**DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the public meeting preceeding the Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2017, at Danehill School.**

Present: T. Blake (TB), C. Crouch (CC), A. Goodburn (AG), R. Lewis, (RL), E. Mills (EM), N. Macleod (NM), and A. Martorana (AM).

In addition Roy Galley (District and County Councillor) was present. There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was in attendance.

The Chairperson of the Parish Council, Andrew Goodburn (AG), opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

**Report from Cllr Galley**

Cllr Galley had reported to the Council prior to the meeting. At the meeting he highlighted the increases to the precept ESCC 4.99% WDC and the Police £5 per band D household each and 1.94% for Fire and Rescue.

He had met the school finance officer and hoped to meet with Danehill School shortly.

He had met with NM re the highways issues and was keen to progress matters following recent community match successes.

Cllr Galley explained with the 4th May local elections a period of purdah would be entered and he would be unable to enter into certain correspondence to avoid any issues with the integrity of the election.

In regards to WDC he confirmed the Local Plan was due to be published shortly and would be finalised by the full council on 23rd March 2017.

The road improvements for Church Lane were progressing with ESCC.

**Report from Cllr Roundell**

Cllr Roundell confirmed the position on precept levels and reserves and the audit advice to hold at least half your precept in general reserve.

He clarified the position of planning near the Forest and confirmed the welcome refusal of the 103 Steels Cross developement which WDC had been challenged on. The matter of SANGS and permitted development near the Forest were summarised.

**Public Meeting**

Mike Fishlock reiterated his concerns over SALC advice on the precept given to RL. RL confirmed it was the concept of a zero precept and not the people requesting it that had been deemed irresponsible. The current Council would have a year’s practical experience to review the budget and precept for the following year.

Mike Fishlock queried the protocol for the DHMH funding and the past payment by the last Council. The Clerk confirmed the budget including this payment had been approved by the whole Council previous to the payment being made.

Sylvia Martin requested a copy of the DHMH survey. The Council confirmed it had recently received it and would be forwarding it on. She also requested aid with the deteriorating tarmac path leading from the car park at the hall. This path and the absence of lighting provided a trip hazard.

There were a couple of comments about public comments within the main PC meeting. Cllrs Galley and Roundell confirmed other local councils complied with the same rules that DPC had adopted. The Council confirmed if there was a pertinent point or they felt the meeting could benefit from public information then the meeting would be suspended and reopened if required.

**DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Danehill Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2017, at Chelwood Gate Village Hall.**

Present: T. Blake (TB), C. Crouch (CC), A. Goodburn (AG), R. Lewis, (RL), E. Mills (EM), N. Macleod (NM) and A. Martorana (AM)

Absent: A. Pattison (AP) and D. Birchell (DB)

In addition Roy Galley (District and County Councillor) and Peter Roundell (District Councillor) were present. There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was in attendance.

The Chairperson of the Parish Council, Andrew Goodburn (AG), opened the meeting at 8:15pm following the Public Meeting.

57. To accept apologies and reason for absence.

A. Pattison (AP) (holiday) and D. Birchell (DB) (holiday)

58. 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.

59. To approve as a true record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2017.

**Unanimously approved.**

60. To deal with matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2017.

Forest School – The Clerk had received the agreements and the School were keen to progress and would revert on the drop off arrangements in due course.

61. Correspondence List.

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mick Wells’s correspondence was noted. The matter of the precept had been agreed and his comments noted. His concerns over the correspondence list and policy were noted. The matter of the public meeting he had suggested re school funding was deemed by the Council a matter for the School to arrange if required and the decision on DPC funding had been agreed by the Council in January.

Clive Poole’s correspondence on Ashdown Forest and planning applications was noted.

**The Council noted the concerns and agreed to review planning applications on a case by case basis.**

62.Finance.

(i) To report on account year to date.

The Clerk outlined the position year to date.

There were no queries on the account.

(iii) To report on ear marked reserves and confirm any transfers.

The reserves were reviewed. No transfers were proposed at the meeting.

(iii) To accept expenditure list.

This had been previously circulated to the Council.

The exisiting list totalling £2040.90 and new expenditure list totally £1636.29 had been provided for approval.

**These were both unanimously approved**

(iv) To accept bank reconciliation.

In the absence of the bank statement being received this would be deferred and the Clerk would provide this at the next meeting.

(v) To confirm audit arrangements for 2016/17 accounts.

The Clerk had received three quotes and circulated them to the Council.

**The Council unanimously accepted the quotation from Mrs R Rudin and she was duly appointed as the internal auditor and PKF Little John was noted at the external auditor.**

63.To consider the floor proposal for expenditure of £2500 and the survey results for Danehill Memorial Hall.

The hall report had been received and circulated. The basic conclusion was the building is sound and the floor had no major defects.

**The Council agreed unanimously to send the report to the DHMH committee and to ask the committee to provide evidence for the floor replacement. In the meantime the request for £2500 funding would be placed on hold.**

64. To consider proposals for the parish facilities review. Costs to be confirmed.

The Clerk was still waiting for AIRS to respond with options.

**This item would be deferred to the next meeting.**

65. To consider annual meeting proposals.

**It was agreed to have an informal event with local groups available on the day to highlight their organisations.**

**The Clerk, AM, RL and EM would liaise re organisation of the event.**

66. To consider tree work proposals. Costs to be confirmed.

Three quotes had been received according to the tender prepared by the tree warden.

**The Council considered the quotes and decided to complete works for both tenders and agreed to proceed with the quote from Sheffield Park Arborculturalists for £2300.**

67. To receive reports from Parish Councilors.

CC reported the market surgery on 18th March would occur between 10 and 2 and would be hosted by TB, EM, AP and RL. The school had been offered a stall which had been accepted.

CC reported on Wealdlink and the need to appeal to the youth. She felt potentially DPC should extend their funding commitment to the scheme. She agreed to research with a view that the subject may return to the Council as an agenda item.

CC reported DB has replied to the recent good neighbour correspondence and together with CC and Beryl Blake they would be looking to consider other methods of keeping in touch with vulnerable residents outside of the current organised events. They had agreed to meet in the first instance on 3rd March.

RL reported the mole catcher had been instructed but weather had not been favourable. He also reported he had met with a contractor to devise a specification for seeding and levelling the Jubilee Green. Once quotes had been received it would be discussed at the March meeting. A working party was being arranged by RL to tackle the Danehill Rec, EM volunteered and Mick Wells had also offered his time.

AM reported the newsletter would be produced at the end of March.

NM outlined the discussions with ESCC and the plans for speed monitoring in the spring and possible locations. The Council amended some of the site locations and NM would action the map with ESCC. The monitoring would be take place for one week in the spring and the results fed back to the Council.

*(The meeting was suspended for a short period to get feedback on site locations for the devices.)*

EM thanked DPC on behalf of the school for the funding promise for 2017/18. The school was just waiting back on ESCC for final funding confirmation. The School had raised the required funding from the public and the response had been very successful.

EM reported that DHMH had queried the site of the defibrillator and there may be a need to move it slightly. The Clerk confirmed she would liaise and action accordingly.

68. To consider Planning Applications.

No planning applications were submitted for consideration

Date of next meeting 30th March 2017 Danehill School.

**Meeting closed at 9:40pm**