

# DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm at Wootton Village Hall**

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas; Cllr James; Cllr Hodges; Cllr Roberts; Cllr Welch; Clerk and 7 members of the public

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Thomas welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr King (KCC).

### 2. COUNCIL - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in item 8c of the agenda due to being a member on the Denton with Wootton Parochial Church Council.

### 3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

One resident raised issues with accessibility of public transport and road flooding in Selsted. A number of highways improvements were suggested including speed limit reductions on the bend of A260 in Stelsted. Also, narrow pathways and steps that go into road on blind bend were raised. PC to look to incorporating this into HIP and to also liaise with Swingfield Parish Council as there are boundary overlaps/responsibilities.

Park side planning breaches were also raised again with a number of possible planning breaches. Clerk to speak to Planning Enforcement at DDC for an update on previous complaint.

### 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2026

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

### 5. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports have been received from DDC and KCC Councillors.

### 6. COMMUNITY MATTERS & REPORTS FROM POLICE/EQUINE POLICE VOLUNTEER

None.

### 7. PARISH

#### a. Highways

Pot holes on private road around Village green and to village hall was discussed further. Resident has let Cllr Thomas know that consultation with residents with houses around the green has been conducted and there is interest to progress with further talks. Defer this issue to next meeting. It was also suggested that residents set up a community interest group which could apply for a S137 grant towards repairs. Cllr Thomas informed the group that following discussions with Finn's, their maps showed that The Green is not registered to anyone. Clerk to do land registry enquiry to

confirm ownership. KCC have now put down strips on A260 in Denton regarding the previous SID camera and the PC's request to install a new one. The Clerk gave an update to the Wootton Welcome village signs that these are still outstanding from Kent Downs.

**b. Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

None.

**c. Village Halls & Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground**

- Wootton Village Hall – village hall week was successful with a number of clubs offering residents free trials. Committee gave thanks for the PC S137 grant. It is the halls 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June and the committee are arranging an event to celebrate this which might also include a time capsule. Maintenance been looked into including external areas and patio cleaning. Also, they are arranging a tree survey. Challenges around car parking and Deacons S106 conditions were raised.
- Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground – Currently undertaking a feasibility study for installing more rubber matting to increase car parking which could also be used by the village hall. Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 is the AGM in pavilion bar at 7.30pm. Residents are reminded of the once a month event for villagers – Pavilion Bar - with attendance currently around 35-40 people.
- Denton Village Hall – Toilet refurbishment has been completed and volunteers have successfully prepared hall for painting. Next farmers market is in May and then a fair with BBQ and music later that month. Hall are looking to sign up to the Kent member for Action with Communities in Rural England (Kent ACRE) campaign crowdfunding programme.
- Kent ACRE have contacted all PCs via KALC asking whether councils would be willing to support this work by making a pledge to the crowdfunder or by allowing us to apply to your grant funding scheme (if you have one), and/or sharing the campaign with your residents, hall committees and local groups. After discussion it was agreed that the PC was not willing to support the pledge but would share the campaign with interested parties.

**d. Village Clean Up Day**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – posters have been circulated advertising the event and equipment has been booked with DDC. Cllr Hodges to collect this on the Friday before the event.

**e. Salt Bins**

Cllr Hodges has inspected and it was agreed to add to September agenda in preparation for next winter.

**f. Denton Road Sign**

Sign is missing the letter “r” in “Canterbury” so Cllr Hodges will arrange replacement letter and repair.

**g. Fast Fibre**

No update apart from Cllr James has written to Cllr King and KCC and no response has been received to date.

**8. FINANCE**

The bank balance as of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 was £21,383.12 (£1,153.94 in current account and £20,229.18 in savings account)

**a. Payments and Receipts:**

Payments

Unity Trust – Service Charge (January & February) - £12  
Hugo Fox – Website Charge (January & February) - £23.98  
Ionis – Email Charge (January & February) - £8.40  
Stephanie Woods – Salary (January & February & March)  
Denton Village Hall – Hall Hire 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - £30.00

The above payments were proposed Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Thomas – ALL AGREED

**b. Finalisation of Asset Register**

Updates were made so it can be included in this year's AGAR return.

**c. Grant Request – Denton with Wootton Parochial Church**

A grant request for £797.90 (inc. VAT) has been received by Denton with Wootton Parochial Church Council to prepare a fire risk assessment and replace out-of-date fire extinguishers. It was proposed by Cllr James that the grant be awarded for the full amount, which was seconded by Cllr Roberts. All agreed except Cllr Thomas who abstained due to a declared interest in this item. Clerk to arrange payment.

**9. PLANNING**

**a. LHRC**

Consultative committee meeting has now happened. Cllr James raised concerns with 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026 proposed road closures. Cllr Thomas to formally write to LHRC to request some amendments.

**b. Deacons/Woodside Development**

Developer was on site last week. No response from DDC Planning regarding raised concerns by PC. Resident has received an e-mail from DDC confirming that the planning permission has expired, despite comments from the developer to the contrary!

**c. Ecology Monitoring**

Records of interesting points of interest was circulated including details of 26 benchmarks; 11 boundary stones, 5 boundary markers, 4 mile stones, 1 trig point, 27 wells and 35 ponds. It is hoped to photo what is around the Parish.

**d. Local Planning Applications**

None.

**10. YEAR END: ASSERTION 10 – AGAR 2025/2026 and AGM/PARISH MEETING**

New Assertion 10 regulations were circulated and discussed and it was agreed that the PC is compliant. The Annual Parish meeting was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk will organise food plus wine and Cllr Welch will do presentation on the Ecology Monitoring project.

**11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.**

None.

**12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:01.

**Next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm in Wootton Village Hall**