

# DENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AFTER THE PLANNING MEETING AT 7.05PM ON Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 AT THE JUBILEE HALL, DENNINGTON

### 1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

#### Present

Robert Wardley (Chairman)      Matthew Lunn      Nick Watts      Ken Hoyle  
Mary Mann   Doris Dearing      Sam Steward      John Calver  
Lydia Kirk (clerk)                  3 members of public

Apologies were received and accepted from Rebecca Smith, Cllr. Burroughes & Cllr Cook.

### 2. There were no declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

### 3. The Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

### 4. There were no matters arising.

### 5. Chairman's Report

#### Covid-19

The Chairman has circulated guidance from the Government regarding the current coronavirus pandemic. He has implemented an emergency plan, with Councillors each responsible for a designated part of the village. He noted that it was a very challenging situation and as advice and events change daily, he is proposing not to carry out a leaflet drop for fear of distributing out-of-date information. The village website will be updated regularly. He also noted that the village has a wonderful community spirit and comes together to help each other in times of need. He acknowledged that if the over 70s are required to self-isolate, some of the Councillors will be limited in the physical assistance that they can provide but they can still take telephone calls and pass on requests for help to others.

He thanked Jo Denton for her work in organising other volunteers in the village and for publicising the help network in the newsletter, with her telephone number included for people to call for assistance.

#### Mower

The new mower is currently being assembled and should be ready for next week. RW confirmed that the old mower is being traded in for £5,000.

#### Speed Sign

A meeting with Highways to discuss the locations has now been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Litterpick

This has been booked for 6<sup>th</sup> April, but will very much depend on the situation nearer the time regarding the coronavirus. There is a risk assessment from previous litter picks, which can be amended to include risks regarding the coronavirus if it goes ahead.

#### Frostley Bridge

The works to the bridge have now been completed.

### 6. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that she has requested the litter pick equipment but not yet received confirmation that it is available. She has submitted the precept request to ESC and received confirmation of safe receipt. She will do the VAT claim once the mower invoice has been paid, and will begin the end of year accounts and audit paperwork in April.

The planning application for 2 Bell Cottages has been permitted.

## 7. Responsible Financial Officer's report

a) The following payments were approved

Reference Number	Amount	Payee	Details
P31 19-20	£5.60	SALC	1/3 share GDPR training
P32 19-20	£603.65	L. Kirk	Pay to 31.03.2020*
P33 19-20	£15,400.00	Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	Kubota F3090 Mower
P34 19-20	£137.40	HMRC	PAYE
P35 19-20	£100	Dennington W.I	Donation from litter pick winnings
P36 19-20	£7.32	L. Kirk	Postage stamps
P37 19-20	£25.00	R. Wardley	Replacement V5 certificate for Mower

### \* Paid early to assist end-of-year accounts

*Invoices with full details of items above were available for viewing at the meeting.*

The clerk was authorised to transfer funds from the savings accounts to the current account to pay these invoices.

b) Funds received since the last meeting:

31.12.2019 £24.86 interest

31.12.2019 £4.48 interest

27.01.2020 £200.00 Norse draw prize

c) No payments have been made since the last meeting

d) Bank balances as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020:

Current Account £1,811.59

Active Saver £2,315.28

Equipment Account £12,431.03

It was noted that after the mower invoice has been paid, the accounts will be extremely low.

e) The bank statements and bank reconciliation to 29.02.2020 were reviewed.

f) The review year-to-date receipts and payments account was circulated and considered to be in order.

## 8. The clerk has received 3 replies from residents interested in helping to conduct a neighbourhood plan.

It was noted that this was not much interest from a village of nearly 600 people. Such a large project would be likely to need professional help as well as a strong committee of residents to help carry out questionnaires and collate information.

RW proposed not proceeding with a formal neighbourhood plan at this stage.

NW seconded this. 5 Councillors agreed with the proposal, 3 abstained and the notion was carried.

KH proposed carrying out an informal study of the village, focusing on a different aspect at each Parish Council meeting, and then seeking residents' responses to Councillors' discussions via the newsletter and website. With six meetings a year, this would produce a substantial village resource in two or three years, that could help guide Councillors as to what residents want them to focus on and aspirations for the future.

**ACTION** ML to provide a list of topics to discuss at future meetings.

## 9. Laxfield's Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation was discussed.

RW noted what a lengthy and detailed document it was, and he felt it had been produced very well. Councillors felt unqualified to send a formal response as they have little experience of neighbourhood plans and had not examined the plan at length.

## 10. Village events for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day were discussed.

Jo Denton has two suggestions of how to commemorate VE Day. She is proposing an exhibition of recollections of relatives from WWII provided by residents. She would also

like an afternoon tea party for the whole village. These proposals were viewed favourably and RW thanked Jo for her ideas and efforts to date.

With the coronavirus outbreak, it is not yet known if the VE Day celebrations planned for May will go ahead, but an alternative would be celebrating VJ Day in August.

The Parish Council pledged £100 towards the exhibition, and another £100 towards the cost of cakes and refreshments for the tea party.

The PC will reimburse Jo after the event rather than writing a cheque now.

**11. There have been complaints about dogs fouling on the sports field.**

RW asked Councillors to challenge people if dogs were spotted fouling the area. There are signs up and dog bins available.

**ACTION** ML will raise the issue with the Sports Club, and Jo will put it in the newsletter again.

**12. Highways and footpath issues in the village were discussed.**

A resident has asked when the ditch on the green will be cleared out. NW will action this when he has time and the machinery available.

RW has been in discussions with East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, but it won't be possible to replace the streetlamp that was on the house on Badingham Road.

The field around the agreed permissive footpath is being farmed this year. It is hoped that next year the footbridge will be laid and the permissive path can then be used.

**13. Correspondence received since the date of the last meeting was considered.**

RW has been asked if the Village Green could be used to hold a fete. RW has responded that this should be fine, but public indemnity insurance for the event would be required.

**ACTION** If it goes ahead, LK to contact the Parish Council's insurance provider to see if insurance for such an event is already included in our policy.

ML and NW to revert to the Village Hall Committee & Sports Club asking for representatives to help host a village fete.

**14. Councillors Reports**

ML reported that the recent Sports Club medium evening had raised £2,000. The Sports Club is looking for a new secretary. They are currently getting quotations to repair and replace some of the play equipment.

NW reported that the coronavirus is negatively affecting various bookings for the village hall, and several deposits are being returned or retained for postponed events.

JC reported another pothole at Owl's Green, and will report this to Highways using their online mapping tool.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

*The County Councillor's Reports for March and the  
Ward Councillor's Report for February and March have been put on the village website.  
No matters were raised by members of public present.*

**15. Matters to be raised at the next meeting**

- Coronavirus                      -First informal plan topic                      - VE Day celebrations

**16. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 when the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting will be held.**

*There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.*