**DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of public meeting preceding Danehill Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at Danehill Memorial Hall.**

Present: R. Wood (RW), M Lewer (ML), R. Lewis (RL) (Chair), N McPherson (NMCP) and A Martin (AM)

Absent: N. Macleod (NM), G.Powell (GP), T. Blake (TB) and M Mockridge (MM).

There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was present.

Cllr Galley sent his apologies.

Public: There was some concerns raised over recent thefts in Danehill. This was an agenda item for the Parish Council to discuss.

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There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was present.

38. To accept apologies and reason for absence.

N. Macleod (NM) – work

G.Powell (GP) – work

T. Blake (TB) – ill

M Mockridge (MM) – work

1. To receive Declarations of pecuniary and declarable Interests from members in respect of any matter on the agenda.

The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.

1. To approve as a true record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2019

**These were unanimously approved by the Council and signed as a true record.**

*(AM arrived at the meeting at 8pm following a Parish Liaison Meeting at the Forest Centre.)*

1. To deal with matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2019

The Clerk provided an update on the outstanding maintenance plans outlined at the last meeting:

* Remove encroaching brambles and grass from the length of the French drain around the edge of the flat area of Danehill Rec – **This had been completed.**
* Mulch the Queen’s Jubilee oak on Danehill Rec – **This had been completed.**
* Cutting back the low hanging branches of the oak trees to the north of the tennis courts – **This had been completed,**
* Paint the pavilion on Danehill Rec – **This was an agenda item.**
* Remove moles from Danehill Rec – **The Clerk had instructed this work but had received complaints about the proposed work. Having discussed with the Chair the work was cancelled. This decision was ratified unanimously by the Council at the meeting,**
* Mulch the Queen’s Jubilee oak outside Danehill Social Club – **This had been completed.**
* Place a plaque marking the Queen’s Jubilee oak outside Danehill Social Club - **The plaque had been received and the Clerk passed it to RW for placement.**
* Repair the potholes in Danehill Rec car park – **The Clerk had asked WDC to consider this and they were going to revert to the Clerk once a quote was provided. The Council wanted to consider this as a longer-term project to resurface this and the path. This action was ongoing.**
* Mulch and remove extraneous brambles etc from the hedge around Danehill Rec car park – **This work had been completed.**
* Clear encroaching grass and repair the path between Danehill Village Hall and the car park – **This had been tidied but a longer-term resurfacing quote was being sought.**
* Repair broken lighting next to the path between Danehill Village Hall and the car park – **This was ongoing with the insurers who would pay for replacement minus the excess. The Council would consider the type of lighting in conjunction with the path quotes.**
* Remove the moss from the cemetery steps – **This had been completed but the Clerk would now instruct for the leaves to be cleared.**
* Contact East Sussex highways to de-weed and repair the pavement between the cemetery steps and the memorial triangle – **ESCC confirmed it was not bad enough for action, The Council asked the Clerk to confirm how dangerous it was to ESCC again.**
1. Correspondence.

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting and was read out by the Chair. There were new items and those highlighted of interest were also examined.

Charlie Gooders letter of complaint against the RW newsletter article on the nursery was noted. It was acknowledged the article could have been more positive to the contribution the Parish had received from the nursery. The Council did however confirm the expenditure it had provided trying to help the nursery,

Natural England request to survey the cemetary for waxcap fungi was noted. **The council approved their request.**

The Clerk reported on the tree issue opposite the School which ESCC was now attending to.

The grass verge complaints were reviewed. **It was agreed to review spending on grass cutting for 2020 in the next budget meeting.**

Ongoing hedge issues were noted. **Problem hedges should be reported to ESCC and the Clerk with the addresses involved.**

The Munich Legends event correspondence was noted and the actions of the Clerk. There were no complaints post event.

Shelagh Gilliam’s request for a dog bin was noted. There were concerns over the level of provision in Danehill. **Further expenditure on dog bins would be considered at the next Finance meeting.**

The parishioner letter regarding the denotation of Chelwood Common would be considered in due course. The matter of the PC composition was also noted.

Mr Fishlock’s correspondence on his former role as tree warden was noted. The Council confirmed it was still awaiting written information on his views on the terms before there was a meeting on the matter.

1. To approve new standing orders.

**Unanimously approved by the Council.**

1. To approve new financial regulations.

**Unanimously approved by the Council.**

1. Finance.
2. To report on account year to date 2019/20 and mid-year position.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

NMCP reported on the account which was running to budget with known agreed overspends at this stage in the financial year.

The mid-year report and forecast was accepted. The report was useful to Cllrs and would be used when discussing the budget for 2020.

The internal interim audit report had been received and would be circulated to the Council.

1. To approve Payment schedule.

**This had been circulated prior to the meeting and payments for £37048.79 were approved.**

1. To consider ear marked reserves transfers.

**The Parish Council agreed unanimously to transfer £75000 from Danehill Memorial Hall back to the general reserve to offset recent works.**

1. To receive update on the Memorial Garden project.

Mike Mulford had provided a report. Works were due to commence in October and he would provide further reports as work progressed. The Clerk was asked to speak to Mr Mulford about possibly installing water butts from the guttering to reuse rainwater.

1. To receive update on the Memorial Hall works and consider any cost proposals supplied.

**RL closed the meeting for Malcolm Burrwood to provide an update. This was unanimously approved.**

**After some discussion it was agreed to cover the small overspend on the project including the remaining planning fee and door costs yet to be invoiced. The Council did not agree the additional cost of the history cupboard within this and suggested the Hall Committee and Historical Society should apply for a community grant to cover the cost (£1704.)**

**The Council meeting was then reconvened unanimously.**

1. To consider the future use of the site of Ashdown Forest Cricket Club and any action the Parish Council should consider including costs.

There was no further requests or information supplied to the Council since the initial request.

ML reported that the pavilion was not salvageable for other uses as had been thought.

**The Council agreed to follow up with the Club to see what their plans were and bring this back to a future meeting if necessary.**

1. To consider whether the Council consider a future project to the pavilion on the REC.

**It was agreed to defer this item as there was a lot to consider.**

The Council needed a use and purpose for the building for it to incur expenditure. The Council also understood there was a lot of maintenance and that a new building could be potentially better value than a major refurbishment of an aged building.

It was generally agreed with enhanced grounds facilities it was sensible to have a useable building but that expenditure to upgrade it would not be cheap.

RL reported that the electrics had been isolated in line with the electrical survey.

**It was agreed to invite the nursery to elaborate on their ideas for the pavilion and discuss again at the next meeting.**

1. To consider future use of the land at the cemetery.

ML outlined the areas and current uses and restrictions at the site. The PC had no immediate shortage of spaces and less and less people were choosing burials. In the longer-term expired plots could be assessed if the Council wished to continue to provide more spaces.

**It was agreed that the sloped section was unsuitable for burials and that a regreening of the area would make it more attractive. ML would revert with a planting scheme in due course in conjunction with Mike Mulford and possible grants and subsidized Woodland Trust schemes.**

**It was agreed the small overgrown section currently held as a leasehold property should be valued and its potential assessed.**

1. To consider the Parish Council involvement in the remembrance events and any costs proposed.

**It was agreed to arrange a similar display to last year. Costs up to £150 were agreed.**

1. To consider correspondence on recent crime levels and any actions the Parish Council can progress.

Various possible solutions for both the Council and householders were outlined.

The Council confirmed it would continue to support initiatives like good neighbour and ‘we are watching’ sticker scheme.

**The Council agreed to invite the PCSO to local events and the annual meeting and lobby for more visits locally.**

**ML agreed to investigate the neighbourhood watch scheme and the successes of Horsted Keynes scheme to replicate parish wide.**

**The Council agreed to continue to ask people to report all crime to 101 to enable Sussex Police to see there is an issue.**

**The Clerk was asked to ask Facebook to archive the old PC account and get a new account to publicise PC messages.**

1. Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility if applicable.

TM reported on the conservators update from the parish liaison meeting including a fundraising dinner on 15th November and donation scheme and meat box sales.

TM reported on the two successful prosecutions for sheep worrying.

TM reported on more Exmoor ponies being deployed on the Forest to keep the bracken down.

RW reported on the refurbishment of Chelwood Gate hall during the Summer.

RW reported on the next coffee am for Macmillan on Saturday 28th September.

RW reported on the footpath group activities completing 50-man hours over 9 footpaths. With 8 volunteers versus 43 in 2000 there was a need for more volunteers.

RW reported on Roz Denman’s plan for a village tidy up on 2nd November in Chelwood Gate. It would be good to have a similar volunteer for Danehill.

The next newsletter would be coming out at the end of November so articles would be good to collate ASAP.

RL reported on the need for removing the moss from the tennis courts and longer-term replacement fencing to the courts.

RL reported on the imminent mole ploughing of the recreation field to aid drainage.

RL reported the hedge near the new path to the side of the courts needs trimming back.

1. Matters to report and for consideration at future meetings.

Tree replanting scheme
Running track

Meeting closed 10:15pm