

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 17TH AUGUST 2011
AT Doynton Parish Hall**

Notes: DPC = Doynton Parish Council; SGC = South Gloucestershire Council; ALCA = Avon Local Councils Association; SSCG = Safer & Stronger Community Group; AONB = Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; PPIG = Parish Plan Implementation Group

Present:	Anne Fisher	Chairman
	John Bartram, William Crew, Jill Salter,	Councillors
	Elaine Weightman	Clerk
	Ben Stokes	South Gloucestershire Councillor
Members of the Public:	8	
	Mark Shaw	Head of Rural Enterprises Golden Valley Estates
	Mark Wills	Wills & Co
Apologies:		
	William Roch,	Councillor
	Stephen Reade	South Gloucestershire Councillor
Welcome:	Mrs Anne Fisher opened the meeting and introductions were made.	
Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
Minutes of Previous meeting held on 20th July 2011	The minutes of the DPC meeting of 20 th July 2011, were approved and then signed by Mrs Anne Fisher on the proposal of Mr William Crew and seconded by Mr. John Bartram	
To record declarations of interest	Mrs Anne Fisher declared an interest. At this point she handed the chair of the meeting to Mr. William Crew in preparation for the presentation by Mr Mark Shaw from Golden Valley Estates.	

<p>To receive a presentation from Golden Valley Paddocks Limited on the development of Oxleaze, Toghill Lane</p>	<p>Mr Mark Shaw, Head of Rural Enterprise at Golden Valley Estates, outlined the plans to stock 500 ducks in each duck house in order to produce eggs for human consumption which are free range but non organic. There are at present 3 duck houses, in the future these may increase to 14 making the stocking level well below the UK guidelines of 2000 ducks per hectare. There would be some livestock, cattle and sheep which would be brought in month to month which would assist with land grazing. He understood that concerns had been raised re the excremental waste but emphasised that this would all be removed on a daily basis along with the bedding from the Duck houses and taken off site to be converted to compost</p>	
	<p>The following questions were put to Mark Shaw (MS) of Golden Valley Estates and their agent Marc Willis (MW)</p> <p>Who owns Golden Valley Paddocks Ltd?</p> <p><i>MS said that Harry Kerr of Tetbury owns 100% of the shares in GVP</i></p> <p>In their manoeuvres so far, damage has been caused to neighboring property and land. Will Mr. Willis tell us the name and phone number of the person we should contact when this happens and who is likely to be around?</p> <p><i>MS said that he was in charge of all the rural enterprises and is the one to be contacted. He stated that the damaged hedge & any other damage would be replaced with native species when the tree planting season arrived MS gave us his card. His phone number is 07590 494909 Email : mark@gvp-estates.com</i></p> <p>As Alan Stevens has been managing this part of the enterprise why is he not present. As late as early this month he told us he was going to a site meeting, we have been in direct contact with him over hedge removal, laying down water pipes and would therefore like to know his position.</p> <p><i>MW said emphatically that Alan Stevens did not exist or at least he has never worked for GVP. He said that he did not know an Alan Stevens. He did however know a Jason Braine.</i></p> <p>Does Andrew Lee still work for GVP – we understand that he was the only person with poultry expertise.</p> <p><i>MS said that Andrew Lee no longer worked for GVP. He used to but had been sacked for gross misconduct. MS had been recently hired to take over from Andrew Lee and he said that he had</i></p>	

	<p><i>extensive experience in duck rearing and had environmental and agricultural qualifications.</i></p> <p>How much traffic and of what size do they anticipate using Toghill Lane?</p> <p><i>MS said that they do not anticipate much traffic using the road in the future. Much less than during the construction phase of the project. Only need a sprinter size van is needed to move eggs around</i></p> <p>There is currently regular traffic going to and from the site in the early hours of the morning disturbing local residents. Is this likely to continue?</p> <p><i>MS said that the ducks lay later than chickens and so there was no need to transport eggs until late in the morning. No vehicles in the early morning are anticipated.</i></p> <p>Is it your intention to eventually seek approval for a permanent dwelling on this site?</p> <p><i>MW said that they did plan to gain planning approval for a residence on the site but that this would have an agricultural tie to it and they would not seek for this to be removed.</i></p> <p>Why are they keeping ducks in the large barn when their planning approval prohibits it?</p> <p><i>MW said that in the original application for the barn they made it clear that they would put animals in the barn and they thought that this should be permitted. He was aware of the letter Roger Hemming sent to Anne Fisher on 28th January 2010 which said that they were not to put livestock on the barn. MW disputed this interpretation and was following it up with Mr. Hemming. He also stated that they believed that ducks were not considered livestock so it did not apply.</i></p> <p>A lot of the community concerns have arisen as a result of the activities on the site, this started with the destruction of the hedge in 2008 which seemed to break environmental rules. Why did you do this if the plan was to set up a duck farm?</p> <p><i>MW said that he had heard about the destruction of the hedges but was not involved with GVP at the time so could not comment. Similarly this was before MS joined the company.</i></p>	
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Is duck farming the long term plan for this site? If so why you install post and rail fencing and state in the planning application for the barn that it was to be used for calves and lambs?

The plan is for the enterprise to be based on a combination of duck rearing for egg production with grazing of beef cattle and sheep as an additional use of the land. The ducks will be the main focus of the enterprise on the site. They plan to move the cattle and sheep around between the sites owned by GVP and also operate the duck business across their different sites.

Have they got a poultry license for the site? The GB Poultry Register said that there was a legal requirement for a poultry license if there were more than 49 birds on site.

MS said that they were on the GB Poultry Register.

If they plan to house 7000 ducks on the site and organize them in groups of 500, presumably they will need 14 duck houses each capable of housing 500 ducks. How big will each of these 14 duck houses be and do they intend to apply for planning permission for them before they are erected?

MS said that the plan was to expand the duck numbers progressively over the next 12 months and would increase the number of duck houses accordingly from the three that were now on the site. The size of the houses 4m by 10m and they may have one larger 4m by 20m Ducks would also be housed in the barn.

The CCB officer said that no planning permission had been obtained for similar duck houses on the site at Woolley, are they anticipating that no planning permission will be needed in Doynton?

MW said that the duck houses were mobile and will be moved to different positions on the site and so their view is that planning permission is not needed. BANES had agreed in respect to the site at Woolley but there was a judicial review in progress to test this decision. They were aware that the Cotswold Conservation Board were of the view that planning approval was required but MW disagreed with this interpretation.

	<p>How will they dispose of the excrement from the ducks and the rainfall runoff from the duck pens?</p> <p><i>MS said that they will collect the excrement and remove it from the site, then it will be converted to manure / fertilizer for sale. Rainfall and runoff from the pens will soak away as with cattle excrement and the pens will be moved regularly to reduce damage.</i></p> <p>Why was the siting of the polytunnel duck pens so near the ditches which run into a farmyard and then through 5 gardens and eventually to the village stream where children play? How were they to stop runoff entering the watercourse?</p> <p><i>MS said that the duck houses will be sited well away from the watercourse so the run-off will not enter the drainage. He said that any run-off from the ducks in the barn will be dealt with by a sealed cesspit that will be built. They currently have a sealed cesspit toilet and washing facilities in the barn and will have another one for the water run-off. MW said the ducks were on deep litter and therefore there were no plans for dealing with effluent draining from the barn. The sewerage systems have not yet been licensed. MS also said that with skids under the sheds they would be moved to stop the run off entering the water course.</i></p> <p>Is your enterprise still viable given the recent decline in the price of eggs?</p> <p><i>MS said that the price of duck eggs was still good and the decline only related to hens eggs. He said that duck egg production was a fast growing business. Theirs was to be free range and this would be preferred to the barn duck egg production that is now the major source of duck eggs.</i></p> <p>Where will the duck eggs be sold?</p> <p><i>MS said that the eggs would be sold to three purchasers but for commercial reasons he could not give any more details.</i></p> <p>I think that there are 6 longhorn cattle, almost 100 sheep, 7000 ducks (they say) and about 2000 pheasant poults on that small acreage.</p> <p>Is this overkill? They have been bussed in just before the meeting!</p>	
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MS said that the movement of animals was all part of the long term plan to use the land for a combination of duck egg production, cattle and sheep. He said that the animals would be moved around to make sure that the land was not over grazed. He said that the pheasant poults will be removed as pheasant production has not been successful and will not be repeated.

Will the ducks have water to swim in?

MS said that they would be given water to drink but not to swim in as this was not the practice for commercial duck rearing. This was due to the risk of contamination from wild birds.

Doynton has no experience of intensive agriculture.

MS said that what they were doing was not classified as “intensive agriculture” under EU and UK legislation. He pointed out that their stocking levels would be well below the limits set. An example was that the duck houses were certified for 650 birds but they would only put 500 in them. The EU figure for over stocking was 2500 ducks per hectare. He said that the GB stocking rate was 2,000 per hectare He emphasized that they would be “free range”. (Note ... by our calculations the GVP stocking rate would be $7,000/6.4 = 1,094$ per hectare excluding other stock on site).

How will they stop the gravel they have put on the road filling up the drains in the village?

MS said that they will not be putting any more gravel down on the road.

How noisy are the ducks and what about the smell would the smell & noise travel down to the village.

MS said that there would be no strong odor as the excrement was being taken off site and the ducks are very placid once let out after feeding and the noise would not travel.

Mr William Crew thanked Mr Shaw and Mr Wills when there were no further questions and as Mr Shaw was leaving he said that everyone was welcome to visit their other site at Woolley.

The Chair of the meeting was then returned to Mrs Anne Fisher.

<p>To receive the Parish Clerk's report</p>	<p>Correspondence : Circulated to councillors Letter from Head of Planning SGC re decline of invitation to attend a PC meeting to discuss planning concerns Poster for green bag collection for cardboard Letter from internal Auditor Wendy Cashmore re recent audit Standing orders from Dyrham & Hinton and the NALCA edited copy suitable for Doynton adoption</p> <p>Recent expenditure and Budget update: Chq no 000624 £125.16 to clerk E Weightman for July salary signed by WC &AF.</p> <p>A working balance remained in the current account of £857.47 as the VAT refund of £1075.85 had been received from 2008/10. The amount of VAT due to the Millennium project from this amount will be paid when the precept is paid at the end of October and the clerk will ascertain the correct amount. The savings account is near completion at Nat West Bank so that £14,800 the S106 funds can be transferred.</p> <p>The External auditor Mazars has advised there are items to attend to and these will be sent to the clerk shortly. It was raised by our internal auditor that the previous clerk required payment of £333.33 and this will be done.</p>	<p>All councillors read and pass on.</p> <p>EW</p> <p>EW</p> <p>EW</p> <p>EW</p>
<p>To present the Standing Orders which will govern the Doynton Parish Council</p>	<p>Circulated with correspondence</p>	<p>PC Discuss in October</p>

<p>To consider planning applications: -</p>	<p>PK11/2345/TCA 2 High Street Doynton. Works to fell 1 Ash tree situated within Doynton Conservation Area. Consultation ends 24th August 2011.</p> <p>PK11/2542/TCA Hillview Church Road Doynton. Works to fell 2 Silver Birch trees situated within Doynton Conservation area. Consultation ends 1st September 2011.</p> <p>No Objections raised to either application</p>	
<p>Items raised by Members to be included in future agendas</p> <p>Date of next meeting -</p>	<p><i>Parish plan Implementation group: Prof Ron Ritchie attendance to answer questions on the Village Design Statement.</i></p> <p><i>Report Orchard Steering Group from Major Lee Whitbread.</i></p> <p><i>Comments from PC re planning Golden Valley Paddocks.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives from PC at ALCA AGM and Parish Charter meetings in October.</i></p> <p>Mr Ben Stokes SGC wished the following to be placed on September's agenda: <i>Report South Glos Councillors Toghill Picnic Area</i></p> <p>He also added that members of the public could have access to Avon & Somerset Constabulary consultation on the recent riots these had been made available to SGC website.</p> <p>21st September 2011</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.25pm</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	<p>AF</p>