

# CUDESODON AND DENTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

8th December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Chris Luke (Chairman)	CL
	David Keene	DK
	Ken Meek	KM
	Richard Palmer	RP
	Michael Raynor	MR
	Arthur Smith-Fitchett	ASF
	Elizabeth Gillespie (SODC)	EG
	Mike Mount (Clerk)	MM

Apologies:	Natasha Turner	NT
	Anne Purse (OCC)	AP

## **89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no new declarations of interest. DK reiterated his interest in the planning application at Slay Barn Farm.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## **91 MATTERS ARISING**

### **91.1 Denton Water Main**

Thames Water were still investigating whether the number of repairs justified replacement.

### **91.2 Play Area Changes**

Research was ongoing.

**Action:** NT, CL

### **91.3 World War 1 Commemoration**

- The World War 1 fund contained £2567.76. Kathy Hawley thought there would be some money left after all expenses had been paid and it was agreed that this could remain in the Parish Council's bank account.
- Robert Wilson and Kathy Hawley had confirmed that the war memorial was to become an asset of the Parish Council, as had been previously agreed.

### **91.4 Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

MM had sent a letter of complaint to SODC about withdrawal of the scheme. Jane Murphy had responded stating that grants would be made to support neighbourhood plans and for capital projects instead. She did not consider that the reduction in funding was a problem since the Parish Council could always increase their precept.

### **91.5 Application of the Code of Conduct**

MM had been to a seminar about the code of conduct and discovered that some of the rules were not being applied correctly, specifically:

- a) A councillor must leave the room for the discussion and voting on a subject where they have declared an interest.



- b) a councillor who has declared an interest may apply in writing before a meeting for a dispensation to speak provided it is in the public interest.
- c) A councillor who has declared an interest cannot speak as a member of the public during public comments.
- d) It is up to a councillor to declare an interest, not up to the council.
- e) The council cannot dissuade a councillor from declaring an interest.

#### 91.6 Christmas Tree

Wheatley Christmas Tree Farm had agreed to supply a tree for £20.

### 92 DISTRICT COUNCIL (EG)

- SODC were planning to fund revenue projects as well as capital projects for parish councils since the council tax support grant had been removed. Any projects would require matched funding.
- EG was keen for the Parish Council to consider developing a neighbourhood plan. She would provide a typical example. She agreed that our community was not under threat from development.
- Didcot had been given garden town status meaning there would be considerable funding for infrastructure improvements.

### 93 PLANNING

A planning application had been received for erection of a grain store at Slay Barn Farm (P15/S3789/FUL). It was agreed that this should be recommended for approval.

### 94 FINANCE

#### 94.1 Payments

Kathy Hawley	WW1 commemoration play and exhibition	£411.41
PCC	WW1: repair to churchyard footpath	£175.00
M Mount	Christmas tree	£20.00
Easykey	Website annual maintenance	£374.40

#### 94.2 Receipt

VAT refund                      £3476.95

#### 94.3 Precept

It was agreed that the precept for 2016/17 should be £7200, so the total received from SODC would be the same as at present, although currently it was made up of a precept of £6845 and a support grant of £355.

### 95 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

ASF asked for the verge at 23 High Street to be repaired by the occupier once the building work was completed there.                      **Action: MM**

ASF had obtained some traffic signs encouraging drivers to go more slowly and it was agreed that he should put them up.                      **Action: ASF**

KM asked for investigation of the possibility of installing a salt bin at Parkside.                      **Action: MM**

*CGL*

96 CLERK'S BUSINESS

- Grants were available from Tesco for a minimum of £12,000 for improvement of green spaces, using the proceeds from the sale of plastic bags.
- The planning inspectorate had sent documents outlining the arguments from OCC and the Open Spaces Society concerning the Chippinghurst footpath crossing.
- OCC intended to stop subsidising the 103 and 104 bus services next June.
- OALC had advised that from 2017/18 no external audit would be required if the annual turnover was less than £25,000. BDO's contract to do the external audit ran out the year before and it was agreed to allow the body set up by NALC to appoint an auditor if one was required from 2017/18.
- The Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire had written encouraging the organising of events to take place on the weekend of 11th June 2016 in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. It was agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee if they would be interested in organising an event.

Chairman: 

Clerk: 

Date: 5/1/2016

Date: 5.1.16