

DENNY LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th March 2017 at 7.00 pm in Beaulieu Abbey Church Hall.

Present:

Cllr Paul Roberts – Chairman
Cllr A Tilbury - Vice Chairman

Cllr E Elcoate
Cllr J Green
Cllr J Horton
Cllr V Batty
Cllr R Gover

In attendance – Mrs K Penna, Parish Clerk; Cllr M Harris, New Forest District Councillor and five residents.

1.0. To accept apologies for absence

None.

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2017

The minutes were agreed by Council and duly signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Tilbury and seconded by Cllr Horton.

4.0. Public session

A resident asked to speak on item 8.1. Aldermoor Lodge. The Chairman gave permission for this item to be discussed at this point of the meeting.

The resident told the council that he and the other members of the team had worked very closely with the New Forest National Park Planning Authority to produce plans for a replacement building which had as little impact on its surroundings as possible. The proposed building would be of sustainable and energy efficient design. The resident had prepared photographs of the current site from different angles now that the original property had been demolished. The residents answered the councillor's questions and the council said they felt their previous concerns about the previous application had been addressed. The chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting and the comment was agreed and can be found in item 8.1.

5.0. To receive the Chairman's report

On the 24th January, the Chairman attended the presentation given by the New Forest Association (now known as Friends of The New Forest) entitled "The New Forest – A Foot in the Past and an Eye to the Future". The keynote speech was given by Clive Chatters. A copy of the transcript of the various presentations is available on the New Forest Association website.

In a very brief summary, the various presentations were centred around 3 main themes: development of the Forest as a recreational destination for the enjoyment by all; the need to preserve and develop the Forest's natural environment; and the need to serve & preserve

Chairman's signature:

Date :

local communities and way of life. The development and urbanisation of the Forest by small incremental steps was also discussed.

Managing the first 2 objectives – promotion of recreation and preservation - so that they are not mutually irreconcilable or conflicting provided the main theme, and featured strongly in the Q&A session which followed. A series of attendees took the microphone to express concerns about the impact of activities on the Forest. Cllr Horton put the Parish Council's recent concerns regarding of Forestry Commission Bye-Laws succinctly by asking the Panel how these can be enforced. The response was based around an approach which encourages compliance by discussion and communication rather than any direct enforcement control measures. In achieving the various goals, the primary focus seems to be on education, communication and the encouragement of good behaviour.

At the NFNP SE Quadrant meeting on 8th Feb., the subject of Drones was raised. Cllr Elcoate will provide a brief meeting summary. During that review, we will have the opportunity to review the perceived issues presented by drones.

I note that a recent study has identified Ipley crossroads as a national blackspot for incidents. A report in the recent Lymington Times advised that HCC is considering measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of incidents at this junction, including the introduction of Stop signage. We can discuss the matter during the Agenda item about increased traffic in the Parish.

It appears further funding is available under the Transparency Code to support Parish Councils with meeting the code, and I will support our Clerk in obtaining a laptop for parish use. I note that the parish does not currently have its own dedicated PC.

A modest budget increase of 2% this year has been applied for the Parish. This is substantially lower than the average for Parish Council's in our area (5.7%?) and reflects recently implemented efficiencies. The Council's reserves are expected to increase slightly this year.

Finally, 2 further policies have been added to the Council's policy library – thank-you to Kim for continuing to document these and ensure our compliance in this area.

6.0. To receive reports

6.1. To receive a report by District Councillor for Denny Lodge.

Cllr Harris told the meeting that the council tax increase agreed by the District council was an average equivalent to £3.19 per week.

He had recently been on a visit to Guilford Borough Council to how they are using an Asset Investment strategy in an aim to make their council more profitable. With the continual funding cuts, all councils are going to have to look at ways of raising funds from commercial investment. Cllr Harris explained that although it would be good to be able to build more houses to let, the right to buy scheme meant that this was not a viable way to increase income.

6.2. To receive a report on the New Forest Consultative Panel meeting.

Steve Avery spoke of the proposed Waterside development which included 1500 new homes, a school, fast ferry and creation of many new jobs. Also 2000 plus homes to be built in Marchwood and Totton.

Bruce Rothenie told the meeting that £70,000.00 a year is spent on rubbish clearance. The Forestry Commission have a team of litter pickers who will be deployed in areas that have been reported. He highlighted that fly tipping was an increasing problem in the Forest and asked that public be vigilant and call 101 to report it.

John Stride said that the Forest Design Plan feedback has been received and is being looked at internally. It should be made public in April.

6.3. To receive a report on the Verderers' meeting.

No report.

6.4. To receive a report on the South-East Quadrant meeting.

Denny Lodge tabled concerns for the impact that the flying of drones may have on the Forest, in particular to tranquillity, disturbance to wildlife / livestock & possible effect to horse riders.

Nigel Matthews pointed out the national guidelines for the flying of drones and pointed to some of the possible benefits. He advised that the NFNPA in partnership with the Forestry Commission operate a drone for a maximum of 12 days a year useful for monitoring restoration schemes and archaeology.

Flying of drones during the ground bird nesting season is to be discouraged.

It was generally thought that enforcement would be limited but that a "soft touch" education campaign would be helpful to minimise improper use while not restricting responsible usage.

Nigel Matthews introduced a Welcome Pack, funded from Developers Contributions, which gave 10 bullet points to living in the New Forest. These will be placed with local Estate Agents and accommodation providers to pass on to new residents and visitors. Copies were available for Parishes to take and distribute as appropriate. In these days of technology, it was applauded that the leaflet directed readers to the NFNPA resident's web site and there was a unanimous request that a link to this site be provided so that it would appear on all Parish web sites.

It was requested that the information was also disseminated to the "halo" area surrounding the Forest.

6.5. To receive a report from Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

No report.

6.6. To receive a report on the Waterside Arson Forum meeting.

No meeting.

6.7. To receive the clerk's report and information received list.

6.7.1. Forestry Commission have responded to the council's alert to the amount of litter in the parish. They are currently working through a process of litter picking all of the Forest roadside verges leading up to the Great British Spring Clean event at the start of March. So, we should notice an improvement over the next week or two. The Forestry Commission would like us to contact them if there is no improvement.

6.7.2. The clerk contacted Hampshire County Council to enquire into the possibility of Denny Lodge PC joining the Lengthsman Scheme. Although continuation of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme has been approved for the 17/18 financial year for existing participants, the level of funding for new Parishes to join has not been confirmed. However, Denny Lodge Parish Council to the waiting list I am holding and I will be in touch with successful parishes in the coming months should sufficient funding become available for them to join the scheme. If this transpires, the item can be added to an agenda for discussion into the benefits of the scheme.

6.7.3. Please take a copy of the HALC service brochure for your information.

6.7.4. The clerk attended a Transparency Code training course last month. It was a very interesting course and highlighted some of the items which must be added to the website to conform with the Transparency Code for Smaller Councils. It was also highlighted that there

is still a large amount of DCLG grant money available to parish councils to enable their conformity to the code. Although the council has already received DCLG funding, there are other areas for which the council can still apply, including for a computer and to pay for hours taken by the clerk to update the website. A grant request of around £700.00 has been made which will be put to the DCLG panel on March 20th 2017.

6.7.5. The clerk has completed a registration to the Information Commissioner (Data Protection) to register Denny Lodge Parish Council as this is a legal requirement. The cost is £35.00 per year. **ACTION KP**

6.7.6. The statistics for the number of visits to the council website show that there is a constant increase of returned and new visits to the website.

Councillors should have received the information received list and the planning and enforcement list. Please advise the clerk if there are any items you would like more details on.

7.0. Finance

7.1. To agree payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation.

Resolved: Payments agreed as shown on table below, income and bank reconciliation noted.

Payee	Cheque No	Item	Payment
Payments 06/03/17			
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	000474	Salary Feb/Mar	£375.90
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100475	Expenses	£67.99
EBPC	100476	Computer	£16.00
HMRC	100477	Tax/NI	£93.60
Total to pay			£553.49
Receipts as at 06/03/17			
Source		Detail	Amount
Total income			£0.00
Bank Reconciliation			
Balance as at 06/03/17			
Lloyds bank			£4,317.58
Total			£4,317.58
Net bank balance as at 06/03/17			
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year 2016/17 to date, as follows			
Opening balances	3,490.01		
Add receipts	5,282.00		
Less payments	4548.03		
Less unclear cheque	93.60		
Total			£4,317.58

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7.2. To receive a budget review.

Budget review received and it was noted that the council's finances were running to forecast.

7.3. To agree budget for 2017/18.

Resolved: Budget agreed and attached to the back of the minutes.

8.0. Planning

8.1. Planning comments can be found on the table below.

17/00039	THE HONEYPOT HOUSE, GATEWOOD HILL, BLACKFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, SO45 1XH	Replacement footbridge	No comment
16/00915	ALDERMOOR LODGE, IPLEY, MARCHWOOD, SOUTHAMPTON, SO40 4UR	Application for approval of reserved matters in respect of scale, appearance, layout, landscaping and access for replacement dwelling, garage and outbuilding following Outline application 15/00373	Comment 5

9.0. To agree meeting dates for 2017/18.

Resolved: 2017/18 meeting dates agreed as 2017- Monday 6th March, Monday 8th May AGM/APM, Monday 3rd July, Monday 4th September, Monday 6th November, 2018- Monday 8th January, Monday 5th March, Monday 14th May AGM/APM.

The meeting dates will be added to the website.

ACTION KP

10.0. To discuss available training.

The clerk had sent councillors a copy of the HALC training schedule and asked them to consider any training they would like to undertake.

11.0. To discuss a defibrillator for the parish.

The clerk informed the council that there was the possibility of a full funded defibrillator for Denny Lodge parish. The clerk showed a map which showed the current live defibrillators, this revealed a large area of the parish which does not have a defibrillator nearby. There is Government encouragement for defibrillators to be located all over the country but in particular, in rural areas. Councillors suggested that the fully funded defibrillator would be of more benefit to a more densely populated area but the clerk noted that there are a large number of defibrillators in such areas. There were questions raised by councillors about how easy the defibrillators are to use. The clerk said that once the emergency services had been called, they will talk users through the process. Not only that, but the defibrillator itself speaks out the correct instructions and it is not possible to use the device on a person if they do not need it.

Cllr Harris told the council he is very keen on defibrillators and that they have become more commonplace, following many European countries. He also offered funding to pay for the training session, should a defibrillator be purchased.

Resolved: The clerk will formally write to The Beaulieu Road Hotel to see if they would be interested in housing a defibrillator and the item will be followed up at the next PC meeting.

ACTION KP

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12.0. To receive an update on the Forestry Commission Inclosure plan.

No update available at the time of the meeting.

13.0. To discuss broadband in the parish.

Councillor Roberts had not yet made contact with Hampshire County Council on this matter but will follow this up before the next meeting.

ACTION PR

14.0. To discuss unadopted land in the parish.

No further information has come forward on this matter.

15.0. To discuss increased traffic in the parish.

The increased traffic through the parish and dangers of Ipley Cossroads were discussed. Cllr Tilbury had established there had been three major road accidents at the cross roads each year for the past three years, although the severity of the accidents was not known. With an increase in housing surrounding the parish it was highlighted that this will have a further effect on the amount of traffic. It had been noted that there were cable across the roads near the area but uncertainty as to what these were measuring.

Resolved: The clerk will try and establish the purpose of the cable on the roads and try and get some data information. This will be fed back at the next meeting.

ACTION KP

16.0. To adopt the Disciplinary, Dismissal and Grievance, and Anti-Bullying policies.

Resolved: Policies were adopted en-bloc.

17.0. Items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Councillors were concerned that they could not raise items in the meeting which had arisen after the agenda has been displayed. The clerk informed the council that 'any other business' items were considered bad practice.

Resolved: Further agendas will have 'Items for inclusion on the next agenda and any other matters arising'. The clerk informed the council that this agenda item should not involve any decision-making items.

ACTION KP

18.0. To confirm date of the next meeting of Denny Lodge Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting of Denny Lodge Parish Council will be held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.00 pm in Beaulieu Abbey Church Hall, followed by the Annual Parish

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.