

## **Minutes of the D&H Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **An Analysis**

Ref to Minutes Number

#### **3. Resignation of Lance Card and Peter Miller**

Councillor Peter Miller has given many years of service to the PC and, for a long time, was the chairman. Residents should give him a vote of thanks for the time he has spent on the council and the work he has done for us. Same for councillor Lance Card who has spent several years on the council. Pity there's no mention of a vote of thanks for them in the minutes.

As for the lack of response to the first advertisement, please see "Casual Vacancy"

#### **4. Co-option of New Councillors**

We should welcome the two new members of the council and congratulate them on their public spiritedness in volunteering. Hopefully, they will get the PC into a better condition than it is in now. Personally, though, I would have preferred a better testing of the residents' choice by better advertising of the vacancies and if necessary by an election. Too many friends of the chairperson are on the PC. We need new blood.

#### **6. Councillors or Clerk's Report of Meetings Attended**

**Jnct 18A Meeting:** Couldn't residents be told what was the outcome of this meeting as it is an important issue for many?

**SLCC:** What's SLCC?

**Transparency:** I'm unconvinced the PC is "doing everything right" about transparency. Ref using the bare minimum of notification about the two vacancies, councillors not admitting an interest in several issues in the last minutes (see blog on that meeting) and, when it was brought to their attention, not rectifying these errors at the next meeting - to name but a few.

#### **9. Correspondence Received:**

**Mr Smedley's Complaint:** Yes, the correct procedure was used but hardly anyone one reads notice boards or the PC's website (even if they did, they probably would not have noticed the announcement unless they scrolled way down on the first page). There are other more effective organs, such as this one with a known big readership. The PC has known that Mr S has been keen for several years to be a councillor but have they never asked him directly when a vacancy has come up. Why?

Although the PC appears to have followed the law, it did not fully comply with the direction set out in the generally accepted PC Manual – "Parish Toolkit April 2009" – for advertising a vacancy. This requires (it states in bold print) that the date the notices were put up should be displayed at the bottom of the notices, which they weren't (photos to prove). Perhaps Mr S should ask why.

It would have been possible to have more than one applicant for a co-option, according to the rules, without having to have an election. This was not offered to Mr S or to the runner up in the 2015 election. Why?

## 11. Accounts

**Yate Computing or ?Computers:** £120 this month! When is the PC going to be transparent about the cost of their website? They have been asked.

**Dyrham Cricket Club:** Could the clerk be more explicit about this club? I think she means D&H Cricket Club which has nothing to do with D&H and is based in Doynton. I don't think it qualifies for a grant according to the rules published with the January minutes. In which case, this would be the second meeting where the PC/clerk has broken their own/national rules for PC grants.

## 13. Community & Benefit Money

**Deffibrillators** (sic): Not all the doctor residents supported this project. One doctor, who was known to the PC to disagree, was not consulted. Watch out for another blog on this.

**DaHComm:** Apparently, this system is to be used to "push information" (ugh!) to residents about Neighbourhood Watch issues, parish news, notices and announcements.

In Dyrham we have had an efficient email notification system for the past five years (known to the PC) which was used to alert residents about crime before the Neighbourhood Watch arrived. It also raised other issues of concern and still does with the approval of residents. We also have D&H.com for all issues of parish interest. There's also a Facebook page for D&H. So, why do we need yet another paid-for system to do what is being done already for free??

As I run both the Dyrham email net and D&H.com, I was particularly upset that no one had had the courtesy even to let me know about the plan before a round robin appeared in my inbox, let alone discuss it with me.

I have now told the organisers to leave me off their list. I get far too many texts, emails already. Watch out for an imminent blog on DaHComm and NW.

## 17. A46 Junction at Sands Hill

Shows how out of touch the PC is with Dyrham issues, even when the Dyrham councillor is present. The NT has for many years been directing all exiting traffic up Sands Hill from their exit near the junction. This is not new, but, yes, there is a problem there which the PC has failed to solve for the past several years, excusably. I have personally attended meetings with the PC, SGC and Highways at this junction and there was no solution offered by them. SGC will not be able to solve it, as it is not their road. I can't believe the PC didn't know this.

## 18. Verges

**Dyrham:** the PC would be advised to break their rules about consulting residents and ask Upper Street residents what they want, as there are issues there only relevant to them. BTW, it's Dale Dennehy, not Dennahay

**Hinton:** the lay-by was designed by the PC and money was spent on it. ?Regrets.

## 19. Parish Plan

**Parish Magazine:** They agreed to publish this on their website. I thought the PC's website was for things to do with the PC. Surely more appropriate on the community website esp since WebEd spent 5 ½ years delivering the Parish News in Dyrham. He was not asked.

## **22. Items from Parishioners: None**

Really! Doesn't anyone take an interest? If you don't like what they do and if what they do is lawful, there's nothing you can do about it if you subsequently disagree with their decision. Get some ideas from reading the blogs.

It's such a pity so much can be found wrong in the PC's minutes. Perhaps the chairperson and clerk should consider their positions. D&H deserves a better parish council.