

# DENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

November 26th 7pm

In Dennington Primary School

*Councillors: Cllr Robert C .T. Wardley (Chairman), Cllr Katherine Whitbread (Vice Chairman), Cllr Robert C. Rous, Cllr Matt Lunn, Cllr John Calver, Cllr Mary Mann, Cllr Doris Dearing, Cllr Nick Watts, Cllr Rebecca Smith*

*Copied for information to:- District Councillors Paul Rous and Colin Hudson  
County Councillor Stephen Burroughes*

In attendance: Cllr Robert C .T. Wardley (Chairman), Cllr Katherine Whitbread (Vice Chairman), Cllr Robert C. Rous, Cllr Matt Lunn, Cllr Doris Dearing, Cllr Nick Watts, Cllr Rebecca Smith

**Members of the Public: 6**

**Clerk: R. Hart**

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr J. Calver, Cllr M. Mann. These apologies were approved.
2. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17TH 2018; These were agreed and signed as a true record
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr R Rous (DCC, Church, Village Hall), Cllr R. Wardley (Police, DCC), Cllr N. Watts (Village Hall)
4. REPORTS: to include reports from C.Cllr S. Burroughes and D.Cllr P. Rous and C. Hudson – no reports received.
5. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS:  
Vehicle Activated Signs – September minutes refer. It was agreed to take the bulk of the discussion of this item together with Item 6. However:-
  - A request had been made to SCC to undertake traffic survey/census (RW)
  - The Clerk had applied to go on SCC's list for temporary VAS
  - Ch Cllr R Wardley had responded to the petition requesting consideration of traffic calming measuresCh Cllr R Wardley explained that he had been in discussion with Highways regarding speeding through the village and been told that Dennington was a high priority for the County. It was noted that the neighbouring villages along the A1120, most notably Peasenhall and Yoxford, had parked cars along the road forming natural traffic calming measures, whereas Dennington did not. It was also noted that Dennington's resident ducks, did act as a form of traffic calming, although this was, at times, to the detriment of the ducks (Item 9 refers)
6. BUDGET:
  - To identify spending priorities and implications from decision on Item 5
  - To agree and set the precept and budget for 2019/20 (draft previously circulated)Ch Cllr R Wardley explained that the budget circulated showed an inflationary increase of 2%, together with an outline of expected expenditure. It did not include any items of new spend/village improvement. Items for consideration at the meeting were:
  - i) £500 for land registration (patio area)
  - ii) £500 suggested donation to the church for refurbishment of the gates

iii) £500 suggested donation to Suffolk County Council to encourage them to surface coat the square

iv) £3000 minimum for vehicle activated signs

It was acknowledged that any of the above would require a considerable increase in the precept, and it was suggested that the projected contingency of £1,600 could be used to keep the increase manageable and still carry out some village improvements.

Ch Cllr R Wardley reminded the meeting that he had received a petition from approximately 10% of households in September 2018 asking the council to consider traffic calming measures. It was noted that many villages now deployed these signs, and the question was asked as to whether the parish could share a sign with a neighbouring village, possibly Badingham. It was also suggested that if Dennington were to purchase a VAS, the cost could be spread over 2 years. A further suggestion was that the annual amount ringfenced for the equipment fund could be halved ie from £2,000 to £1,000.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed to:-

i) keep the equipment fund ringfenced at £2,000 for a further year

ii) use the contingency fund to finance a donation of £500 to the church towards the refurbishment of the gates, and a £500 donation towards the cost of surface coating the square

iii) fund the cost of VAS across 2 years

Cllr N. Watts proposed that the precept be raised by a further 5% (7% in total) to £9,517. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk agreed to re-work the budget figures and email out to councillors.

It was agreed that Ch Cllr R Wardley would reply to the petitioners informing them of agreed action, and contact Badingham Parish Council regarding the possibility of sharing the cost of VAS.

7. CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported that bank balances as at October 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 were:-

Current account £ 2,766,038

Saver account £ 3,387.53

Equipment account £ 12,409.33

A cheque for £120 from Community Infrastructure Levy had been received. The meeting noted that this money must be used for village improvements

She had received notification from CC S. Burroughes of funding for defibrillator for Owls Green.

The meeting approved the cheque signed since last meeting

100166 R Wardley/paint & varnish for village seats £60.54

The meeting approved the following cheques to be signed this meeting:- 100167

Village Hall donation £300

100168 Leiston CAB donation 55

100169 Sports Club donation 300

100170 EAAA donation 55

100171 Village Hall Hire 70

100172 Parish Church donation 450

100173 R Hart mileage 117

100174	Imperative training/defibrillator	1,530.60
100175	Dennington School/hall hire	20
100176	R Hart/stationery	22.23

8. TO CONFIRM DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS FOR 2019: The dates were confirmed as Feb 25th, May 13th, July 15th, Sept 9th, Nov 18th

9. CORRESPONDENCE: Ch Cllr R Wardley informed the meeting that he had received an email regarding village ducks and request for signage. Several councillors retold incidences of cars swerving to avoid the ducks and/or stopping to let them get out of the way, and unfortunately, some ducks being run over. A general discussion followed as to whether the ducks belonged to anyone in particular, whether anyone was encouraging them by feeding them etc. Various options were discussed:-

- i) to put a note in the December edition of the newsletter asking people to stop feeding the ducks
- ii) to cull them
- iii) to remove the eggs next spring
- iv) to remove the ducks
- v) signage. Any signage would have to be official and approved by Highways

It was agreed to remove the eggs where possible, and if the ducks then continued to be a problem to remove them. It was also agreed not to spend any budget on signage.

Ch Cllr R Wardley informed the meeting that he had received an email regarding the increase in local crime and whether a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme could be re-instated. The meeting noted that there had been several recent thefts and break-ins and Cllr N Watts reminded the meeting that statistically Dennington had a very low crime rate.

It was agreed to put a note in the December edition of the newsletter.

10. PUBLIC SESSION: A member of the public commented that she liked to see the ducks around the village, although not as traffic calming measures. It was asked whether a private individual could fund raise for the official triangular warning signs and present that money to the Parish Council in order to purchase the signs. Ch Cllr R Wardley agreed to ask Highways if this was possible. It was recognised that a further cost would be incurred if new poles had to be erected for the signs. A member of the public agreed that traffic speeding through the village was a concern and backed the purchase and/or sharing of VAS.

A member of the public raised the question as to why the Council had not responded to the 2nd round of consultation by SCDC on its proposed development of the Laxfield Rd site for future housing, and asked why a public meeting had not been held. He cited several other villages which had held public meetings. Ch Cllr R Wardley drew the meeting's attention to the minutes of July 2018 and September 2014 when the proposal was discussed.

Both the Ch Cllr R Wardley and Cllr M Lunn explained that housing development would happen in Dennington as the village was designated as a key service provider. They also said that the Parish Council had considered several proposed sites within the Plan and that Laxfield Rd was the preferred site with the caveat of a drop off area for the school, and footpaths linking to existing ones. Several members of the public commented that they were not against house building per se,

but were surprised at the proposed scale of the development in the 2018 consultation document (50).

Cllr N Watts left the meeting at 8.10

Cllr R Rous stated that he owned the land, that he didn't want any animosity, and anyone was welcome to contact him about it.

A member of the public asked whether Dennington needed to deliver a certain number of houses within a specific timeframe, listing several villages which had built considerably smaller developments. It was explained that SCDC had to deliver a specific number within a certain timeframe and rather than build a new town, had chosen to spread smaller developments throughout the area.

Ch Cllr R Wardley stressed that the Laxfield Rd site was the Parish Council's preferred option and that when a planning application was received it would be discussed and members of the public were invited/entitled to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.30

Signed: *R. Wardley*

Date: 25/02/2019