed

to email councillors. Confusing. Thereupon, councillor in question revealed it was personal after all, wanting our representative to convey to EdWeb that he had spread malicious gossip and emails round the parish to denigrate the said councillor's name at the time of the election. He demanded the chair advise the councillor to withdraw this defamatory statement that some might even consider as slanderous. The chair refused and the meeting ended in uproar. At least it added a bit of drama to the evening.

PS: when the minutes of the meeting were published, there was no mention of these events.