

Minutes of online meeting of Dennington Parish Council held on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 7.30pm

*The Local Authorities & Police and Crime Panels Regulations 2020
allow Councils to hold remote meetings.*

1. **The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first online meeting of the Parish Council.** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mary Mann and John Calver as they could not access the online meeting.

Present

Matthew Lunn (Chair) Robert Wardley Doris Dearing Sam Steward
Rebecca Fox Tom Mountain Nick Watts Lydia Kirk (clerk)
County Councillor Burroughes Ward Councillor Cook 3 members of public

2. **There were no declarations of interest**
3. **The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 21st December 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.**
4. **There were no matters arising.**
5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman has spoken with the Monitoring Officer at East Suffolk Council regarding recent correspondence concerning the Parish Council sent to the Planning Department of ESC. She confirmed that as the correspondence was not sent to the Parish Council there is no need for the Parish Council to discuss it or to respond.

6. **Clerk's report**

The clerk has requested the precept for 2021-2022 and has received acknowledgement of safe receipt from ESC.

She will submit a VAT Claim once a year has passed from the last claim as there have not been the minimum 5 transactions or £100 total presently. She is also starting to prepare the end of year accounts and paperwork for the auditor

ESC has made contact asking asking for previous year CIL accounts to be put online. The clerk has used income figures provided by ESC to collate reports. *ML shared these on his screen and they were approved by the Council.*

The agricultural building application at White House Farm has been permitted.

7. **Responsible Financial Officer's report:**

- a) Funds received since the last meeting were noted

Amount	Company	Details
£4.00	Barclays	Interest
£1.14	Barclays	Interest

- b) The bank balances were as follows on 29th January 2021:

Current Account £6,767.22
Active Saver £848.94
Equipment Account £3,459.89

- c) The bank statements and bank reconciliation to 29.01.2021 were reviewed, and will be signed by RCW.
d) The year-to-date receipts and payments account was circulated and considered in order.

8. **A request from Dennington Horticultural Society to plant a wildflower strip on the village green was discussed.** Jo Denton went through the proposals in more detail and Councillors agreed to support the scheme. The group will get management advice. Discussions on the possibility of piping and infilling this ditch were prompted. **ACTION** RW will run the idea of infilling the ditch by the Consolidated Charities and it is to be discussed again at a future meeting.
9. **The Chairman has received correspondence from the owners of the village pillboxes who confirm that they will continue to preserve the pillboxes.** Whilst

they are on private land, they are willing to continue to make them available for future school visits.

- 10. The annual litter pick was discussed and a date of Monday 29th March was provisionally set.** ML has carried out a risk assessment for the event. As it is a business event rather than a social one he believes it can go ahead with the current government restrictions.

ACTION LK to contact Norse asking for litter picking equipment and to advise the WI of the date.

- 11. Highways and Footpaths:**

i) TM proposed extending the 30mph zone to include the entrance to the village hall. RW seconded this and it was carried unanimously.

ACTION SB will raise this with SCC Highways and report back.

ii) ML has agreed three locations for the speed signs with SCC. He is still seeking the housing association's permission for one more property on Saxtead Road.

RW proposed authorising payment of up to £600 for the posts and their installation. This was seconded by RF and carried unanimously.

iii) ML has been in conversations with the Headteacher of the primary school regarding safety concerns with children entering and exiting the school next to a busy road. The school are looking into erecting safety barriers on the pavement and/or reconfiguring the gated area to the school to widen the buffer zone between the school and the road.

ACTION ML and SB to arrange a meeting with the school to discuss this further.

SB also to liaise with SCC's Education Cabinet Member in this regard.

iv) Mowing obligations and options around junctions will be discussed again at the next meeting when ML has had the opportunity to consider Public Liability insurance implications.

v) Frostley Bridge has been damaged again and this has been reported to SCC for remedial works.

vi) The road between Wash Farm and Wood Farm continues to flood and has been reported several times over the past few months. This is especially concerning as it is an A road.

ACTION RW to send SB the reference number from his online report for him to chase progress on this.

- 12. Trees overhanging the road between The Glebe and Ivy House were discussed.** NW has said that he plans to start work on cutting back and felling the trees soon.

ACTION RF to ask her partner, a qualified tree surgeon, to assess which trees are deemed dangerous and report back. Clerk to then write to NW in this regard.

- 13. Correspondence received since date of last meeting was considered.** ML has received a request from Councillor Mann to extend the 6 month rule for non-attendance at meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic and her not having online access at home. ML proposed extending this for another 6 months, or until MM can safely attend face-to-face meetings. This was seconded by RF and carried unanimously.

The clerk has re-taxed the tractor mower.

Robert Rous sent the Council a copy of a letter he has sent to ESC regarding a recent response to the Playschool planning application. Whilst DPC are referred to in the original response, as the correspondence was sent to ESC rather than the Parish Council, there is no need for the Parish Council to respond at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Ward & County Councillors shared recent news. MC was pleased that Dennington Parish Council is now able to meet online. He also said that £310,000 has been saved from Officer's budgets through more virtual meetings and reduced travel costs in 2020. The government is

currently considering whether local Council meetings can continue to be held digitally after the current legislation expires in May.

SB confirmed that at SCC's budget meeting on 11th February, it was agreed to increase the SCC element of the Council Tax by 4%.

Questions were then asked of them, including how local houses can be made more affordable for buyers and how the County Council is going to reassure people that they can return to normal activities, such as shopping and going out socially as Covid restrictions begin to be lifted.

One resident asked if the Parish Council could take responsibility for repairing and replacing road signs in the village if SCC Highways has insufficient funding for such works. SB commented that this SCC are currently reviewing signage and he will provide more information on this when he has it. He can also arrange for a Highways representative to come to a meeting and discuss this further.

14. Matters to be raised at the next meeting

- Extension of 30mph limit
- Laxfield Road safety issues for pupils.

15. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.30pm on Monday 22nd March 2021.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed

L. Kirk

22nd March 2021

pp. M . Lunn

Chairman

Date