

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairperson - Cllr Terry Hodges

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 27th November 2023 at 7.00pm at Wootton Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllr Hodges (Chair), Cllr Thomas (Vice Chair), Cllr Akehurst and Cllr James and Cllr Roberts, Cllr Beaney (District & KCC Cllr), Clerk – Steph Woods
4 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.

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

Inappropriate comments made on Facebook village page regarding LHRC traffic and the recent road closure was raised. The page is independent of the PC and all Cllrs were reminded that anything they post is their individual opinions and not that of the PC.

WEPG sent email to LHRC regarding traffic management regarding road signs not being weighted down with sandbags (they have photographic evidence), personnel not carrying the correct accreditation (those who were asked had none), and more. LHRC denied this was the case.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2023

Agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting, proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Akehurst – 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

Cllr Beaney has spoken to LHRC following the reported problems with the new access road of Geddinge Lane and was reassured it was just a teething problem. LHRC have also said that they are happy to meet regarding the Consultive Committee and start the process. Clerk to liaise with Councillors to agree some suitable dates and send to Cllr Beaney to progress the pre-meeting. Wootton Village Hall is now on committee and happy to host the meeting.

Cllr James pointed out that Dover Downs & River Ward is not represented in the list of Members, even though the Circuit is located in this Ward.

DDC

- New leadership party are changing garden waste collections so now moving to a wheeled bin instead of 6 bags. Changes to start after Christmas.
- Fast track is no longer on target – now Spring 2024.
- Consultation for design of seafront building – backdoor wall looks like front from all angles. Everyone is pleased with the design.

KCC

- Not in section 114 notice again this year as they have met budget target.
- Cabinet members have changed and are relooking at cost savings.
- Consultation on closure of 4 waste sites still ongoing.
- Budget is still there for members grants so if the PC has any project to let Cllr Beaney know. Clerk to send litter picker request and Cllr Beaney.
- Meeting for all ward parishes to be moved to New Year due to lack of availability.
- Cllr Hodges to email Cllr Beaney about Highways issues.

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

PC Chenery October report was circulated to all councillors and a summary was read at the meeting.

Debbie the Police Horse Volunteer reported an incident concerning activity at Deacons' site and thought someone was in the building. This was reported to Kent Police and dog handlers attended the site and no one was there. Trees down on bridle way reported and Debbie was advised to report online via the KCC PROW portal. Wootton Lane (Church Hill) also has a tree balancing on telephone wire.

Cllr Akehurst spoke to new chair of Neighbourhood Watch who reported issues with the viability of Canterbury NHW but also informed that Dover NHW is still running ok. Clerk and possibly Cllr Akehurst to attend the DDC CSU quarterly meeting in December.

8. PARISH

- **Highways**

Re-siting of the 30-mph speed restriction is still ongoing and KCC Highways have now instructed contractors to undertake the works. KCC Highways have also been filling potholes on A260. HIP has been circulated to all and there are no other priorities at the moment. Salt bins have also now been filled up.

It was reported that potholes in Shelvin Lane are bad and not being actioned by KCC Highways. Cllr Hodges to speak to Cllr Beaney for him to take forward to KCC.

Denton Lane has overgrown hedges that are blocking road. The Clerk will report to KCC via the online portal.

- **Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

A number of fallen trees on local footpaths have been reported to Kent PROW.

Footpath issues on Denton Estate at Wootton Banks. Cllr Hodges to write to estate to report these.

Cllr Hodges has received a response from Finns (Managing Agents) to recent accident on the private road that runs down to Denton Village Hall and they have confirmed they are getting two estimates to repair potholes.

- **Village Halls**

The Defib at Wootton Village Hall was discussed following the PC's paper on local defib provision.

Wootton VH have contacted DDC regarding a nearby horse chestnut growing over the power wires. DDC advised them to contact the PC. This not a statutory duty/responsibility of the PC so Village Hall advised to contact UKPN.

Ofgem currently carrying out consultation on standing daily charges asked for registered charity buildings and public building like churches. The consultation is on their website and anyone who this affects is encouraged to complete.

Denton Village Hall had its AGM last Saturday and is currently looking for chairman. Future functions are also under discussion.

- **Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground**

Number of enquiries for events i.e. dog agility competitions have been received. Archery club have also approached the committee to see if field is suitable for their regular usage. Two new members have joined the committee and have arranged a Christmas Party on Sunday 17th December Christmas. Field is becoming very popular with dog walkers.

- **Community Fast Fibre Broadband**

Cllr James wrote to KCC to see if the procurement work had been completed to the deadline of November 2023. Response received to say there is a delay and BDUK are looking to award

contract end of 2023. Any announcement will only include headline information and will not detail if Wootton is included or any timescales.

- **Litter Pickers**
As discussed above on item 6 of the agenda, Clerk to send requirements to Cllr Beaney who will then procure the equipment.
- **New Village sign for Wootton**
Initial research is showing that the replacement signs will cost a minimum of £750 excluding fitting. The Clerk to get further quotations for a number of options with suggested sizes of signs and shapes for agreement at the next meeting.
- **New Noticeboards for Denton and Wootton**
Cllr James circulated research with lots of different options. The preferred option was agreed by all so Cllr James to finalise the quotation with the selected company for agreement at the next meeting.
- **Defib relocation, Denton**
Cllr Thomas has produced a summary report and circulated to all with expected cost provided and options to discuss. Cllr Thomas will get two further quotations so further discussion can take place with a decision at the next meeting. Clerk to speak to Cllr Beaney to see if he could provide a members grant towards the cost of this project.
- **Re-siting of bench at War Memorial, Denton**
Plaque to be removed soon. As there is no ownership of the land and the footpath is not registered it was agreed by all that Cllr Thomas to progress the PC taking ownership of the land. To will be removed from agenda until an update is available.
- **Wootton Parkside, Flooding**
Cllr Hodges has spoken to resident and work has been undertaken to try and alleviate the issue but this has not been successful. Cllr Hodges to take this up with Cllr Beaney who will speak to KCC on the PC's behalf.

9. FINANCE

- a. Payments – these were proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr James – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY CHAIRMAN. The bank balance as of 27th November 2023 was £22,723.45

October/November Payments (paid already under the Financial Regs or as agreed at previous meetings)

- Unity Trust Bank – Service Charge - £18.00
- Denton Village Hall – Grant towards renovations - £3,000.00
- Hugo Fox – Monthly Website Fee (October) - £11.99
- Stephanie Woods – Salary October 2023
- Allyn Thomas – reimbursement of remembrance reefs - £50.00
- Allyn Thomas – reimbursement of land search fees - £13.00
- Stephanie Woods – Backdated pay award (April – October) - £145.00

- Stephanie Woods – Salary November 2023

Remaining November Payments (all agreed at the meeting - to be paid after the meeting)

- Ricky Edwards – Inv 66 – Maintenance (Oct – Nov 23) - £136.00
- Dover District Council – Election Costs May 2023 - £137.23
- Stephanie Woods – 25% reimbursement ILCA Qualification - £36.00

The current account balance is now at £723.45 so it was proposed by Cllr James to transfer £2,000.00 from savings account which was seconded by Cllr Akehurst. ALL AGREED.

b. Half Year Finances and Precept

The current financial report and precept was discussed and amended. It was proposed by Cllr Hodges to set the 2024/25 precept at £14,109.00 which was seconded by Cllr James. ALL AGREED.

c. NALC Pay Award

NALC have circulated the 2023/24 pay scales for Clerks which equates to an increase of £21.67 per month. The Standing order has been updated on 9th November 2023 and approved online by Cllr Hodges and Cllr James.

d. Savings Account

The account is now open and £22,000 was transferred into it on 20th October 2023.

10. PLANNING

a. LHRC

Discussed above in item 3 of the agenda.

b. Deacons

Deacons' recent feedback was there has been no progress. Concern was expressed that the Buyer may pull out of the site.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Website stats for November were read to the meeting with 49 views this month so far.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Proposed dates for 2024 meeting were circulated and agreed by all. Clerk to publish on website and book village halls.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None

14. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:44.

Next meeting: 29th January 2024 at 7pm in Denton Village Hall