

PC BLOG

on

MINUTES OF THE DYRHAM AND HINTON OPEN PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2017 AT DYRHAM AND HINTON PARISH HALL

Attendance: Only one resident who was not an official or related to a speaker attended. That's four fewer than last year. Why such little community support? This year, WebEd was too scared to attend after what happened to him last year. Perhaps others too.

2016 Minutes: "*Carried unanimously*": But councillors Banwell & Gawler weren't at the 2016 meeting and weren't councillors then. They could not have known if the minutes were accurate (they weren't), so how could the vote have been unanimous? Oh dear, off to a bad start.

Chairperson's Report

(i) Good to see that the PC, for once, have taken my advice – see Blog on last PC meeting - to: (a) thank out-going councillors (should have been done at that meeting), (b) publish the statements of those presenting the reports of parish organisations and (c) take questions from the floor (even though an opportunity was not given on the Agenda).

(ii) **Fly-tipping:** As previously pointed out in a blog, putting up signs is a waste of time. There's no certainty that tippers can read, and, even if they can, being antisocial, they won't oblige. The problem is caused by factors outside of the control of parish councils or individuals. Reporting them is good but only scratches the surface of the problem. Must wait for Government to wake up and act.

(iii) **Defibrillators:** The PC claims they did "*extensive research*" before purchasing them including, rightly, consulting the ambulance service, but excluding anyone "*not currently employed in the medical profession*". That was meant to exclude me – 27 years as a consultant anaesthetist and 25 years working with Avon

Ambulance Service in training and service provision, and a resident the PC knows had reservations about the purchase. But it did not come as a surprise – just another instance of the PC's spiteful attitude towards me for crossing them at the last election – I wouldn't take sides and use the EdWeb media empire to support their preferred candidate. But pity I wasn't consulted – see upcoming blog. All you retired residents who reached the top your profession, do you believe your knowledge was worthless on the day you retired? Seems the PC does.

If the advice given was the PC "*must absolutely have them because they save lives*", then that is very doubtful proposition in itself and especially in the setting of our community. I don't think my medical colleagues would have used those words, as I am sure they are as familiar with the relevant literature on out of hospital resuscitation as I am. Shortly, D&H.com will launch a new feature to help residents avoid having to rely on defibs.

I was pleased to see the Ambulance Service will hold a training session. This is a **must**: do learn how to do external cardiac massage (ECM) and then **leave** unless you live in a household where there's always more than two fit persons present (as well as the patient) or your neighbour is fit and always within shouting distance. You should update your ECM skill annually, as proficiency fades within a year. Your relatives/friends will have a better chance of survival if you call for an ambulance immediately and then carry out effective and uninterrupted ECM without having to stop to get someone to fetch the defib, which might take 10 mins minimum, if it arrives at all – see upcoming defib blog).

"If they save just one life then it's worth it". Yes, people say that, but how far should that idea be taken? Should every airline passenger have an ejector seat whatever the cost? No, we have to use evidence and relative cost effectiveness. Otherwise the country would go bust. If we really want to save lives, we should donate the two defibs to places where hundreds of people gather on a continuous or regular basis in which settings PADs are proven to be effective.

(iv) **PC Website**: An update: "*residents can find all the up to date information there. Our standing orders and policies are displayed*". Yes, everything except a complaints procedure (the subject of my question at the 2016 meeting).

A Resident's Question

This year a question from the floor was answered! One resident asked about the failure to inform residents effectively about PC vacancies (also raised in a recent blog). However his second, even more important question plus the council's response failed to appear in the minutes. You will have to contact the PC to find out more and why it was not minuted - I don't need another visit from the local constabulary!