

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 26th January at 7.00pm at Denton Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllr Thomas; Cllr James; Cllr Hodges; Cllr Roberts; Cllr Welch; Cllr King (KCC); Clerk and 7 members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Thomas welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies were received.

2. COUNCIL - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr James declared an interest in item 8c of the agenda due to her being a member on the Wootton Village Hall Committee.

3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

- The condition of the BT phone box was raised. Cllr Thomas and Cllr Welch agreed to address this once the weather improves.
- The pot holes by village green were raised again. After an update of the previous investigations into this and the fact it is not the PC's responsibility, the PC agreed to try and see again if responsible landowners could arrange for the repair. Cllr Thomas said he would go back to Bossingham's, who quoted last time, to see what it might cost now and will also speak to Finns again.
- Flooding around the Parish was discussed. Clerk to report various areas of road flooding to KCC Highways and take forward via Cllr King.
- Post for 30mph repeater signs blocked by vegetation (from Folkestone before houses start in Denton) repeater sign needs putting higher or relocated. Clerk will speak to KCC Highways.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2025

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

5. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports have been received from DDC Councillors. Cllr King to discuss pot holes complaint with Clerk after the meeting. He also explained how his role at KCC has changed and he will now be responsible for the Environment and Development. He is attending a number of key events in the County around Commercial strategies in Kent and Farming. Budget will be published on 12th February with a proposed 3.99% increase for KCC element of Council Tax. Forecast for 2027/28 is 0% increase.

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

Police report previously circulated to members.

7. PARISH

a. Highways

Cllr Thomas and the Clerk met with KCC Highways in December to discuss the updated HIP. The feedback is residents are keen to see SLOW markings painted on the Junction Shelvin Lane and the A260 near Denton. KCC informed that these would be done in Spring/Summer as the salt on road erodes the paint if done now. Two sites were suggested for Horses Slow Down signs; Geddinge lane by bridleway – butternut buttermilk bend at bottom and top of hill and Shelvin Farm Lane. Clerk to speak to KCC suggesting these locations. The old SID Camera was also raised and KCC were going to look into who supplied it and why it was removed. There was disappointment that there couldn't be a change of speed limit in Wootton down to 20mph but it was felt that a 30mph road marking on the road as you enter the village from the Stockham lane end would be helpful. An email has been received regarding pot holes in the Parish. Clerk to post on Facebook asking for reports of any pot holes and then report them to KCC.

b. Footpaths/Public Rights of Way

Clerk received a response from the footpath volunteer and there is nothing new to report. Wootton banks footpath has obstructions (trees down). Cllr Thomas to speak to Finns. It was also reported that the steps to Penstops, the handrail has collapsed so Clerk will report these to PROW.

c. Village Halls & Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground

- Wootton village hall has more booking enquiries and have installed a new noticeboard. It is the halls 20th anniversary this year and will be holding a celebration event in June.
- Denton VH has had a new disabled toilet completed. They are also holding a volunteer event to paint hall with paint that has already been donated on 7th March and are launching a monthly farmers market. They asked the PC if they can put a banner advertising the event on the village green with no objections from all Councillors. They are also having a charity clothing bank placed in car park.
- Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground had a very successful New Year's party. There is a committee meeting on 18th February to discuss events to take place for the year.

d. Fast Fibre

Cllr James explained to Cllr King and the meeting that the process of upgrading Wootton's internet speed to fast fibre began in 2017. The PC joined the OpenReach Community Fibre Partnership in September 2019, and set up a community interest company in February 2020. Cllr James read a written statement which outlined the contact we have had with KCC and local MPs over the years since, with no result and expressed residents' frustrations. Cllr King to speak to KCC to follow up.

e. Village Clean up Day

It was agreed to hold this year's community event on Saturday 11th April 2026. Clerk to book litter equipment with DDC.

f. Salt Bins

Cllr James asked if the two bins owned by PC have been topped up. Cllr hedges to investigate and let the Clerk know so PC can contact KCC to fill up.

8. FINANCE

The bank balance as of 26th January 2026 was £22,815.67 (£586.49 in current account and £22,229.18 in savings account)

a. Payments and Receipts:

Receipts

Unity Trust Bank – Credit Interest – £124.53

Payments

Unity Trust – Service Charge (November & December) - £12

Hugo Fox – Website Charge (November & December) - £23.98

Ionis – Email Charge (November & December) - £8.40

Stephanie Woods – Salary (December & January)
Wootton Village Hall – Hall Hire 2025 - £150.00

The above payments and a transfer of £2,000 were proposed Cllr Hodges and seconded by Cllr Thomas – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY CHAIRMAN.

b. Review of Asset Register

Changes to the Asset Register were discussed. Clerk and Cllr Thomas to complete and circulate at next meeting for agreement.

c. Grant Request – Wootton Village Hall

A grant request for £400.75 has been received by Wootton Village Hall to replace fire extinguishers. It was proposed by Cllr Hodges that the grant be awarded for the full amount, which was seconded by Cllr Roberts. All agreed except Cllr James who abstained due to a declared interest in this item. Clerk to arrange payment.

9. PLANNING

d. LHRC

Consultative meeting cancelled 2 hours before it was due to start due to having no vice chair and chair being unavailable. The meeting will be rescheduled for the beginning of February. Cllr James has raised a number of concerns from residents to various responsible bodies regarding traffic blocking emergency vehicle access on Dumbrill Hill and Geddinge Lane at the event on November 2, 2025 and exiting Circuit visitors jumping the red lights at the A2/Geddinge Lane junction over a 1.5 hour plus period. The DDC events advisory group have agreed to bring these concerns up at their next meeting. WEPG figures are still showing that the noise levels are still exceeding the levels set out in the Noise Management Plan. Signage also needs sorting out especially signage to the old entrance. Signage by school end of Wootton Lane had disappeared but has now been replaced.

e. Deacons/Woodside Development

Chairman written to DDC Planning to ask for site meeting but to date has had no response. Cllr James volunteered to also contact DDC Planning.

f. Ecology Monitoring

Cllr Welch gave a very successful presentation at Christchurch University on 5th December. They are now looking to develop a computer app that residents can use to report relevant ecological finding in the parish.

g. Local Planning Applications

26/00006

Proposal: Installation of hot tub (partially recessed) and garden shed

Location: The Old Chapel, Denton Lane, Wootton, CT4 6RN

26/00061

Proposal: Replacement ground floor front elevation bay window.

Location: 6 The Street, Denton, Canterbury, Kent

Both applications were discussed and it was agreed the PC support both applications with no further comments to make. Clerk to add responses onto planning portal.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

There is a lost letter on roadside sign and Cllr Hodges to investigate for next meeting.

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45.

Next meeting: 30th March 2026 at 7pm in Wootton Village Hall