

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairperson - Cllr Terry Hodges

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 24 July 2023 at 7.00pm at Wootton Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllr Hodges (Chairman), Cllrs Thomas (Vice Chairman), Cllr Akehurst and Cllr James. Clerk – Steph Woods
4 members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hodges welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for nominations for the role of Chairman. Cllr Hodges was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr James, and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations. Cllr Hodges was therefore elected as Chairman for the Council year 2023-2024 and signed the acceptance of office.

Cllr Hodges then asked if the Parish Council wanted a Vice Chairman, and if so, asked for nominations. Cllr Thomas was proposed by Cllr Akehurst, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and unanimously agreed. There were no other nominations. Cllr Thomas was therefore elected as Vice Chairman for the Council year 2023-2024 and signed the acceptance of office.

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hodges welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Cllr Thomas for his office as Chairman throughout Covid and all the trials of the last four years.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Roberts and Cllr Rose (DDC) – received after the meeting.

3. COUNCIL

Declarations of Interest:

a) Declaration of any councillor's interest in agenda items other than those registered at previous meetings. b) Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests (other than those previously disclosed), and a reminder to think of any changes to the DPI Register held at DDC, such as a change of job or home. c) Voluntary Declaration of other non-significant interests. d) Review of Councillor Responsibilities

Cllr Akehurst and Cllr James both declared an interest in item 10 of the agenda.

4. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

One member raised that a resident in Park Side appears to have no intention of doing anything regarding the flooding caused by alterations to their property – ground raised on resident’s side causing flooding. Cllr Hodge has written to the resident and DDC. The resident responded to say they have installed a soakaway but this is installed further away and this has not resolved the issue. They are proposing to install a French drain to help with run off from their driveway. The resident has also replied to say that they do not feel they should be responsible for the drainage of the highway. It was decided to keep reporting every time it becomes an issue to KCC. Photographic evidence is very helpful. The Clerk will also speak to KALC for some further advice on this matter.

Comments on new parish newsletter were sought from another member of the public. Cllr Thomas thought it was engaging and Cllr James commented that she also liked it as well. Hard copies of the newsletter will be available in both Churches and The Jackdaw. Cllr James will also put it on Facebook.

The recent fire at Lydden Hill Race Circuit (LHRC) was raised by another parishioner. It was agreed that the Risk Assessment for the track and the event seemed inadequate. It was felt by some people at the meeting that Emergency Services should not have come through the village (Wootton). Cllr Thomas suggested we could write to LHRC and ask if they have undertaken a review of the event. Cllr Hodges agreed to do this. It was also agreed that Cllr Hodges would write to KFRS to ask if they have undertaken a debrief and if DDC have been involved. Cllr James raised that FIA, who hired the track for this event, were also doing full investigation and it was agreed that Cllr Hodges would write to them also.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2023

Agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Akehurst – ALL AGREED.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (WHICH ARE NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA)

Cllr James – item 8 of the agenda, the second bullet point, has been reported as repaired which is not the case. Cllr Hodges agreed to write to landowner, Jamie Amblerd, to ask that he repairs both quickly. Clerk has already reported to PROW and will chase an update.

Cllr Thomas raised the bench at Denton at war memorial and the suggestion to move it to another location. As no one knows who owns the land, Cllr Thomas will enquire with land registry and will provide an update on this at the next meeting.

7. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

None to record.

8. COMMUNITY MATTERS & REPORTS FROM POLICE/PCSO/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The New Rural PC, PC James Chenery, from Kent Police has been in contact with the Clerk and aims to attend the meeting approximately every 90 days. He has a large area so we may not see as much of him as we would hope.

Cllr Akehurst informed the meeting that he has resigned as Chairman at the AGM of Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr James also raised whether the volunteer horse rider for Kent Police, Debbie Wanstall, should be invited to meetings to report/update the Parish. All agreed that this was a great idea. Cllr Hodges informed the meeting that Debbie had recently reported a suspected burglary and this resulted in the Police attending the incident quickly.

9. PARISH

- **Highways**

Cllr Thomas updated the meeting on the project to move 30mph signs on A260. Currently they are right on edge of Denton after the Denton Lane turning and the entrance to Denton Court which doesn't allow enough time for vehicles to slow down before entering the Village. Cllr Graham previously worked on moving the limit out by 200 yards and the PC agreed to carry forward £4,500 to pay for this project.

Cllr Thomas had circulated a project update from KCC on 29th June 2023 and they now require £2,850.00 towards the cost of moving the limit, plus they have given an option of an additional gate and planter at a total cost of £3,200 if we choose these options. Cllr Thomas raised that there is the disadvantage of someone having to look after planters, but gates could be a good idea. Cllr James proposed that we pay the invoice for the movement of the speed limit which was seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed by all. It was also agreed that further discussion on the additional options need moving forward.

Cllr James raised that the HIP needs updating, and Cllr Thomas will see if Cllr Bevan sent it before he stood down as Councillor.

Cllr James has also reported a pothole on Church hill, Wootton to KCC Highways.

- **Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

Cllr James raised the issue with the footpaths by Geddenge Lane path, near Geddinge Farm/The Beeches one has horses and the other is overgrown and both are unwalkable. Clerk will report this to PROW.

- **Village Halls**

The Chairman of Wootton Village Hall thanked PC for the coronation bench. The salt box outside village hall is full of water and smells. Cllr Hodges volunteered to see if he can drain the water.

- **Cricket/Recreation Ground, Wootton**

Nothing to report.

- **Community Fast Fibre Broadband**
A resident who lives in Stelsted provided Cllr James with three companies who may be able to help but so far no reply has been received from the companies. Cllr Hodges informed the meeting that his newly installed system is better but isn't reliable and he is not sure it was worth the costs involved. Other personal connections were discussed and it was agreed that the PC is only interested in sourcing community fast fibre for the area, not in provision for individual properties. It was agreed the only way forward was to keep our name in the frame and wait to see what develops in the future.
- **Litter Pickers**
Cllr Beaney previously agreed to fund litter pickers so Cllr Hodges will write to Cllr Beaney for an update on this.
- **New Village sign for Wootton**
Clerk apologised that quotes for this had not yet been obtained and will source them as soon as possible for discussion at the next meeting.
- **New Noticeboards for Denton and Wootton**
Cllr James has found a manmade timber notice board which would fit 8 x A4 at a cost of £1,000 which included a plinth with the name of parish and struts. Cllr Thomas suggested that firstly agreement should be sought for the size of noticeboards so that this can be progressed. It was agreed that at least 8 x A4 would be the minimum size needed. It was also agreed that the manmade timber notice board for both villages would be over £2,500 which is costly. It was agreed to do more research what is available and costs so this can be progressed at the next meeting.
- **Changes to 30mph limit on A260**
Discussed in the Highways item above.
- **Defib relocation, Denton**
The Jackdaw currently has the defib and it is not open all the time the defib is not always accessible. The PC owns phone box so Cllr Thomas suggested to move it into the box as the phone box has an electricity supply. Subject to redecoration of the phone box, it was agreed by all, that in principle the defib could be resighted there. Cllr James raised that refresher training for Wootton would be beneficial. It was asked if the PC could cover the maintenance costs of the three defibs within the Parish. All agreed that they were happy to further investigate this option.

10. FINANCE

- a. Payments – these were proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Akehurst – ALL AGREED
The bank balance as of 24th July 2023 was £35,667.07

June Payments (paid in June under Section 101 and Financial Regs)
 - Zurich Insurance – Annual PC Insurance - £324.11
 - D Mummery Book Keeping Services – Annual Financial audit - £60.00
 - ICO – Annual Membership - £35.00

- Stephanie Woods – Salary June 2023
- Unity Trust Bank – 3 monthly Service Fee - £18.00

July Payments (all to be paid after the meeting)

- Kent County Council – TRO part of Scheme (Inv 900173883) – £2,850.00
- B Hope - Reimbursement for bench for Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground for Coronation - £300.00
- R Edwards - Maintenance - Annual for Wootton and Jun & Jul for Denton - £188.00
- Wootton Village Hall - Reimbursement for Coronation expenses 2023 - £944.32
- Wootton Village Hall - Reimbursement for bench for Wootton Village Hall for Coronation - £300.00
- Stephanie Woods – Salary – July 2023

b. Grants Requests

- Wootton & Denton Recreation Ground
A grant request of £3,120 was submitted on 5th May 2023 by the Chairman of the Wootton & Denton Cricket and Recreation Ground. The grant will fund the final stages of the restoration of the Pavilion. Cllr Thomas proposed to go ahead with the grant which was seconded by Cllr Akehurst and Cllr James didn't vote as there was a declaration of interest declared in item 3 of this meeting. All agreed.
- Denton Village Hall
A grant request of £3000 was submitted on 17th May 2023 by the Secretary of Denton Village Hall. The grant will go towards the costs to modernise and update the hall. Cllr James asked if this was to also fund solar panels which was mentioned in the bid and it was confirmed that this is an application for building costs only. Cllr Hodges asked when they wanted the money as the Planning Application for the alterations was still out to consultation. It was requested that the grant money be paid after planning consent was given. Cllr James proposed to go ahead with the grant which was seconded by Cllr Hodges and Cllr Akehurst didn't vote as there was a declaration of interest declared in item 3 of this meeting. All agreed to only pay the grant once planning permission is granted and if project doesn't go ahead then money will be returned to PC.

c. Savings Account

The Clerk has previously circulated details of an instant access savings account with the current account provider, Unity Trust Bank, so interest could be earned on the money the PC holds in reserve. It was proposed by Cllr James to open the new savings account and to transfer £25,000 of the PC's reserves into it, seconded by Cllr Thomas and all agreed. Cllr James, Cllr Hodges and Cllr Thomas signed the account opening form and this will be sent off to Unity Trust Bank by the Clerk.

An application form for the statement address details to be updated with Unity Trust bank was also signed by the above Councillors.

11. PLANNING

Local Planning Matters – items of interest/updates:

- 23/00789 – Denton Village Hall, The Street, Denton – Replace existing doors with window on east elevation, new entrance doors with raised patio on north elevation, door canopy and solar panels to roof – support all agreed.
- Cllr James informed the meeting that Deacons are about to sign contracts soon.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence regarding Shelvin Farm has been received and reported to DDC.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- Lydden Hill Race Circuit needs to be a standing agenda item.
- HIP
- Noticeboards (Denton & Wootton)
- Resighting of Bench (Denton)

14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:11.

Next meeting: 25th September at 7pm in Denton Village Hall