

# DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Chairman** - Cllr Allyn Thomas

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Allyn Thomas (Chair), Graham Bevan (Vice Chair), Penelope James,  
Bob Akehurst  
Cllr David Beaney - DDC  
Clerk – Cathy Skinner  
3 Members of the public

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## MINUTES

Remote Meeting Held On:

**WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2020**

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

Cllr Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Terry Hodges.

**3. COUNCIL**

**Declarations of Interest:**

a) Declaration of any councillor's interest in agenda items other than those registered at previous meetings. b) Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests and Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests (other than those previously disclosed), and a reminder to think of any changes to the DPI Register held at DDC, such as a change of job or home. c) Voluntary Declaration of other non-significant interests. d) Review of Councillor Responsibilities

Cllr Akehurst declared a personal interest in both planning applications as the applicants are known to him.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as a true and accurate record. Proposed Cllr Bevan, seconded by Cllr James – ALL AGREED.

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## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (WHICH ARE NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA)

There were none.

## 6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Beaney assured the WEPG of his support.

Other information to note:

DDC took back East Kent Housing's responsibilities in October.

Lottery funding has resulted in £4.7m to update the Maison Dieu – to include a holiday let in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Local Plan will be open for consultation in January.

5 additional Police Officers and 2 PCSOs have been recruited for Dover.

Veolia are likely to retain the waste contract.

Garden waste collection has been temporarily suspended.

The use of 'laughing gas' is becoming an issue, Cllr Beaney asked for reports to be made if evidence is found – small silver canisters.

Whitfield lorry park and customs facility – this development has been taken out of DDC's hands. Cllr Akehurst asked if DDC could request that P&O add sailings to the schedule to keep freight moving.

HGVs are likely to use the A260 as a shortcut causing log jams and pollution in Denton. Cllr Beaney said that there is a possibility of vehicles which are inappropriately parked being clamped, although this could cause more problems.

## 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Lymer's report:

"Kent County Council is developing proposals to provide food vouchers to the families of children who are eligible to receive benefits-related Free School Meals ahead of the December school holidays.

The scheme would be part of a wider range of measures to help the lowest income households with food and fuel costs over winter.

Following on from the council's half-term holiday food voucher scheme, families with children who are in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals will receive vouchers to spend in supermarkets without the need to apply for them.

As part of the proposals, the council aims to have all vouchers distributed well in advance of schools breaking up for the festive period."

## 8. WOOTTON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUP REPORT

### **“REPORT FROM WOOTTON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION GROUP TO DENTON WITH WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2020**

Good evening Councillors

Thank you for inviting Wootton Environment Protection Group to report to you. My name is Justin Stock and I am a WEPG committee member and live on Shelvin Lane, Wootton.

We thought we would provide you with a brief update about our activities over the past few months and report on how events at Lydden Hill Race Circuit and Dover District Council's lack of action continues to impact negatively on residents' lives.

#### JUDICIAL REVIEW

Following the approval by Dover District Council of Lydden Hill's planning application in January 2020, WEPG sort legal advice regarding a potential Judicial Review. Penelope James, our chair, agreed to be the Claimant on behalf of Wootton, Shepherdswell, Swingfield and Acrise residents. She has been supported in this by CPRE, the countryside charity. Following a hearing in November the judge has granted permission for the Judicial Review to proceed on all four of the grounds which Penelope and her legal team put forward. The principal ground is concerned with the noise which emanates from the Circuit, with the remaining three grounds relating to this issue. We are very pleased as, for the first time in well over a decade, the community will have the opportunity for their voices and concerns to be heard. The JR hearing will take place in April or May 2021 and we shall update you further when we have more information.

#### LYDDEN HILL RACE CIRCUIT

The Circuit continues to cause our community great distress and shows no attempt to work with residents at any level.

Over the year the NAN has been breached several times according to our noise monitoring equipment, but Dover District Council continues to ignore our readings.

One of our concerns is that Car Track days, which are not supposed to produce noise higher than 50dbs Laeq, break that level every time. This is partly due to the fact that, while Car Track days are for road vehicles, Lydden Hill frequently permits motor racing vehicles to take part – this past weekend is a case in point. We can supply you with photos if you need to see the evidence. The noise could be heard clearly in the centre of Shepherdswell.

Other intrusively noisy weekends since events resumed at the Circuit after lockdown have included the Rolling Thunder Show and British Rallycross in August, BTRDA Rallycross (motorbikes) and Historics on the Hill events in September, Lord of Lydden and drifting days, called Sideways Saturday, in October. By intrusive we mean when one cannot hear another

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person speak when outside in the garden and when the noise can be heard in the house with the windows closed. Penelope reported to me that on one recent occasion she could still hear the engine noise indoors with doors and windows closed whilst practising her saxophone, which is a pretty noisy instrument!

But the Five National Rally Cross, held on 5/6 December was by far the worst example this year of the lack of respect the Circuit affords residents. The noise was so deafening and intrusive residents had to leave their homes for the weekend (not so easy during a pandemic). It was impossible to speak outside over 1.5 kms away without raising one's voice and the noise from the engines and the constant back firing could be heard all day – 9am to 6pm on Saturday and 10.30am to 4.40pm on Sunday. It was horrendous. Several Wootton residents tried to phone DDC's Out of Hours service to report the noise and were left hanging on the phone for over 20 minutes, myself included. Another WEPG committee member rang 8 times and never got through once. On the Sunday the noise was so loud during the church service at St Martin's Church, Wootton that the curate's sermon could not be heard, even though she was using a microphone. The Church warden has tried to complain to DDC via phone and e-mail and has not been able to get through to anyone. Frankly, it is a damning state of affairs.

In addition, the Circuit brought in 25 mobile flood lights so as to enable racing after 4pm. The light spill it caused was incredibly invasive impacting an area up to 1km around the Circuit. We are currently trying to ascertain if they had planning permission to do this, particularly in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and are seeking advice from CPRE and other organisations. Pat Doran, owner, has been quoted in the local paper as saying that he is going to bring in flood lighting again to facilitate late afternoon racing events during the winter months and we are immensely concerned about this and the impact it will have on wildlife. We would like to request the Parish Council follows up on this please.

## DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

In September Dover District Council informed us that they would let us know when they would be monitoring noise from the Circuit for the remainder of the racing year (ending March 2021) – we have yet to hear back from them. They did furnish us with a report from monitoring they undertook for Historics on the Hill, 13 September – sadly, we assert, they monitored in the wrong position (monitoring needs to take place downwind not upwind) and did not monitor the breach to the NAN. Also, when DDC Environmental Health Officers do turn up they do not appear to have checked the running order for the day beforehand and, either by accident or design, choose to be present during slack periods of racing and only monitor for an hour, which cannot give a true picture of the level of noise residents experience.

## TRAFFIC

We welcome the Road Closures that the Circuit oversees on certain busy weekends, but they are not manned properly and still visitors to the Circuit gain access and race through the

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village. On race days when there are no road closures the traffic can be very fast, loud and noisy. It is unacceptable.

We regularly update our Ward Councillors Beaney and Rose, but nothing appears to improve. It is a very concerning situation. And, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, this has been going on for decades!

In conclusion, the current situation has worsened rather than improved. The Circuit continues to do as it likes, unfettered, and residents are in considerable distress on race days and, understandably, very apprehensive about how the increased usage of the Circuit is going to impact on them in terms of noise, traffic and now flood lighting.

We hope the Parish Council will continue to put considerable pressure on DDC to act responsibly towards its residents and protect us against the intrusive noise, light and traffic which the Circuit subjects us to on a regular basis and soon, to be more frequently as well.

We continue to ask a fundamental question: How is this allowed to take place in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

Thank you.

**Justin Stock, Committee Member, WEPG  
December 16, 2020"**

Cllr Penelope James acts as the claimant in the case, supported by CPRE. It was agreed on November that the Judicial Review can proceed which means that for the first time in ten years (April/May 2021) residents will have the opportunity to contribute their own views. Noise levels are regularly exceeded and concerns have also been reported in Shepherdswell. Additionally, extra events have been intrusive, the September rallycross cause considerable issues which lasted from 9am to 6pm. It has been difficult to report such occurrences as the DDC out of hours service has been unresponsive, the local church wardens have also raised concerns as the noise interrupts services.

Recently, the track has used mobile floodlights which are used after 4pm, it is unclear if permission has been granted for this although the owners have publicly stated that these will be used for future events.

Further issues include ineffective traffic management & poor DDC noise monitoring procedures. The situation and therefore the impact on local residents is worsening, the question posed is – how can this continue in an AOB?

Cllr Thomas reminded the meeting that when planning permission was granted, LHRC accepted responsibility for engaging with the parish council. There have been no communications since. Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Beaney to look into the use of floodlights as

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there has been no planning application submitted. Cllr Beaney expressed his frustration and commented that the applications are complex.

## 9. COMMUNITY MATTERS & REPORTS FROM POLICE/PCSO/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

None to report.

## 10. PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW OF 2020

### i. **Highways, footpaths & village green to include:**

Verge Cutting

Drainage: A260, Wootton Lane, Denton Lane, Shelvin & Buttermilk

Speeding A260 and Wootton

Report from Cllr Graham Bevan:

#### **DENTON**

##### **Verge Cutting**

The entire A260 has been cleaned/ cut back under KCC Brexit works, albeit a bit of a hit and miss operation.

##### **Drainage**

We have experienced major flooding again in the village on the corner of the A260 at the Agester lane junction. On the evening of the 3rd December I was walking the village at 11pm as we were experiencing heavy rain fall and had a 4ft river running down the road!

I knocked on Little Maydeken's door to ensure they were ok as the road in this section was flooded in both carriageways. The owner Mr Griffin was already on the phone to KCC's emergency line to highlight the issue.

The sad thing it took them until Saturday 5th to actually deal with the situation. I met with the KCC out of hours duty manager on their arrival, who was extremely helpful. We uncovered an outlet pipe that goes into a pond on the corner of Agester lane. As you can imagine this area has been neglected for many many years! A complaint has been filed to KCC for their delay in dealing with this matter. It's unacceptable on a main route to have this flooding as its just down to a lack of maintenance.

Subsequently I have met up with our KCC Drainage engineer for the area and highlighted these issues. The pond and ditch KCC are hoping that they can move to clear this early spring. I have pushed that all soakaways and gullies get cleansed asap along the street.

I have spoken with Mr Griffin from Little Maydeken and asked him if he could be my eyes for this section of the road and we have now opened up a line of communication to ensure swift action is taken towards any future flooding issues.

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I requested the Road Sweeper to come and clean the street/ Agester lane due to the debris in the carriageway from the flood. This has been carried out.

DDC carried out a footpath cleanse of leaves along the raised path.

I have asked the residents of the Old Rectory and Maydeken House if they could cut back their hedges to allow free movement for walkers/residents.

## **Speeding**

An officer from Kent Police has attended the village on numerous occasions and has booked several cars in the process for speeding. Top speed 48mph! Due to COVID-19 all operations have been suspended.

Denton Speedwatch has been trained online but are still waiting for equipment training once COVID-19 is back under control.

## **Street lighting**

I am in a fight with DDC regarding the streetlight corner of the street/Denton lane that has not been replaced since the last car hit the pole back in November 19. They are saying it's too expensive to be replaced and is not needed! I am saying it is needed. As you may be aware DDC has had funding to replace the old streetlights to new LED ones, however in many rural areas they are saying that the wiring that UK Power networks deliver to the poles are out of date and not safe for engineer to work on! How can we get to this position! Denton has had 3 new ones fitted with a further 5 still required. I will update you on progress.

## **Other issues**

Back in February if you remember Allyn and I had a meeting with KCC regarding improvements to signage and the road in the area around the street/ Denton lane. I can now confirm that KCC have agreed with me to carry out improvements to the village. This includes 30mph signs along the street, raised curb by The Yews to try and stop the flying cars hitting the cottage on the corner of Denton Lane and other related signs. I have had a quote back for £10k regarding our request to push the entrance/exit of the village up to just past the entrance for Denton Church, as you know we do not have this kind of funding. I will now try and source funding from elsewhere rather than using our money on a project that is not even our road!

I have spoken with Finns estate agents who manage Denton Court Estate with regarding their old white bollards that are outside the Old Post Office to ask if they would look to remove and reposition in order for the safe passage of residents as you currently have to step into the road to get passed, in the current climate it is not that safe. I am awaiting their response.

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## SHELVIN

### Drainage

The situation here is that a local landowner has created a new field entrance and every time it rains water and muds runs down into the gully by Mr & Mrs Richards (Hunters Hollow Shelvin Lane) house which in turns leads to mud and water running down their drive. I organised Sandbags to be delivered to help divert as much water away from the drive. The landowner of the field has laid down some type 1 to help stem the flow off the field. When I met with the engineer the other day I said we need to resolve this situation urgently and a meeting has now been set up for the 5th January with all parties. The gully in question will be cleansed in the meantime.

## WOOTTON/Buttermilk

### Verge Cutting

A plan for next year's cuts and putting out to tender the contract of verges both in Denton and Wootton were due to be discussed with Terry at last night's meeting. Perhaps we can work on a plan between now and next meeting together Terry?

### Drainage

I have spoken to Mr Lazarevic on several occasions, like I have done in Denton I have asked him if he could be our eyes on this section of road and we have now opened up a line of communication to ensure swift action is taken towards any future flooding issues. We have experienced flooding here on many occasions. The soakaway has been completely cleansed however as has been mentioned flooding still exists. Our problem here is that we have seen the wettest period ever and is a hard one to get sorted. I propose that between Mr Lazarevic and myself we will monitor/report and keep the pressure on to resolve once and for all.

### Speeding

When we are able and COVID-19 is under control we will tackle the speeding issues in Wootton, with Kent Police and Denton Speedwatch team.

I plan to come and walk the village to identify the issues with Drainage and other related issues. I will try and do this with our new Steward early in the New Year, however I will identify the gullies that were highlighted in last night's meeting to get cleansed asap.

### Other news for the Parish

We now have a new KCC Steward who looks after the majority of works for the Parish. I plan to meet up with him asap to form a working relationship like I had with the past Steward.

To keep the pressure on KCC carrying out their duties I would prefer any issues get reported to me and I will log on to the KCC system or if a resident does then I need the log number so

I can chase it up. Due to my relationship with KCC I am seeing a faster response to works getting sorted if logged by myself.  
**END.**

## ii Community fibre broadband partnership update

140 homes including some in Swingfield, Acrise and Selsted have signed up but since then, Openreach have decided to offer the service more widely. An offer from Openreach is due mid-December. It should be noted that the KCC funding is likely to run out in March 2021. Cllr James has set up a Facebook page and will email interested parties – vouchers will need to be pledged as soon as possible. Cllr James is now waiting to hear from BT.

## 11. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

Justine Crush commented that it is conditional to instigate a LHRC consultative committee and this needs to be done with some urgency. LHRC's Pat Doran has expressed his willingness for the group to be formed, it needs to have a wide and transparent membership.

The use of floodlighting has not been agreed and it is unclear how many events it will be used for. In addition, the resulting light pollution may impact drivers on the A2. LHRC should run under current planning permissions, media days are not in the current planning approval. The Judicial Review will have an impact by controlling some aspects for example putting in the roadway, LHRC may have to reinstate the land.

Cllr Thomas has found a lack of enthusiasm from LHRC to the forming of a consultative group.

WEPG were asked to consider calling for an injunction in respect of the floodlighting.

Justine Crush stated that the Goodwood noise monitoring model is not to be used, this is a transparent model to interested parties. Also, a monitoring point in Wootton is essential ideally 5 sites should be used to monitor noise.

## 12. FINANCE

Payments to be ratified:

<b>Clerk - October Salary &amp; Exps</b>	<b>£334.43</b>
<b>J Cranfield</b>	<b>£ 45.00</b>
<b>A Thomas</b>	<b>£ 40.00</b>
<b>Clerk - November Salary &amp; Exps</b>	<b>£393.58</b>

**AGREED BY ALL**

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## 13. PLANNING

### 1. Applications Received:

- a. 20/01204 Erection of dwelling and detached car port with associated alterations to access: Oak Meadow, Walderchain Farm, Lodge Lees Road, Denton.

**Resolved: No objection**

- b. 20/00908 Change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling to include insertion of 22 no. rooflights, garden wall, fencing, turning area and associated parking (amended plans); Lodge Lees Farm, Lodge Lees Road, Denton.

**Resolved: No objection**

- c. 20/01443 Sites at Shelvin Farm Road and Shelvin Lane Wootton CT4 6RL  
Proposal: Regulation 5 (Electronic Communications Code Regulations 2017)  
notification for the installation of 3no. fixed line broadband electronic  
communications apparatus

**For information only**

### 2. Local Planning – items of interest:

- Deacon Landscapes site  
The issue of the village hall's car park has been resolved
- Selsted traveller site
- New build at Wootton Parkside
- Lydden Hill Racing Circuit

## 14. VILLAGE HALLS – Denton and Wootton

Nothing to add

## 15. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.36pm

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