

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairperson - Cllr Terry Hodges

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 25th September 2023 at 7.00pm at Denton Village Hall**

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

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hodges welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Beaney and the Kent Police Horse Rider Volunteer.

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

Cllr Akehurst declared an interest in item 10b.

3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

One member of public raised the issue of potholes on the stretch of road leading up to Denton Village Hall. Unfortunately, his wife has recently had a nasty accident caused by the condition of the road and caused damage to her teeth. The question on responsibility was discussed and previously identified that the PC owns the green, two thirds owned by tenants and estate and the rest is owned by Denton Village Hall. The PC has previously tried to raise money to restore the road but didn't happen. Cllr Hodges to write to estate (Finn's) to inform them of accident copy in Cllr David Beaney. Finns have told resident to go to this Parish Council meeting and update. It was agreed that KCC are not liable and neither is the Parish Council. Cllr Thomas to see who owns land from previous enquiries and if not will do a search. Village hall to also write to Finns.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 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

Cllr Beaney reported that he's emailed Lydden Hill Race Circuit to try and get the Consultative Committee up and running. He will send an update you as soon as he has received an answer.

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

PC Cheney July report was circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Akehurst informed the meeting that the liaison for Neighbourhood Watch has left Kent Police so they are rudderless.

Cllr James asked the meeting should we promote the new My Community service to residents on Facebook and all agreed.

8. PARISH

- **Highways**

The new A260 speed changes have now gone through statutory consultation process so should proceed quickly. It is hoped they should be completed before end of this financial year. KCC is going to take advice on gates and posts and report back to PC. The general feeling is that they would be nice but not sure how long they will last. To discuss in future once 130 MPH speed limit is installed.

HIP has been circulated by Cllr Thomas. All actions are now discharged so we need to update actions.

- **Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

The footway runs from Little Maydekin and The Rectory. Built by KCC in 1970s as part of a deal with the church and was originally built to only last a few years until bypass was built. The footway is currently owned by the Denton Estate and they have now decided to sell it. Cllr Thomas produced extract of map and statement from KCC which shows it is currently not a Public Right of Way. The hope is to apply to KCC to have it formally adopted as a Public Right of Way. Cllr Thomas to provide evidence to KCC to get it designated which can take up to a year to do. Once this is completed it will need to be discussed who should maintain it as it needs resurfacing, the bank is crumbling and handrail has fallen away. Estate trying to sell to residents. Cllr Thomas will keep updated. Further enquiries should be made to see if KCC could maintain it as they built it originally.

Mr Amblard replied to Cllr Hodges regarding the broken stiles on the footpath on his land and he has bought something but he hasn't installed it yet.

Clerk reported fallen tree on Bridle way ER133 which runs between Shelvin Lane and Denton Lane.

- **Village Halls**
Denton has planning permission granted.
Wootton cleaned outside of building and has completed some maintenance/repairs. Trees need pollarding or removing which is to be discussed at next village hall meeting.
- **Cricket/Recreation Ground, Wootton**
Pavilion completed and looks amazing. Bookings are now coming in. The Clerk needs to chase where the plaque for picnic bench is as it has not arrived yet. Big board being made by villagers for thanks for restoration which will go inside the pavilion and will reference DDC and the PC grants.
- **Community Fast Fibre Broadband**
No update except Cllr James was interviewed on BBC Radio Kent. Openreach promised Radio Kent that they will address the issue raised but to date this has not happened. November tender will be awarded so Cllr James will write to KCC.
- **Litter Pickers**
Cllr Hodges has spoken to Cllr Beaney regarding this and the Clerk to get quote up to £200 for equipment and sent to Cllr Beaney.
- **New Village sign for Wootton**
Three needed for the village of Wootton to include the wording "area of outstanding natural beauty". The Clerk to measure Barham signs, finalise wording and obtain quotations.
- **New Noticeboards for Denton and Wootton**
Cllr James obtained some quotes which were circulated to all Councillor's. Wootton's notice board falling apart and too small. The current Denton notice board need relocating and it was suggested that it be re-sited on the wall of The Jackdaw or on the wall opposite. The current landlord of The Jackdaw is looking to buy the freehold of pub so the re-siting is on hold. PC will need to check if planning permission to re-site is needed. It was agreed that quotations need to be brought to the next meeting for further consideration.
- **Defib relocation, Denton**
There are three defibs within the parish. One at Clipgate Farm, Denton, one at Wootton Village Hall and one in The Jackdaw which is old and out of service plus only accessible during the pubs' opening hours. Cllr Thomas has liaised with a Defib service engineer who has advised that it is cheaper to buy new than refurb old units. It was suggested that the engineer could look at all three and give indication of serviceability. It was also discussed if the PC should take responsibility of all defibs and the service contracts. Engineer has agreed to

appraise the three defibs free of charge and check BT phone box for suitability as new sight for The Jackdaw defib.

- Re-siting of bench at War Memorial, Denton
Cllr Thomas has managed to find the relatives of the person whom the bench remembers and has agreed with them to put the Memorial plaque on another bench on Denton green. Cllr Thomas has also done several land search investigations to try and ascertain who owns green that bench is on. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas will be refunded for the cost of the land search fee. The bench will be removed once the plaque is removed.
- Wootton Parkside, Flooding
This has been discussed with one of the residents and they are planning to put in French drain on driveway to help mitigate the flooding issue. A soakaway has been installed but it is ineffective. Cllr Hodges has written to KCC Highways regarding the flooding on the Highway and to date has received no response. There have been no recent reports of flooding but due to the weather flooding has not been expected at this time of year.

9. FINANCE

- a. Payments – these were proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Akehurst – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY CHAIRMAN

The bank balance as of 20th September 2023 was £27,217.83

August Payments (paid in August as agreed at meeting on 25th July 2023 and under the Financial Regs)

- Wootton & Denton Recreation Ground – Grant for Pavilion - £3,120.00
- Stephanie Woods – Salary August 2023

September Payments (all to be paid after the meeting)

- Stephanie Woods – Salary – September 2023
- Stephanie Woods – Reimbursement for 0.25 costs towards toner - £17.00
- Stephanie Woods – Reimbursement for coronation plaque for Wootton & Denton Recreation Ground - £17.34
- Ricky Edwards – Inv 46 – Denton maintenance (Jul – Sep 23) - £80.00

Standing order – paying the Clerks wages by standing order was discussed in line with the Financial Regulations 2018 and to be reviewed every two years. Cllr Roberts proposed that a standing order was set up for monthly payment by SO for the wages, this was seconded by Cllr Thomas and all agreed to this.

- b. Grants Requests

- Denton Village Hall
It was agreed to release the grant funds now planning has been granted as agreed at the last meeting.

- c. Savings Account

The application for the new account is still in progress.

10. PLANNING

a. LHRC

Response regarding the recent fire has been received by Cllr Hodges from LHRC, which was circulate previously and read out at the meeting.

b. Local Planning Matters – items of interest/updates:

- 23/01111 – Denton Farm, Lodge Lees Road, Denton - Removal of Condition 3 (restricted occupation) on DOV/09/00622 (Change of use and conversion to office together with 2 dormer roof extensions and associated alterations). This was discussed and it was decided the PC OBJECTS and Cllr Hodges will send the PC's response to DDC Planning.
- 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 – UPDATE PLANNING GRANTED.

Cllr James updated the meeting that Deacons have sold the site with planning permission. Contracts have been exchanged and completion is expected in November.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

The current website provider has notified the PC that are now charging for the provision of the PC's website so the cost will now be £9.99 per month (plus VAT). Clerk to check ownership of domain. It was proposed by Cllr James to stay with the current provider at cost of £9.99 + VAT but to undertake a review of the provision in 2024 which was seconded by Cllr Akehurst. All agreed.

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Deacons needs to be a permanent agenda item under planning.
Half Year Finances report and Precept Request 2024/25

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:32.

Next meeting: 27th November at 7pm in Wootton Village Hall