**DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of public meeting preceding Danehill Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at Danehill Memorial Hall.**

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

Absent: G.Powell (GP) 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:**

Danehill Memorial Hall representatives reported on their next meeting on 10th December. They also requested a presence and / or another representative from the Parish Council to attend.

Russell Skinner spoke of his catapult attack and subsequent follow up from Sussex Police. Tony Lake’s attention to the case was welcomed and it was agreed this increase in rural crime would continue to require focus. Some members of the public acknowledged the budget and employment constraints the Police had to deal with whilst others were deeply frustrated by the response to this and other recent crimes.

Clarification on the correspondence on the tree warden subject was verbally requested and provided by the Chair in response at the meeting.

The meeting closed to the public and the formal meeting commenced at 8pm

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Absent: G.Powell (GP) and M Mockridge (MM).

There were also members of the public present.

Emma Fulham Clerk to the Council was present.

1. To accept apologies and reason for absence.

G.Powell (GP) – work

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 30th October 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 30th October 2019.

RL reported the tennis court work had been completed.

Facebook ownership of the DHPC page was still unknown. In the absence of progress the Clerk would look into another DHPC page or identity to post PC updates on Facebook.

The forest volunteers had agreed to remove the rotten trees on the border of their wood next to Jubillee Wood and this was welcomed. They had also agreed to remove the rhododendrons locally within the wood. The Council would consider this as some members were not in agreement at the current time with this additional work.

The Christmas tree festival contribution from the council was welcomed and RW was thanked for his efforts. The council donation of £10.00 was noted.

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.

Deer safety, named PSCO and the Mid Sussex Local plan were all highlighted amongst the correspondence.

SSALC training was highlighted and the Cllrs due to still attend were noted as ML, MM, TM and GP. **The Clerk would circulate 2020 training dates.**

The objection to the cooper beech plan was noted - **The Council reviewed the possible proposal for the copper beech planting scheme instigated by RW. This would need public consultation and it was agreed that no planting would occur in front of homes and it would be put out to local landowners as a parish initiative not just to concentrate on the recreation ground and a further quote was required and therefore this was deferred to a future meeting.**

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

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

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

1. To approve Payment schedule.

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting. **Payments totalling £23055.07 were unanimously approved.**

1. To consider budget proposal to use reserves for projects in 2020 /21 and to consider a 3% increase in precept to cover inflationary increases in running costs and asset maintenance.

This had been circulated prior to the meeting with a small increase to the precept to cover running costs and some projects outlined but using reserves to cover expenditure.

**The Council agreed with a majority vote (1 abstention) the revised budget and precept request of £98750 and the Clerk would request this from WDC in due course.**

1. To consider movements to ear marked reserves for the 2020 projects.

**The following movements were made after unanimous approval**

**Burial Ground improvements £10,000.**

**Recreation Ground improvements £38,000**

1. To consider expenditure on History Society Cupboard £1704.00

**The Council agreed it needed further information on fireproofing of the archive and would revisit this decision at the next meeting when the history society had confirmed the position on the fireproof boxes. On the matter of the cupboard it was confirmed that the cost for this had been included within the original specification for tenders agreed by the Council and that if the Memorial Hall Committee had agreed to amend tenders and agree other works within the funds allowed for the project then the amount for the cupboard could not be requested a second time.**

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

**A report had been circulated unfortunately a third quote was outstanding and one contractor had quoted against his enhanced scheme meaning a comparison was impossible.**

**The Council agreed to review the specification again with the contractors to ensure the quotes were for the same specification. The Clerk would also chase up a third and possibly fourth quote.**

**There was also no positive confirmation from the memorial hall committee on the query the Council had raised on running the lights from the mains electric from the hall. Substantial solar lights therefore would also be investigated. The item would be brought back to the Council in January to review.**

1. To consider planting scheme on the burial ground (see report)

**The Council after some discussion agreed unanimously to proceed with planting at the top of the slope but would not hedge above the wall at the current time. It was agreed to hedge with native hedging and up to a cost of £2500. It was also agreed to continue to pursue options for regreening the slope including possibly a woodland trust initiative.**

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

**The Council agreed to defer this matter.**

1. To receive update on the Memorial Garden project.

The ground works were complete with planting and other works planned for the spring.

**The Clerk was asked to clarify access arrangements through the church land to the garden.**

1. To consider whether the Council consider a future project to the pavilion on the REC and to hear proposals from the Nursery.

**The Council agreed unanimously to open the meeting for the public to speak.**

The Council heard the nursery proposal and the lack of other options within the parish to house a nursery. The Council was concerned over creating another space within the parish without a purpose and agreed costs and ambitions would need to be revised to make it palatable for the community but the Council did in the main agree a space for a nursery setting was essential for the longer term future of the school and in the absence of a proposal money would still need to be spent to maintain the pavilion.

**The Council agreed unanimously to devise a pared down proposition for the pavilion with basic costings. The following Cllrs would be involved – TB, RL, NMP and ML who would liaise with the nursery, school and sports group and would bring back a firm costed proposal in the new year.**

**The Council agreed unanimously to close the meeting for public involvement and continue with the agenda.**

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

NMP reported on recent financial training from SSALC. He urged Cllrs to attend training to get a more in depth experience of how Councils were managed.

**The Clerk would investigate bespoke training possibly hosted by Danehill.**

NMP reported on his investigation into investment funds and that the low returns and high risks were an unnecessary concern**. It was agreed he would progress an application with the Clerk to Nationwide to host the savings reserves and a decision to move money would be formally undertaken in the new year.**

RW reported on the Chelwood Gate coffee morning on 30th November. The Christmas tree lighting would take place on 30th November at the hall.

The rights of way volunteers had been busy. **The Council confirmed it was happy to agree a donation of £150 for supplies for these volunteers.**

NM reported on the purchase of the second SID, instruction of the ESCC recommended contractor as before and the completion of the relevant licenses. The brackets were briefly discussed and may need to be returned for better hinged ones. NM would revisit the volunteer position with the Cats Protection. The new SID should be in place early in the new year.

RL reported on the grounds improvements and current stage of preparing tenders and agreements for sports clubs with the Clerk.

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

Grounds maintenance tenders.

Sports clubs agreements

Date of next meetings

Planning 11th December 2019 9:30am

Parish Council 15th January 2020 7:30pm

Meeting closed 10:25pm