

CUDDESDON AND DENTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Kathy Hawley	KH
	David Keene	DK
	Michael Raynor	MR
	Natasha Turner	NT
	Elizabeth Gillespie (SODC)	EG
	Mike Mount (Clerk)	MM
Apologies:	Martyn Percy (Chairman)	MP
	Stuart Lacey	SL
	Cyril Sellar	CS
	Anne Purse (OCC)	AP

8 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

MR was elected chairman.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declared an interest in the trees at Bishop's Wood:

- KH and MR, because they were owners of affected properties in Bishop's Wood
- DK, because he was the tenant responsible for the track between Bishop's Wood and Parkside

10 PUBLIC COMMENTS

10.1 Trees at Bishop's Wood

Maria Hart from 22 Parkside voiced her concern about the safety of some of the trees in Bishop's Wood. A substantial tree had recently fallen into her garden, narrowly missing her house. She had been advised by the Environment Agency to contact the Parish Council to see if they could assist with bringing pressure to bear on the householders in Bishop's Wood to make sure their trees were safe.

10.2 Parking on Denton Hill

Matthew Claridge of 16 Denton Hill had had his thatched roof damaged by a passing vehicle. He requested that the Parish Council ask for there to be double yellow lines on this part of the road to prevent vehicles from parking there.

11 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

11.1 Trees At Bishop's Wood

Too few councillors without an interest were present for any decisions to be made. The meeting was suspended while a general discussion took place.

11.2 Parking on Denton Hill

OCC had previously been asked about painting double yellow lines at the location but they were not in favour of this. It was agreed that OCC would be pressed to repair the gully on the side of the road.

Action: MM

12 DISTRICT COUNCIL

Vale of the White Horse staff had moved to SODC's offices, with some county staff moving to Abingdon. EG continued to be heavily involved with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

13 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

14 MATTERS ARISING

14.1 Northern High Street Verge

- Because of concerns expressed by councillors by e-mail, MM had taken no further action since the previous meeting.
- There was no consensus on how to proceed so it was agreed to discuss the matter further when more councillors were present.

14.2 First World War Commemoration (KH)

- A grant of £500 had been received for the project from OCC, for display boards.
- KH agreed that any major work would be put out to tender to at least three suppliers, in order to conform to the financial regulations.
- Allocation of the major grant was going to be decided on 28th March. If unsuccessful, parts of the project other than the war memorial restoration would still go ahead.

14.3 Facebook

NT had started the village facebook page, and it was proving successful, with 52 people liking it and a reach of 258 people.

14.4 Grass Cutting

- The contractor had agreed to keep the cost the same as last year.
- He had advised that he already cut the footpath next to Denton Brook once a month. It was agreed that those who felt it was not cut often enough would show the problem to MM when it next occurred, so he could advise the contractor.

14.5 Potholes

As well as asking again about repair of the gully on Denton Hill, MM was asked to find out about progress of the road repair near Wellbourne, and repair of the London Road in Wheatley towards Asda.

Action: MM

15 FINANCE

15.1 Payments

SODC	Dog bin emptying	£50.23
M Mount	Clerk's annual expenses	£6.80
OALC	Annual subscription	£133.07

It was agreed that OALC's subscription would not be paid until April, so there was only one payment in this financial year.

15.2 Receipt

OCC	WW1 grant	£500.00
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15.3 Grass Cutting Grant

OCC had advised that their grant this year would be £1109.46. They had stated that the grant was likely to be halved next year.

15.4 Clerk's Salary

It was agreed that the clerk's salary would remain on the same scale as this year, and so his annual salary would be £1606.80.

15.5 Budget

- February's budget was presented. It showed that the council would be about £1000 better off than expected, because the donation for churchyard upkeep would not be made during this financial year, and there had been no expenditure on High Street verge refurbishment.
- It was agreed that Robert Wilson should be asked to request the churchyard contribution in April of each year, so it could be budgeted appropriately. **Action: MM**

15.6 Council Tax

The Local Government Minister had advised that the government was considering capping council tax rises for town and parish councils in future, although initially this was only likely to apply to larger councils.

15.7 Assets

MM had checked the condition of the Parish Council's assets and they all seemed to be in good order.

16 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- DK volunteered to have the two benches on Cuddesdon Green weatherproofed and asked that somebody volunteered to do the same to the ones on the recreation ground.
- KH was concerned about the buses which occasionally parked on the pavement near the College. It was agreed that MP would be asked if he knew anything about them and that councillors would report the registration numbers and any displayed phone numbers to MM so he could contact the companies involved. **Action: MM**
- NT was organising an Easter Egg Hunt for 21st April.

17 CLERK'S BUSINESS

- John Howell MP had written to remind the Parish Council that they could nominate a community asset so, if it was put on the market, the community had an opportunity to make a bid for it.
- MM had sent a letter supporting the application for a grant to maintain the church.
- SODC, OCC and John Howell MP had separately requested information on the effect of the heavy rainfall in the village. MM had responded to say that the major effects had been closure of the road at Cuddesdon Mill because of flooding and erosion to the sides of some roads.

18 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MM would not be present for the next meeting and so it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in May.