

PC BLOG

on the

MINUTES OF THE DYRHAM AND HINTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2017

(Council Minutes in red)

5. Correspondence Received

The Clerk had received a letter from a parishioner:
15th July 2017

Dear Christine Howard Parish Clerk

I am a local man who has lived in Dyrham all my life, I Would like to thank Cllr Caron Thornton-Trippit who a few months ago explained to me all about the Defibrillators that she wanted to buy for our Parish with the Community Benefit Money, but had been up against village scrutiny.

She had explained to me all about CPR and explained to me how Defibrillators can save a life if used in the correct way. Never did I expect to put any of this into practice but I thought it was an excellent use of funds.

A few weeks later I was driving through Pucklechurch and saw an older man lying on the pavement with a younger man leaning over him. With confidence I jumped out my car offering to help, another lady with some medical experience ran over and between the 3 of us we gave him CPR and held a compress to his bleeding head. The first man was already on the phone to the emergency services and they told us to run for the Defibrillator. We unwrapped the pads and connected them to his chest as pictured; we gave him 2 shocks as instructed to do so. Before the shocks the man was grey and I thought he was dead. He started to come back to life as the Ambulance arrived and the Air Ambulance.

He was taken to hospital and when I inquired last week was told he was very much alive and had his own Defib fitted in his chest.

I appreciate that the defibrillator that was used was in Pucklechurch and not one of ours in Dyrham and Hinton but this has now given me confidence that if I ever had to do this again in our Village I wouldn't think twice about it.

Kind Regards

(The name of the resident was withdrawn at their request)

Our Medical Correspondent Dr A (name withheld at their request) writes:

What a wonderful result and congratulations to the anonymous Good Samaritan for having the courage to stop and help. He should be nominated for a D&H Parish award, if only we knew his name.

The chance of a good outcome in such a scenario, even when first responders (trained by the Ambulance Service and equipped with their own defibrillators) attend is slight – about 55 to 1 in a 2014 survey in Hampshire. So the Pucklechurch team did a great job.

Unusually for a country village, the patient was lucky to be in range of not one but two defibrillators each within 150 metres of the incident and to have had so many people to help him - the nurse who was rapidly on the scene; two passers-by; the two police personnel, one of whom went to get the defibrillator in his squad car; the two ambulance paramedics; the doctor; and the staff of the helicopter who came to transfer him.

Mr B is right, you are so lucky to have someone in D&H that's as knowledgeable about CPR, resuscitation techniques and equipment as Cllr Thornton. She was right to ignore the less sexy, more difficult holistic alternative advice which could have benefitted all residents and persuade your parish council to go for the high tech only solution that could benefit only some.

WebEd writes: I second Dr A's praise to our chap who stopped and helped and wrote such a great letter in praise of the parish council: I want him on the staff of WebEd Corp's public relations department!

Let's hope if we do have a similar incident in D&H it's as close to a defibrillator as this one and there is such good support.

Some may be relieved I'm beyond the 200 metre range of the Dyrham defib!

Minute 16: Items of Report where no decision can be made.

Councillor Caron Thornton-Trippit reported to the meeting that a complaint that had been made against her by Mr Edward Walsh to South Glos Council Standards Committee and they had found there was insufficient substance in the complaint from Mr Edward Walsh against her.

It would have been better if the parish council had not included this in the minutes of their meeting and had just let the matter drop. Instead, they have made the situation worse: the complainant neither informed residents he was making a complaint nor revealed the details of his complaint to them, so what was the point of minuting this and mentioning the complainant's name twice?

Consequently, the complainant (the author of this blog) may now proceed to Stage 2 of the SGC Standards Committee complaints procedure, as, at the time of the first submission, certain facts could not be made available to the committee.

Should my complaint be rejected again, I shall then let residents decide whether there is any "substance" in my complaint.

In the meantime, whatever the Standards Subcommittee own standards may be, I think every resident will believe parish councillors in future should not:

- (i) make a defamatory statement about a resident at a council meeting, particularly at an Open one where other parishioners will be present.
- (ii) set the police on a resident unless the resident is violent or disruptive or has committed a criminal offence at a meeting, which was not the case at this Open meeting (confirmed by the Police); and that they certainly should not do so for personal reasons.