

CUDDESDON AND DENTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12th June 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Martyn Percy (Chairman)	MP
	David Keene	DK
	Michael Raynor	MR
	Cyril Sellar	CS
	Elizabeth Gillespie (SODC)	EG
	David Turner (OCC)	DT
	Mike Mount (Clerk)	MM
Apologies	Kathy Hawley	KH
	Kevin Jones	KJ
	Stuart Lacey	SL

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

55 CUDDESDON GREEN REFURBISHMENT

The sub-committee had considered further work at the Green and reported their views:

- A seat should be included, although it was appreciated that a seat round the tree might be too expensive.
- Some bulbs had been planted but these had been mown too early. Some more bulbs should be planted in the autumn.
- The possibility of transplanting two of the hazels to either side of the steps should be considered in the autumn.
- It was impractical to plant shrubs in front of the low wall without removing the grass first. It was preferable to allow the ivy to grow and obscure the wall.
- The back of the Green needed tidying and this could be done in the autumn.

The Parish Council agreed to all these proposals. DK volunteered to donate the money for a conventional park bench in memory of his father, and to concrete the bench in. Since the College had agreed to provide funds as well, it was agreed to have two benches. MM would investigate their cost.

Action: MM

56 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith Hawley had written a document expressing his concerns with the Parish Council's finances. It was felt that his letter was overly pessimistic and some of his figures were not correct, but that the general principles were valid.

Particular points made by councillors were:

- The cost of play area maintenance was an issue. Without this, the finances would be in the black for the year.
- The Parish Council always sought grants where it is considered these to be appropriate.
- The whole council should consider spending rather than this being delegated to a sub-committee

- Additional means of fund raising should be considered, including the possibility of an event at Ripon College.
- Bonfire night should continue to be a non-profit making event, although a raffle might be included.
- It might be more appropriate to increase the precept gradually rather than by larger amounts more infrequently.

57 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

58 MATTERS ARISING

58.1 Play Area Surface Repair

- It was agreed to respond to the Big Society Fund's rejection of the application for a grant by expressing the view that it seemed to be very difficult for small communities to obtain such grants.
Action: MM
- MM had been unable to obtain a response concerning a Leader grant.
Action: EG would investigate
- The Community Investment Fund felt that a grant from them was not appropriate.
- WREN offered up to 100% grants for projects within 10 miles of a landfill site, and Cuddesdon satisfied this criterion.
- MM would obtain more quotes for complete surface replacement with wet pour.
Action: MM
- MM had investigated a cheaper grassmatt surface but this was not considered appropriate because it would still require maintenance and RoSPA were not very happy about it.
- MM had spoken to RoSPA and they now said that proper re-gluing of the surfaces was not required but cleaning and gap filling would suffice.
- It was agreed to pursue obtaining a grant so that all the surfaces could be replaced with wet pour.

59 DISTRICT COUNCIL (EG)

- There was some conflict between the National Planning Policy Framework and the Core Strategy, and this required resolution.
- There had not been enough applicants for grants from the Community Investment Fund or for Leader grants, which had been extended to September 2013.

60 COUNTY COUNCIL (DT)

- OCC had obtained additional funding for local museums.
- The local fire officer had expressed concern about the proposed merger of Oxfordshire and Berkshire's fire service control rooms.
- A proposal had been submitted to alter the roads at junction 9 of the M40 to ease congestion.
- OCC had organised free car seat checks.
- DT had obtained traffic figures for the road to the east of Cuddesdon Mill showing that each day about 200 vehicles passed in each direction.
- It was pointed out that the beech hedge at Chiselhampton had still not been cut back and DT agreed to investigate this.
Action: DT

61 FINANCE

61.1 Payments

Berinsfield	Grass cutting (April)	£423.96
Ronald Stern	Contribution to jubilee celebration	£324.92
C Sellar	CADET	£33.60
SODC	Dog bin emptying (January to March)	£24.40

61.2 Grass Cutting Grant

OCC had written stating they would be paying £1082.40 this year.

62 PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

CS: Some of the gullies on the road to Chippinghurst were blocked.

Action: DT to investigate

The high hedge at Denton Hill needed trimming back.

Action: MM

63 CLERK'S BUSINESS

The audit commission had written advising that they were re-appointing BDO as external auditors for the next five years, and asking if there were any reasons this should not be done. DK asked if the present fee would be maintained or reduced. **Action: MM to investigate**

64 GRASS CUTTING

SL had written complaining about the grass cutting at Denton Green. It was agreed to pay the full amount of Berinsfield's bill but that MM would talk to them. **Action: MM**

65 CODE OF CONDUCT

It was agreed that the code of conduct adopted by SODC would be adopted as the code for members and co-opted members of the Parish Council with effect from 1st July 2012, or such other date as might be specified in regulations, to replace the current code of conduct, and that MM would notify SODC's monitoring officer of this.

66 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- It was agreed to ask RoSPA to inspect the play area, and that MM should endeavour to attend the inspection. **Action: MM**
- It was agreed that MM could buy some transparent plastic sheet to protect the notice in the play area. **Action: MM**
- It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 24th July.