

Minutes of the Denstone Parish Council meeting held on the 5 December 2017

1. **Attendees:** Cllr J Payne (in chair), Cllr B Hinton, Cllr E Edmonds, Cllr P Robotham, Cllr S Ratcliffe, Cllr J Turner, Cllr R Wright and Borough Councillor C Smith. **Apologies.** Cllr K Stratton and Cllr S Smith
2. The minutes of the meeting of the 7th November 2017 were approved by all, and were signed by Cllr Payne.
3. There were no declarations of interest declared.
4. Adjournment for public participation – There were no members of public present.
5. Lengthsman – Cllr Hinton informed the meeting that unfortunately due to personal reasons Darren Ball has had to step down as Lengthsman. However, a new Lengthsman Daniel James from Stubwood has been appointed. Clerk to send email address and telephone number to all councillors once contract has been signed.
6. Precept 2018/19 – All items of the precept were discussed, clerk to make the agreed amendments and bring the updated document to the January meeting for sign off before sending to the ESBC.
7. Matters Arising/Clerk's report
 - a. Correspondence Received – The clerk informed the meeting that there will be significant changes to Data Protection in May 2018. Clerk to attend a training session regarding this in the New Year.
 - b. Asset and Investment register update – The clerk informed the meeting that she had gathered the majority of the information for the register and would hopefully have it completed for signing off at the next meeting.
 - c. SAAA fees – The clerk informed the meeting after talking to SPCA that the fee will be based on the total of the annual income or expenditure whichever is the greatest. More information will come from Mazars LLP who is Denstone's appointed auditor in the New Year.
 - d. Marlpit Lane pavement – The clerk informed the meeting that she had reported the pavement on Marlpit Lane and had been advised that no further action would be taken as these issues were dealt with routinely and then prioritised and scheduled according to available resources. Councillors were surprised by this feedback and that no evidence, in respect of Denstone, was provided to support it. Councillor Turner agreed to take some pictures and send them on to the clerk to forward onto the SCC.
 - e. Closure of Mayfield School – The clerk informed the meeting that after talking to the Parish Clerk for Mayfield the main reason for the school closing is mainly due to a drop-in the number of children attending the school. It was discussed and agreed that on this occasion the decision to support the cause would have to be on an individual basis.
 - f. Remembrance Day Wreath – The clerk read out an email of thanks from Cavell Portman.
8. Planning (Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC)
 - a. P/2017/00840 – **Appeal** Manor House Farm, Quixhill Lane, Prestwood – No Objections
 - b. P/2017/01393 Erection of an agricultural building to house cattle and store machinery. Little Park Farm Alton Road. No Objections
 - c. ES.16/12 D1 – (walk to Rycroft) Submission of details in compliance with condition 3 of planning permission ES.16/12 relating to a construction environmental management plan (cemp) at land adjoining B5030 and B5031, Rocester. No Objections
9. Noise from Muddy Lane Farm – Cllr Payne informed the meeting that the noise had now stopped, Cllr Edmonds said that it was probably the extensive work of paving the area and flattening the ground that had caused the noise.
10. Public Participation – Cllr Hinton sent the information out regarding public participation prior to the meeting. Cllr Wright raised the issue that he thought that highways related issues such as potholes should be able to be raised at the meeting. Cllr Hinton stated that the Parish Council meeting is a business meeting and it is to discuss the Parish Councils business. Items such as potholes etc. can, in most cases, be dealt with more quickly outside the meeting. However, the Chair can use its judgement to decide whether a particular issue is more appropriately dealt with directly by the Clerk or the Council. Cllr Hinton agreed to reword the document taking into consideration the thoughts of the councillors. The new document would be circulated before Christmas.
11. Railway Line Equipment – Cllr Robotham sent a picture to the clerk of the damaged 'stepping'. It was agreed that the clerk would forward the picture to Playdale to ask for a quote to have it repaired.

12. Oak Road Play Area – Cllr Payne informed the meeting that £5000 would be received from the Neighbourhood Fund, and Cllr C Smith is Allocating £800 from the Community Fund which leaves us about £3900 short of the cost to resurface the play area. The Parish Council have also applied for funding from Awards for All, however if we are not successful Cllr Payne asked should the remaining money be taken from the £10,000 given to the Parish Council by Denstone Youth Fund for the up keep of the play area in March 2015. A vote was taken and the decision was unanimous.
13. The Graveyard – Cllr Ratcliffe asked if we knew whose responsibility it was to provide land for a graveyard. Father John Richardson had approached Cllr Ratcliffe and Father Richardson assumed that the Parish Council would provide the land. It was suggested that the land on the left of the church, between the Church and the old Vicarage, be used as a graveyard. Cllr Ratcliffe said that this particular piece of land can't be used as there is a covenant on it preventing its use as a graveyard. Cllr Hinton asked had the covenant been tested? Cllr Wright agreed to approach a Church member he knew and establish how soon some land may be required. Clerk to discuss with the SPCA to establish what the legal position is on this particular issue.
14. Progress of Purchasing Land by the Churnet – Cllr Payne informed the meeting that this was currently in the hands of Cleggs the Solicitor.
15. Proposed 20 mph speed limit – Cllr Payne asked the meeting if this is something that the Parish Council wanted to pursue. It has taken a while to get Staffs County Council Highways Dept. to agree to a 20-mph speed limit and this will be a long process, and is likely to involve matched funding. It was agreed to continue talks with Richard Rayson and Trevor Mellor on the proposed speed limit and to talk to Denstone College again. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would support a 20-mph speed limit in the village. Objections from the public to a 20mph speed limit should be notified to the Parish Council by 9th January 2018.
16. Updating Standing Orders – It has been a while since the Parish Council updated the Standing Orders. The SPCA have an updated model and it is proposed that this be adopted for Denstone Parish Council. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the Chair would, where appropriate, use its discretion in applying the Standing Orders. It was also proposed that the Standing Orders would be reviewed annually. This was agreed unanimously.
17. Emergency Plan for village – Cllr Ratcliffe informed the meeting that this should be ready by the end of the year.
18. Highway Issues
 - a. Traffic issues & Stubwood sub-committee. Nothing to report.
 - b. Potholes & drainage issues in the village. Cllr Ratcliffe informed the meeting that he had spoken to Malcolm Adams who confirmed that he would deal with the stream at the back of the shop as soon as the weather permits.
 - c. Footpaths
19. Finance/Payments

To approve the following payments: Proposed by Cllr Ratcliffe and seconded by Cllr Hinton.

 - a. Webmaster pay for November 2017= £25.00 [LGA 1972 s142 & 144]
 - b. Clerk's pay for November 2017 paid by Standing Order = £340.17 [LGA 1972 s112]
 - c. Clerk's expenses for November = £9.00 (LGA 1972 s111)
 - d. Eon Lighting November 2017= £16.02 [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3]
 - e. J Etherington – Cleaning Village Hall Toilets = £40.00
 - f. Peter Robotham Purchase of Moss and Algae killer =£27.98 incl. VAT
 - g. Cleggs - Solicitor Costs £200

Items for Future Agenda

1. Email from Isha Henderson regarding speeding on Alton Road
1. Dates of next meetings: 6 February and 6th March 2018