

DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 27th January at 7.00pm at Wootton Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllr Thomas (Vice Chairman); Cllr Akehurst; Cllr James;
Cllr Roberts; Clerk; Cllr Beaney (KCC & DDC) and 6 members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Thomas welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hodges.

2. COUNCIL - Declarations of Interest:

None were received.

3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

A resident is looking for volunteers and support from the PC to produce documentation to assist with the planning process/planning enforcement due to the concern of incremental erosion of landscape. Proposal was to create a small team to build an inventory of what exists within parish – like geology, plants, agricultural use, wildflowers and buildings. It was agreed that Cllr Hodges and Cllr Thomas will progress this with the resident and include Cllr Beaney.

Planning enforcement issues were discussed at a site that is designated as holiday usage but appears to have a full-term living tenant. The building also appears to have two breaches of the original granted planning permission. Other nuisance issues including a super bright led and quad bikes activity at unsociable hours was also discussed. Cllr Thomas to write to planning enforcement to investigate.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2024

Agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Akehurst, seconded by Cllr James – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (WHICH ARE NOT COVERED IN THIS AGENDA)

None.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

DDC – the fast-track bus service started in Whitfield, Dover in early November with an average usage of 450 passengers a day. Current issues include Tesco's not allowing the bus to use their land to turn round which means passengers have to crossroad to get connecting services. Operation Brock was also discussed and Cllr Beaney is trying to find out why it is in use so frequently (weekly) and there has not been enough communication from Harbour Board/Port Authority as to why it is frequently in place.

KCC – devolution of local government was discussed. KCC have put themselves forward for the fast track and should know the outcome late January. Planned four unitary Authorities in Kent with KCC and District Councils no longer existing. Kent will then become Mayor led.

7. COMMUNITY MATTERS & REPORTS FROM POLICE/PCSO/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Latest newsletter from Kent Police has been circulated to Councillors.

8. PARISH

• Highways

Posters need to be laminated soon now the Clerk has found a printers who can do A2. Cllr Thomas is still organising speed checks in Denton with Kent Police and this will be run after a period of using the banners and posters in both villages.

• Footpaths/Public Rights of Way

Wootton banks have a lot of debris on path and is virtually impassible due to a fallen tree. Cllr Thomas to contact The Estate. Christmas tree field is also impassible due to mud and ruts caused by tractor usage. Cllr Thomas to speak to landowner to see if they can roll the area before it dries out.

• Flooding, Wootton

No updates. Site visit with Cllr Beaney and KCC is now complete and KCC have said they will add onto a planned programme of works but not sure when/if it will get done.

• Village Halls

Wootton Village Hall is financially good with new bookings. They have been using the car park for 5 years and are seeking clarification from DDC if they can still use it following the developments at Deacons.

• Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground

Grant application submitted to PC for discussion/decision at next meeting.

• New Noticeboards for Denton and Wootton

Wootton is now complete. Denton still to be erected so Cllr Thomas will obtain quotations to get this completed.

• PC Files/Storage/Data Retention

This has been completed and all filed have been removed from Denton Village Hall. Old documentation is now at the County archives. There may be some PC Files still in Wotton Village Hall and Cllr James will investigate and sort what needs keeping.

• Village Clean Up Day

Will be held on Saturday 29th March. Clerk to book litter equipment with DDC. Cllr James to ask LHRC if they have any volunteers who can also help on the day.

• Footpath Information Boards for Denton and Wootton

Graphic designer will be appointed to create Information boards for both villages, which will be paid for by a grant from the Government through DDC. The tourist information sign in Denton bad repair which led to Cllr Thomas to meet with DDC who informed of the grants available to encourage use of green spaces. Cllr Thomas will also do some consultation with residents regarding this project on Facebook.

• Quad bikes – Wootton Parkside

Discussed above.

• Holiday Lets

Discussed above.

9. FINANCE

The bank balance as of 27th January 2025 was £25,806.70 (£655.87 in current account and £25,150.83 in savings account)

a. Payments:

£67.00 – Ricky Edwards - INV 18

£150 – Wootton Village Hall – Hall Hire 2024

£1,000 transfer from the savings account to the current account and the above payments were proposed Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Roberts – ALL AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY VICE CHAIRMAN.

The 2025/2024 Precept form was also signed by the Vice Chairman and Clerk. Clerk to return to DDC.

10. PLANNING

a. LHRC

Another consultee meeting took place last week (Thursday). General feeling was that it was more useful than the last meeting. One agreement from the meeting was that o/side meeting needs to happen with DDC noise consultants and LHRC noise consultants to reconcile differences in readings.

b. Deacons/Woodside Development

Planning has now lapsed for the site and individual plots are now being sold. It looks like there will be an umbrella company to oversee individual plot development/site management. S106 money needs to be investigated which the Clerk will investigate. There is no update for Woodside development to date.

c. Local Planning Matters – items of interest/updates

- 24/01009 – Court Cottage, Denton Court, Canterbury Road, Denton - Internal works include: Raise kitchen ceiling incorporating upgrades, Damp treatment and re plastering in specific areas. Remove and insert new first floor bathroom partition, Form opening between ground floor garage and sitting room. NO OBJECTIONS.
- 25/0021 – The Look Out, Laundry Cottage, Shelvin Lane, Wootton - Change of use of ground floor to residential, erection of a two-storey front extension with alterations to doors/windows. NO OBJECTIONS.
- 25/0015 – Land South Of St Mary Magdalane Church, Canterbury Road, Denton - Construction of a car park for 10 cars (retrospective). PC Discussed and decided to OBJECT on access issues.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground grant submission.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:33.

Next meeting: 31st March 2025 at 7pm in Denton Village Hall