

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairperson - Cllr Terry Hodges

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 29th January at 7.00pm at Denton Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllr Hodges (Chair), Cllr Thomas (Vice Chair), Cllr Akehurst and Cllr James and Cllr Roberts, PC Chris Bates, Clerk – Steph Woods
2 members of the public

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hodges welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies for absence were received. Chair also welcomed the new PC Chris Bates to the meeting.

2. 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

None.

3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

Footpaths and potholes were raised by one member of the public and it was agreed this will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2023

Agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting, proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Thomas – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

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

None.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

None.

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

PC Chris Bates introduced himself to the meeting and informed that he is now the new local PC for Dover Downs and River area. He asked that reports that might not be raised through 999 should be reported to the Clerk or emailed to him at Chris.Bates@kent.police.uk.

PC Bates is happy to get involved in community events and conduct extra visits like speed enforcement. Cllr Thomas raised that the 30mph speed limit should be complete by 7th February 2024 so it would be useful for PC Bates to conduct speed enforcement after this date.

Cllr Akehurst gave an update on local Neighbourhood Watch. There is a new chair, Cllr Dan Friend (DDC and Sandwich Town Councillor), for the Dover NHW. Canterbury NHW has ceased.

8. PARISH

- **Highways**

Cllr Thomas updated the meeting that KCC Highways will be moving 30mph signs on 7th February 2024 and there are currently no HIP updates. Footpath issues have also been discussed with KCC Highways. Clerk informed the group that the new village signs for Wootton needs to go onto HIP after speaking to KCC Highways. Clerk/Cllr Thomas to consult with KCC and update HIP.

Cllr Akehurst raised the current road closure on Walderchain Road due to severe water leak, which has been closed all week and is still ongoing.

Potholes on Shelvin Lane was also raised as access to properties is difficult resulting in flat tyres. There have been a number of burst tyres and buckled wheels in recent weeks. These were reported on 8th December 2024 by residents and the potholes were marked within minutes and portal was updated to say completed but no works were conducted. They have been reported again and resident has phoned KCC to get compensation form. KCC confirmed system is saying works have been completed even though they have not. Cars are now driving onto resident's driveway to avoid potholes and causing damage to the driveway. KCC have not confirmed whether they will compensate for cracks in driveway. Lady on phone indicated that any works will not be completed until spring. Cllr Hodges wrote to KCC Cllr. Dave Beaney and they did repair a few but have not returned to complete the rest. Resident to send photo to Cllr Hodges so he can take forward with KCC. Cllr Hodges to chase Cllr Beaney for some action.

- **Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

One footpath is blocked in Wootton, through woods, at Wootton banks which is owned by Denton Court (not included in part of sale of land). Finns should be responsible. Cllr Hodges to write to Belinda/Finns and ask to clear trees.

Bridlepath at Love Lane has a fallen yew tree but it is unclear who is responsible for its clearance. Cllr Thomas suggested conducting a Land Registry check to see who owns the bridleway. Cllr Hodges to get quotes for clearance of tree and all councillors to agree to tree works by email.

- **Village Halls**

Wootton Village Hall – nothing to report but to say thank you for the defibrillator.

- **Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground**

The plaque for the coronation bench still has not arrived. The committee has installed a large hand carved plaque in pavilion which acknowledges financial benefactors inc Parish Council. Event to be taking place during the summer.

Clerk updated the meeting that the company the original plaques for the benches (bought last year for Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground, Wootton Village Hall and Denton Village Hall) were purchased from went into administration in September 2024 and it was agreed by all councillors that there was no alternative but to write off the costs for this. Clerk to reorder new plaques.

- **Community Fast Fibre Broadband**

No update. There is fast fibre to boundary of village and they are waiting for Deacon's development to be completed. Cllr James to write another letter as they just need to connect houses to the fibre.

- **Litter Pickers**

Village clean up date has been agreed for 13th April 2024. It was agreed that no skip is need this year. Clerk to apply to Dover for litter picking kits and arrange for bags to be collected after the litter pick at 3pm from Village Green, Denton and the Village Hall, Wootton.

- **New Village sign for Wootton**

Discussed above in Highways item.

- **New Noticeboards for Denton and Wootton**

Cllr James circulated two costings for the new noticeboards. Cllr Roberts proposed to buy the two noticeboards from JAKK Country Furniture Designs Ltd at a cost of £2,624.02, which was seconded by Cllr James. Clerk to process payment for authorisation once invoice is received. The Denton noticeboard requires planning permission which will cost £296.00 so it was agreed that Cllr Thomas to progress planning application. Cllr James to see if Julian Cranfield could store noticeboards in Deacon's yard until they are ready to be installed.

- **Defib Updates**

The defibs are now fully installed, registered and available through 999. Phone box needs updating/renovating which will cost approximately £80 for four glass panes (delivered) and £60-80 for paint. Total cost will be approximately £150 to complete the refurb. This was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Akehurst. The batteries will need replacing in future so it was also agreed to set aside maintenance budget for the defibs of £200 per year. Regular inspections of both defib are needed.

- **Re-siting of bench at War Memorial, Denton**
No update. Colin created War Memorial which has now sunk into ground at base and is covered in mud. Colin will adjust position and cover the expenses. If the PC adopt the War Memorial then planning permission is not needed. Cllr Thomas proposed that the PC adopts this which was seconded by Cllr Hodges. Cllr Thomas to progress this and Clerk to add War Memorial to asset list.
- **Wootton Parkside, Flooding**
No update. Cllr Hodges to raise with Cllr Beaney again.

9. FINANCE

- a. Payments – these were proposed Cllr James, seconded Cllr Thomas – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY CHAIR. The bank balance as of 29th January 2024 was £18,738.48 (£154.07 in current account and £18,584.41 in savings account)

Receipts:

- Unity Trust – Credit Interest - £114.45

Payments:

Paid already under the Financial Regs or as agreed at previous meetings.

- Stephanie Woods – Clerk Wages (Dec 23)
- Unity Trust Bank – Service Charge - £18.00
- Hugo Fox – Monthly Website Fee (Jan 24) - £11.99
- Stephanie Woods – Clerk Wages (Jan 24)

Agreed at the meeting and to be paid after the meeting.

- Elham Valley Electrics Ltd – Inv 1067 Defib Electrics - £286.00
- R & CR Phillips – Inv 8574 Verge Cutting Denton - £504.00
- Stephanie Woods – Mileage Payment (Jul 23 – Jan 24) - £35.10

The current account balance is now at £154.07 so it was proposed by Cllr James to transfer £5000 from savings account which was seconded by Cllr Roberts. ALL AGREED.

- b. Direct Debits – HMRC & IONOS
It was proposed by Cllr Akehurst to set up direct debits to HMRC, Hugo Fox and IONOS which was seconded by Cllr Thomas. ALL AGREED. Clerk to set these up on the bank account.
- c. KCC Members Grant
Claim submitted to KCC and awaiting response.

10. PLANNING

a. LHRC

Lydden Hill Race Circuit Consultative Committee are meeting tomorrow at LHRC. Cllr Hodges and Cllr Thomas are attending on behalf of the PC and will report back on this at the next meeting. Cllr James will also be attending as a representative for the WEPG.

b. Deacons

No news to report. It was noted that the developers have not given date for signing contracts but not pulling out of the contract out either.

c. Local Planning Matters – items of interest/updates: None were received.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

12. Dates for future meetings

Due to the bank holiday the previously agreed meeting date of 27th May 2024 has now been moved to 20th May 2024.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None

14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:12.

Next meeting: 25th March 2024 at 7pm in Wootton Village Hall