

# **CUDDESDON AND DENTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

4th June 2024 in the Village Hall

Present:	Chris Luke (Chairman)	CL
	Evie Bennett	EB
	Stuart Flockton	SF
	Arthur Smith-Fitchett	ASF
	Philip Spinks	PS
	Mike Mount (Clerk)	MM
Apologies:	Robin Baylie	RB
	Louisa Vincent	LV
	Tim Bearder (OCC)	TB
	Sam James-Lawrie (SODC)	SJL

## **40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no new declarations of interest.

## **41 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Concern was expressed about the Northfield development and the effect it might have on Garsington school and the local traffic.

## **42 SALE OF THE BAT AND BALL**

- It was reported that Admiral were very close to selling the pub to Ben Moss, the owner of the Lamb in Little Milton. They had instructed their solicitors to proceed, and had already agreed heads of terms, and exchange and completion dates. All of this was costing them money, indicating their commitment to selling the pub.
- Ben Moss was at the Parish Council meeting, and he confirmed that he had also spent a considerable sum instructing his solicitors and setting up a company to buy the pub.
- The general view was that triggering the asset of community value (ACV) moratorium would disrupt the sale of the pub to a committed buyer.
- Ben Moss had talked at a previous Bat and Ball meeting about his long-held ambition to buy the Bat and Ball. He planned to run it as a family, community pub.
- There had been considerable community support for Ben Moss at the previous meeting.
- The Parish Council generally agreed that it was best to allow the sale to go ahead as quickly as possible.
- EB proposed and PS seconded that the ACV moratorium should not be triggered. The proposal was agreed by three votes to one, with one abstention. This meant that the community would not be making a bid for the pub.
- Nicko King agreed to draft a letter to Admiral explaining the reasoning behind the Parish Council's decision.
- Nicko King would also prepare a document for the community explaining the logic of the decision.

#### **43 COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

- Ron Stern expressed concern that there had been no progress with the lease agreement, and that this might be incurring costs with the solicitor. A new solicitor had been engaged because the original one did not feel he had the competence to deal with the lease.
- CL reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had agreed an upper limit of a £1,500 contribution to the solicitor costs.
- CL agreed to draft a letter to the landowner expressing the Parish Council's concerns about the slow progress with the solicitor. **Action: CL**
- Some of the newly planted trees were thriving but others were not doing so well. Plans were in hand to install a water tank for watering.
- It was agreed that Nicko King would be the contact for the TOE grant application.
- Some modifications to the Volunteer Policy were agreed.
- The risk assessment had been completed.
- To speed orchard payments, it was agreed that they did not need to be approved by the whole Parish Council so long as there were sufficient funds to cover them.

#### **44 DISTRICT COUNCIL**

SJL had advised that money was available from the Rural England Prosperity Fund for local projects and it was agreed to let the Orchard Group know about this. **Action: MM**

#### **45 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### **46 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **46.1 Traffic Calming**

- The cost of speed monitoring was £200 at each location. It was agreed to monitor the speed on the road from Wheatley midway between Parkside and Bishops Wood. **Action: MM**

##### **46.2 Potholes in Passing Places and Laybys Near Coombe Wood**

- David Keene was about to buy some planings to fill in the passing place potholes.
- It was agreed to ask David Keene to acquire topsoil to fill in the ad hoc laybys on the Wheatley Road. **Action: MM**

##### **46.3 Discouraging Fly Tipping**

- ASF had agreed to install the fly tipping signs.
- All agreed to investigate what cameras might be appropriate.
- The police had said that camera data could be used as prosecution evidence.

##### **46.4 Rotten Trees on Cuddesdon Green**

New Leaf Trees had asked for £450 because they had underquoted for the tree removal but it was agreed they should only be paid the amount of the original quotation of £300.

##### **46.5 Recruitment of a New Parish Clerk**

- The salary scale (SCP13 - SCP23: £13.97 - £16.67 per hour) and hours (4 hours per week) had been agreed at an extra meeting on 24th May.

- The cost of an advert in the Oxford Times was £300. It was agreed not to proceed with this.
- There had been two expressions of interest in the post.

## 47 FINANCE

### 47.1 Payments

Graeme Sellar	Orchard diesel usage	£50.00
Richard Palmer	Orchard tracked barrow hire	£177.60
Safety Signs 4 Less	Fly tipping notices	£80.16
New Leaf Trees	Tree removal	£360.00
All Saints	Churchyard donation	£500.00
Paul Sellar	Orchard digger hire	£160.00
Paul Sellar	Goal post foundations	£96.00
Shield Maintenance	Dog bin emptying	£13.26

### 47.2 Internal Audit

- The audit had been satisfactorily completed.
- The auditor had suggested that the minutes on the website should show who had approved them.
- The auditor also noted that PAYE payments should be made directly by the Council rather than being paid by the Parish Clerk.
- It was agreed that all the points on the internal audit review had been satisfactorily completed.

## 48 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

RB had been asked about cutting back the undergrowth along the path between Parkside and Bishops Wood.

RB had also been asked about replacement of the "No ball games" sign at the end of Parkside.  
**Action: MM**

ASF requested that OCC inspect the safety of the tree in the High Street which had recently lost a branch.  
**Action: MM**

## 49 CLERK'S BUSINESS

It was agreed that the annual RoSPA play equipment inspection should take place.

**Action: MM**

**Minutes approved by C Luke (Chairman) and M Mount (Clerk)**