**DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of public meeting preceding Danehill Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at Chelwood Gate Hall.**

Present: R. Wood (RW), R. Lewis (RL) (Chair), N. Macleod (NM), M Lewer (ML), T. Blake (TB), A Martin (AM), G.Powell (GP) and M Mockridge (MM).

Absent: N McPherson (NMCP).

There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was present.

**Cllr Galley** reported on the possible ESCC 4% increase in the precept (2% ESCC 2% adult social care). The small underspend in the current financial year may affect some of the cost saving plans.

He reported on the pothole issue and the overwhelming problem although he would continue to lobby for works.

He reported on the local plan rejection and work required to resolve.

Finally he reported on the good news on waste collection and new climate change officer appointment.

**Public:**Members of the public raised concerns over work quality on potholes and white line works recently completed and failing already.
There was a suggestion over whether a neighbourhood plan was now required in the absence of the local plan.
The council was asked to follow up the white line query in Danehill.

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Absent: N McPherson (NMCP).

There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was present.

1. To accept apologies and reason for absence.

N McPherson (NMCP) – illness.

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 27th November 2019

**Unanimously approved by the Council and signed as a true record.**

1. To deal with matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2019

Training – AM was booked in February and the Clerk would reissue the schedule to encourage remaining cllrs to attend. The SSALC / DPC specific training costs were outlined - **The Clerk was asked to investigate possible April / May dates.**

The Clerk confirmed the Nationwide accounts were being set up as requested at the last meeting for a 45 day access and a 1 year account. **The Council agreed that pending decisions on projects 85k should be moved from Barclays but this transfer and specific split would be ratified in February in the meantime 5k to each account was required to set up the accounts the Council agreed unanimously to proceed on this basis.**

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.

The correspondence from the solicitor was noted. The land registry was progressing the registration applications. The lack of an official right of way over the church ground into the new memorial garden was noted. **The Clerk was asked to write to the Vicar in the first instance to check if there were any issues.** **It was agreed to not pursue any registration application on the millennium triangle.**

RL agreed to reply to the SSALC survey.

The footpath group had been in touch re receipts for miscellaneous items – **The Clerk was asked to confirm to the group that the payment made was for items such as these and payment would be made above and beyond this for larger expenditure if agreed by the Council and the £150 paid already was for general running costs.**

The speed issue in Stone Quarry road was raised. **The Council agreed to review SID data and compare it to ESCC data from 2 years ago.**

The abandoned car correspondence was outlined. The frustration remained but the due process was understood.

The poll replies requested by the newsletter were outlined there were 24 replies. Lots of queries and comments which would be worked through. The majority were in favour of the projects outlined albeit with some caveats and comments. These comments would be reviewed in more detail when reviewing those projects as future agenda items.

The forest school request was reviewed. **The Council agreed they were happy to accommodate another forest school on the same basis as the current one. The Council agreed to remove the fire sites not within the designated pit and arrange signage following a site visit.**

TB highlighted the friends of the earth information and the need for a sustainability action plan.

1. Finance.
2. To report on account year to date 2019/20

NMP was absent so the Clerk reported on the account. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted by Cllrs at the meeting.

The Clerk reported on the account which was running to budget with known agreed overspends at this stage in the financial year. The account would be reviewed in more detail at the forthcoming finance meeting.

1. To approve Payment schedule.

The lists had been circulated prior to the meeting. **Payments totalling £17343.92 and £2290.97 were unanimously approved.**

1. To consider expenditure on History Society Cupboard £1704.00 / fire storage cupboard £708.

**The Council agreed by majority vote to approve expenditure on the fire storage cupboard for £708 (one abstention).**

1. To consider expenditure on the car park and path (see report)

The Council had received three quotes which had been circulated.

**It was agreed by majority vote to proceed with Crown Engineering for the car park £6564 inc VAT and path £8238.72 inc VAT. (One abstention).**

**It was agreed unanimously to proceed with SAS electrics to provide 6 fixed lights and associated works up to £3500 inc VAT on the basis of final review of the specification (to be circulated by the Clerk) and confirmation of free connection from Danehill Hall Committee.**

1. To consider planting scheme and regreening of the cemetery.

The Council deferred this item to a future meeting as the Clerk and ML needed to meet to outline the plan in more detail to the Council.

The Clerk reported she had applied to Sussex Lund Trust for a grant to aid the project.

1. To consider other planned cemetery maintenance and expenditure (as per the schedule.)

The schedule had been circulated prior to the meeting and three tenders received.
**The Council agreed unanimously to proceed with the tender from Mick Payne for the cemetery and other miscellaneous areas totalling £5747 for 2020/21** ***(to continue with inflation increases in 2021/22 and 2022/23).***

**It was also agreed the Clerk would ask him to review the memorial ground to quote for works to remedy the dips in the ground.**

1. To consider whether the Council consider a future project to the pavilion on the REC and to hear proposals from the Nursery.
The response from the newsletter was limited and there were lots of queries and things to think about but the overwhelming response was favourable albeit with some caveats. RL reported on some of the comments requesting more information and requesting costings and a multi-use building. ML reported on the schedule of actions to progress the project and his agreement to help at no cost to the Council to provide more information on a refurbishment project.

**The Council agreed to progress on the basis of information gathering at this stage whilst looking to progress a refurbishment project on the pavilion for a multi-use building. This was agreed by majority vote with two votes against.**

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

GP reported on the Danehill Committee meeting and the feedback on the works completed and some upcoming works.

NM reported on the new SID and the arrangements to move it.
NM reported on recent emergency calls to ESCC to deal with the flooding near Cumnor although the emergency drainage call was dealt with promptly ESCC confirmed it would not be taking further action. **The Council agreed to monitor the situation.**

AM reported on recent parish liaison meeting and the continued need for funding and the new initiative to sell Ashdown Forest merchandise.

RW reported on the 44 hours spent on footpaths and the help from the equestrian centre to allow access to make repairs.

RW reported on the recent the success of the Christmas tree lighting which raised £500 for peanut ward and the future hall fundraiser quiz on 18th March.

RW reported on the lack of newsletter opening on email and it was suggested parishioners were told to check spam filters.

RW reported on VE day preparations, leaflets and schedule.

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

Bridge Policy.
Code of conduct.
VE Day.
Cemetery regreening and mapping project.
Sustainability.
Pavilion project.
Grounds maintenance tender.

**Date of next meetings**

Planning 29th January 2020 9:30am

Finance to follow planning on 29th January.

Parish Council 12th February 2020 7:30pm

Meeting closed 10:25pm