

Minutes of the Denstone Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd October 2017

1. **Attendees:** Cllr J Payne (in chair), Cllr B Hinton, Cllr P Robotham, Cllr S Ratcliffe and Cllr S Smith, Cllr E Edmonds, Cllr R Wright and Borough Councillor C Smith. **Apologies.** Cllr K Stratton and Cllr J Turner
2. The minutes of the meeting of the 5th September 2017 were approved by all, and were signed by Cllr Payne.
3. There were no declarations of interest declared.
4. Michelle Shaker – Community Speed Watch – Michelle informed the meeting of the following;
 - that the number of Community Speed Watch groups was constantly increasing in the area
 - We would need a minimum of 5 volunteers but obviously the more the better.
 - Some areas were merging so Denstone could possibly talk to Rocester?
 - There were a lot of changes coming in at the moment the main one is that after 6 months of having a temporary sign informing the traffic that there is a community speed watch team in action the Parish Council could have a permanent sign erected and there is potentially £5K available from the Safer Roads Grant Fund from the Safer Roads Programme
<http://www.staffssaferrroads.co.uk/my-community/road-safety-grant-fund>
 - The Safer Roads programme is now a qualifying activity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
 - Michelle confirmed that there was no set amount of time for a volunteer to commit to they can do as little or as much as they wish
 - Michelle suggested that it would be best if 3 people went out on a speed watch and that they would need to e-mail Force 101 3 hours before going out.
 - Michelle suggested JCB might become involved.
 - The charge for equipment and training has now reduced and is £350. The clerk informed Michelle that she had put together a poster advertising for volunteers, Michelle said that she would be keen to see this.

The Parish Council thanked Michelle for attending the meeting
5. Lengthsman Vacancy – Darren Ball the new Lengthsman introduced himself to the meeting. Cllr Hinton stated that the contract Darren would start with would follow the same model the Parish Council had with Sam. Darren supplied the Parish Council with his contact details and it was agreed that the clerk would send to all. It was also agreed that telephone numbers would have to be changed on notices around the village.
6. Matters Arising/Clerk's report
 - a. Junior Play Area – Annual Inspection – Clerk informed the meeting this had now been carried out and she had completed and returned the form for the inspection to be carried out every August in the future. Cllr Robotham had checked the report and said that there was nothing that needed immediate attention. It only raised issues that we were already aware of. Cllr Payne stated that she had received the licence from the Tom Boden Memorial Sports Trust. This missed the deadline for this agenda so will be discussed at the November meeting. Cllr Payne also advised the meeting that Cllr C Smith has offered some funds towards the resurfacing of the Oak Road Play area and Vanessa has offered to complete the paperwork for funding from Tesco.
 - b. Action for the money received from Sun & Soil – It was agreed by all that the £5000 funding received from Sun & Soil would be transferred to Denstone Parish Savings account.
 - c. Correspondence Received – There was nothing to be discussed from the SPCA Bulletins.
 - d. Asset and Investment register – Clerk informed the meeting that she had made a start on this and was still gathering information. It was agreed that this be sent to all councillors for them to add information. Clerk issue.
 - e. Key for the door in the meeting room – Cllr S Smith advised the meeting that he had discussed this issue with Bob Beaumont who would ask John Etherington. Cllr Payne stated that she would speak to Nancy Turner.

- f. Standing Order – It was agreed by all that the clerk could be paid by the Standing Order. Clerk to obtain the forms from the bank for signature at the next meeting.
7. Adjournment for public participation
- a. The Parish Council were asked could the speed monitors be moved from outside the school to other areas of the village? Cllr Payne advised that these were placed by SCC specifically and would only be there for an allotted time and then would be taken away.
 - b. The Parish Council were asked what is happening with the New School footpath? Cllr Payne advised that she had been informed that it is currently being held up.
8. Planning (Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC)
- a. P/2017/00679 – Erection of a replacement agricultural building Quixhill Lodge Farm Prestwood. - Permitted
9. Field for sale in the village – Cllr Edmonds informed the meeting that the land by the bridge came up for sale in July 2017. The closing date for bids was 4.8.17. The Parish Council were informed that bids less than £10,000 would not be accepted. It was thought that if 20 people would like to give £500 each as a gift we would have £10,000. Denstone Parish Council bid £10,050 and the bid was accepted. However, due to people continuing to donate the Parish Council now have £10,450. It was agreed by 6 of the Councillors present (the 7th Councillor chose to abstain) that the Parish Council would buy this land with the donations from local people and, therefore, the Parish Council would own this land, insure it for public liability and maintain it, probably with the help of volunteers. It was agreed that, if possible, there should be a clause in the legal paperwork stating that Parish Council would not sell this land in the future but keep it as an open space for community. Cllr Payne expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for all those who had been involved.
10. Facebook page – It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Page would be renamed Denstone Voice.
11. War memorial – the meeting was informed that the 2nd padlock brought for the railings had been taken. It is currently tied up with cable ties. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not buy anymore padlocks and the cable ties would remain.
12. Denstone Show – It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £50.00 would be made to Rocester Church as payment for the judge's lunch at the Show. Cllr Hinton informed the meeting that this was the most successful show so far and the profit raised was approximately £800 which will go towards projects in the village.
13. 2nd Defibrillator – The training has been arranged for the 14th October 9-11am. Clerk to prepare a poster for the noticeboards and the website. Copy of the poster also to be sent to Mary Spencer.
14. Best Kept Village – The report has now been received and a copy is to go onto the website.
15. Village Hall committee member. Cllr S Smith informed the meeting that a new heating system had been installed in the Village Hall.
16. Emergency Plan for village – Nothing to update.
17. Highway Issues
- a. Traffic issues & Stubwood sub-committee. There was an initial discussion on notes of a meeting held between Councillors, Trevor Mellor and Richard Rayson of SCC regarding traffic issues and possible solutions. Because of its importance, and to allow all Councillors further time for consideration, this will be an Agenda item for the November meeting.
 - b. Potholes & drainage issues in the village. The pothole on Narrow Lane has still not been repaired. Clerk to chase this issue again and include a deadline.
 - c. Footpaths – Councillor Hinton queried visibility of the opening of one of the footpaths onto Alton Road which he had glanced whilst driving past. After discussion it was decided that the opening was in the Newton-Taylor's hedge. Councillor Wright to have a look.

A further discussion took place concerning the speed problem identified on Alton Road by a resident at the September meeting and whether the resident had contacted SCC Highways, Councillor Atkins etc. as we have heard nothing. Councillor Wright and his wife know the resident and will ask. The footpath between the Weavers and Alton Road has been sprayed as some plants have died in a garden that backs onto the footpath. Clerk to chase.

18. Finance/Payments – Proposed by Cllr Edmonds and seconded by Cllr Wright

To approve the following payments:

- a. Webmaster £25.00 [LGA 1972 s142 & 144]
- b. Clerk's pay for September 2017 = £340.17 [LGA 1972 s112]
- c. Clerk's expenses for September 2017 =£17.99 (LGA 1972 s111)
- d. Eon Lighting September 2017= £16.02 [Parish Councils Act 1957 s3]
- e. Petrol Leaf blower payment to J Sadler - £103.98
- f. B Hinton expenses from Show = 229.68
- g. E Edmonds – Fuel for Vehicle for the show =£20.00
- h. Accolde - pest control =£58.00
- i. Play Inspection Company = £114.00
- j. FritchWood Tree Services =£250.00
- k. Grant & Thornton External Audit =£120.00
- l. John Etherington Cleaning of the Toilets =£40.00
- m. St Michaels Church Donation = £50.00

Items for Future Agenda

- Moving public participation to the end of the meeting.
- The stream at the rear of the shop in the village.

1. Dates of next meetings: 7 November and 5 December 2017