

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL meeting

Held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office, Denham

Cllrs.	Mrs M Heath (Chairman)	# Miss S Jefferys
	Mrs M Skelton (Vice-Chairman)	Dr J Newby
#	Mr A Hans	Dr G Hollis
	Ms K Bowen	Mrs S Williams
#	Mr W Davey	Mr S Sproul
#	Mr A Pamment	Dr J Walsh

County Cllr. Mr Roger Reed

Police Officer Ms S Puksis

Clerk. Mr J Coleman
Co-Clerk Mr R Hill

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies denoted by # above.

The Chairman had received a notification from Cllr. Davey and informed the meeting that former Parish Chairman, Mrs Hope Shaw had sadly passed away yesterday at the age of 92. Mrs Hope Shaw was a much loved and respected resident of Denham.

2. Report from Police Officer
Details of the Community Speedwatch initiative had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
PCSO Puksis explained that Beaconsfield had operated the Speedwatch scheme for some years and had their own equipment. At present only Gerrards Cross were interested in partaking in the Speedwatch initiative but would be unlikely to if they had to pay £2400.00 for the sole use of the equipment. Gerrards Cross may consider sharing the equipment with Denham.
PCSO Puksis explained how the system works; it does require a person to sit by the roadside and record vehicles registration numbers. The data collected is not enforceable, however serial offenders would receive a letter and a visit from the police after three offences.
Various speeding areas in Denham were identified by Councillors; Old Mill Road (speeding and inconsiderate parking), Denham Green Lane, Lower Road in Higher Denham (mainly Martin Baker Ltd. traffic) and the A40 in Tatling End in the 40mph area. PCSO Puksis reminded the meeting that inconsiderate parking is not enforceable providing vehicles are taxed.
It was agreed to take this subject forward to the Services Committee to discuss further.
Cllr. Bowen urged the Parish council to write again to the police regarding the right turns exiting and entering the KFC restaurant in New Denham. There has been a fatality and several accidents there since the restaurant opened.
PCSO Puksis reported that since January there had been four burglaries; two in Knighton Way Lane and two in Denham Green. There had been eight thefts from motor vehicles; six

in Denham Green and two in Village Road.

PCSO Puksis ended by saying that youth crime was on the increase around Lindsey Road and Priory Close. Waste bins had been removed from properties and burnt on the Alderbourne field. Car wing mirrors had also been damaged. Cllr. Hollis added that the Pyghle and the Way and Tillard recreation ground were also hot spots for youth crime.

3. Notification of any Urgent Other Business to be taken under item 26

None.

4. Matters dealt with under Urgent Action since the last meeting

None.

4a Agreement to discuss matters in Part 2

Agreed.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that she had attended the SBALC meeting with Cllrs. Skelton and Walsh. The minutes for the meeting had been circulated to members prior to this meeting. The Chairman had also attended the BMKALC meeting which had been mainly concerned with the BCC Unitary proposals.

There had been further meetings with Community Impact Bucks regarding the good neighbour scheme. Two more volunteers had offered to help with the scheme. Cllr. Williams reported that progress had been slow to get the scheme off the ground. Cllr. Walsh thought that the process had been too formal but accepted things like DBS checks were necessary to safeguard volunteers and residents. Co-Clerk Hill explained that it was Central Government red tape rather than local authority that slows things up. The Chairman reported that the grant to set up the scheme could not be paid unless a separate bank account is set up which could take up to six months. She added that the scheme had not been thought through properly. Cllr. Walsh stated that there was only around £300.00 available grant to set up the scheme and was fearful that the slow progress would see volunteers drift away. Cllr. Walsh advised the Clerk to try the Charity Bank for the new Good Neighbour Scheme account.

The Chairman ended her report by stating she had a further meeting with the Denham Cricket Club regarding the new lease on the cricket ground.

6. Reports from County Councillor

Cllr. Reed reported that he had driven around the area with the BCC Parking Manager and had identified a number of issues. Cllr. Reed explained that the implementation of yellow lines can take up to 24 months, however, if some areas pass the Highway Code test, some could be completed within six months. If Tilehouse Way and Cheapside Lane pass the test, something could be done. Cllr. Reed advised that the parking problems in Tilehouse Way were caused mainly by residents not by people travelling by train from Denham station. The yellow lines could be funded although the forthcoming elections could slow down progress. Other areas identified as suitable for the test were Priory Close where people park on highways ground, Old Mill Road at the A40 junction and Village Road although there are limitations of what can be done within a conservation area.

Cllr. Reed reported that the BCC Unitary decision had been delayed due to the District Council's unitary submission. There should be a decision made by the end of March. Cllr. Reed stated that the status quo is not sustainable and that changes need to be made by the 2019 elections.

Cllr. Reed reported on the HOAC situation. There had been a full debate on the subject and consent had been given with nineteen pages of conditions. Three people for HS2 had

attended the meeting. Cllr. Reed explained that HOAC may struggle to meet some of the conditions. The proposed clubhouse will not be a clubhouse, more of an office, no licence will be applied for and there will be strict opening times. There had been twenty-seven letters of objection from residents, some with inaccuracies. It is HOAC's intention to change its customer base and attract more local residents. There will be no tiered charges to residents. Cllr. Bowen was concerned that in point 128 of the report, additional land had taken the boundary very close to Knighton Way Lane. Cllr. Reed to email the exact distance to Cllr. Bowen. A new bund will be built while construction takes place and will be removed once the project is completed.

7. Reports from District Councillors

Cllr. Hollis advised that a white paper in Planning Daily stated that if councils do not reach their allotted targets of housing, the government would be able to seize land for development. CIL and S106 payments are due for review which means that local authorities would find it difficult to plan as they would be unsure of the amount of CIL and S106 funding that would be available for infrastructure projects to support new developments. Cllr. Hollis advised that despite this, the District Council is still pressing ahead with its Local Plan. Cllr. Hollis was asked what percentage SBDC were applying to the Council Tax but he had only received the papers prior to attending this meeting so he did not know. Cllr. Hollis will avail us of the figure in due course.

8. Reports from Outside Bodies

The minutes from the SBALC meeting held on the 26th January 2017 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.

9. Correspondence List

There had been no requests made to the Clerk for copies of correspondence from the list.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

With Cllr. Jefferys absent, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

11. Review of Standing Orders

A copy of the current Standing Orders had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Chairman proposed that the Standing Orders were current with no further changes necessary, seconded by Cllr. Newby and agreed.

12. Review of Risk Assessment

A copy of the current Risk Assessment had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The following amendments were made;

Page 1 second item 1st paragraph. The Admin assistant does hold keys at all times.

Page 1 third item 3rd paragraph. '*Contractors if required*' changed to '*as required*'. '*Signs being erected*' changed to '*signs are erected with details displayed*'

Cllr. Walsh raised the issue of no burglar alarm. After discussion, it was agreed that the cost of installation and maintenance charges would be prohibitive compared to the small amount of valuables kept in the office. All data is now cloud based.

The Chairman proposed that the Risk Assessment was current with the amendments included, seconded by Cllr. Skelton and agreed.

13. CIB Training Needs Survey

A survey had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting. Cllr. Pamment had requested training on planning legislation.

14. Denham E-ACT Academy

An email had been received for the Denham E-ACT Academy regarding the opportunity for a Councillor to be an ambassador to sit on an advisory board. The email had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that due to the depleted number of Councillors on the Parish Council, the Clerk should write to the academy declining the offer at present.

The Clerk was also asked to enquire as to whether Cllr. Hans is on the board of governors at the village school.

15. Denham Youth Club Grant

The grant application supported by a set of accounts had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Denham youth club should receive a grant of £1500.00 in 2017/2018 paid in three instalments of £500.00 seconded by Cllr. Skelton and agreed.

16. Denham Utd Ladies FC Clubhouse Plans

Existing and proposed plans had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

The Football Foundation and the FA Stadia Improvement Fund have agreed the use of surplus funds from the new changing room build to refurbish the main clubhouse. The Chairman proposed that subject to the internal alterations of the building not affecting the main structure of the building, then permission should be granted, seconded by Cllr. Williams and agreed.

17. HS2

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting. Noted by the members.

2283/17 HS2 Blueprint-HS2 Newsletter January 2017.

18. Grass Cutting Contracts

A quotation of £1K has been received from the Parish Council's solicitors to draw up three contracts for grass cutting.

19. Review of Leases and Rents

The Denham Cricket Club lease discussions are ongoing.

The rent review on the Parish Council office has been agreed and completed within the terms of the lease

20. Payments & Receipts

A list of payments made between the 12th January 2017 and the 8th February 2017 totalling **£32,080.42** including VAT had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

A list of receipts received between the 12th January 2017 and the 8th February 2017 totalling **£85,745.97** had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

21. Payments to Approve

A list of Payments to approve totaling £2,526.36 including VAT had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Alpha Construction for hire of tower to erect Christmas tree	£ 72.00
Denham Youth Club grant final payment for 2016/2017	£ 500.00
Christine Newell Office Cleaning January 2017	£ 41.00
Geoff Newell Handyman Services January 2017	£ 247.00
Ricoh Rental and Usage Jan-March 2017	£ 320.79

RTA Publicity Allotments Banner	£ 76.80
Denham Hall Management. Office rent Oct –Dec 16	£ 1084.75
Henry Squire & Sons 5 new padlocks	£ 161.28
Solo Protect Ltd. Service charge 1/1/17-31/1/17	£ 22.74
Total:	£ 2526.36

The Chairman proposed that the invoices be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr. Sproul and agreed.

22. Bank Balances

The bank balances at 8/2/17 were as follows:

Barclays Current Account	Balance at 8/2/17 is	£111,326.04
Barclays Premium Business Account	Balance at 8/2/17	is Zero
Co-operative Fixed Rate Deposit Account	Balance at 8/2/17 is Zero	account closed.

As the Barclays current account balance is currently in excess of £75K it was agreed that the Clerk seek an alternative investment/savings account.

23. Approval of Parish Council Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 9th January 2017 and matters arising.

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Heath, seconded by Cllr. Williams with the following matters arising:

Page 3 Item 19. Sergeant Lucy Price had not replied to the Chairman's email.

Page 4 Item 21. Thames Valley Police have not been approached by The Metropolitan Police regarding a site visit by the road safety unit.

24. Approval of Committee Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Committees below and matters arising.

Finance Committee Meeting held on 16th January 2017

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 16th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Heath and seconded by Cllr. Skelton with no matters arising:

Planning Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2017.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 24th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Bowen with the following matter arising:

Page 1.Remove Cllr. Williams as Acting Chairman on header.

Communities Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2017

The minutes of the Communities Committee Meeting held on the 24th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Heath with the following matters arising:

Page 2.1608/05 Clerk to confirm availability of the New Denham Community Centre for the Tea Dance on 23rd April and to attend to the other items assigned

Page 2. 1701/01 Cllr. Skelton queried the date of the Social Evening. It was confirmed as the 15th March 2017

Page 4. 1701/07 the Tree of Heaven will not be lit going forward.

Services Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2017.

The minutes of the Services Committee Meeting held on the 6th February 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Heath and seconded by Cllr. Newby with no matters arising:

Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th February 2017.

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 7th February 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Hollis and seconded by Cllr. Williams with the following matter arising:

Page 1.Remove Cllr. Williams as Acting Chairman on header.

25. Remuneration of Parish Councillors

A paper had been prepared by Cllrs. Newby, Pamment and Bowen regarding the future remuneration of Parish Councillors. The paper had been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Hollis started the debate by stating that although workable in theory, it would create more work for the Clerks and would damage the Council. The remuneration would not guarantee any increased attendance and for these reasons he would not support the proposed scheme.

Cllr. Sproul stated that he could not support accepting money for a part time job and he would not support the scheme.

Cllr. Bowen supported the scheme as she thought that the council was elitist in its outlook with only wealthy retired members being able to afford to sit on the council.

Cllr. Williams stated that she was not particularly well off but could not support the scheme.

Cllr. Skelton stated that council business is conducted mainly in the evenings and if it was taking up daytime hours it would be different. Cllr. Skelton thought that not being paid offered protection from criticism by the public. Cllr. Skelton would not support the scheme.

Cllr. Walsh enquired if devolved services had significantly increased the workload of the Parish Councillors. It was agreed that it had not adversely affected Councillors but had increased the workload of the office. Cllr. Walsh thought that if things did change due to a new unitary authority in power, then it would be worth reconsidering. Cllr. Walsh reminded the meeting that no budget existed at present for the remuneration of Councillors.

Cllr. Newby stated that in taking over from Cllr. Davey, he had tried to put forward a balanced view in his presentation. Cllr. Newby would abstain if a vote was taken.

Cllr. Pamment communicated by mobile telephone that the Parish Council did not have a full complement of Councillors and questioned why. He thought that a remuneration scheme would help to recruit new members. Cllr. Pamment supported the scheme.

Cllr. Hollis advised that the reason people do not want to be council members is because everyone these days is too busy with their own careers and do not have the spare time to devote to the council especially if they have children. He added that the scheme would add a huge amount to the precept. Cllr. Hollis stated that we should be encouraging neighbours to become Councillors

Cllr. Skelton advised that the councils that attend the SBALC meetings do not have a full complement of Councillors.

Cllr. Williams echoed Cllr. Hollis's point that families are working harder than ever and do not have the time to sit on councils.

It was decided to defer this item to another meeting when more members were present.

26. Any Other Business

No other business.

27. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting as **Monday 13th March 2017** starting at 7.30pm.

27a. **Part 2 Confidential Members Only**

With no members of the press or public present, it was agreed to proceed to part 2.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

John Coleman-Clerk Denham Parish Council.