

# DENTON with WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES

Of the meeting held on: **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm at Wootton Village Hall**

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas; Cllr Hodges; Cllr James; Cllr Roberts; Cllr Welch; Cllr King (KCC); Clerk and 6 members of the public

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Thomas welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. COUNCIL - Declarations of Interest:

None.

### 3. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TIME

- Issues with driver safety on Shelvin Lane as vehicles right turn onto the A260 was raised. This is detailed in draft HIP for KCC which will be discussed item 8b.
- Deacons' development was raised again. Work has started again and owner is not following the Construction management plan and they are also working weekends. No fencing. Site is mess. Bonfires were occurring which were reported to EH at DDC. Site staff are abusive to residents. Clerk to ring and speak to DDC planning enforcement.

### 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2025 AND AGM HELD ON 18 MAY 2025

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

### 5. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION AND CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Akehurst has resigned and PC thanked him for his dedicated service to the Parish. Vacancy was advertised with DDC. The PC has now co-opted Cllr Colin Welch onto the Council. Cllr Welch again offered thanks to Cllr Akehurst for his service and requested that Ecology become a permanent agenda item under planning.

### 6. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr King (KCC) thanked the meeting for welcoming him. He has now attended his first committee meeting which was for the Local Government reorganisation. A draft with 7 different options of how to break up County is being considered. First draft of proposal will be sent to Central Government by 28<sup>th</sup> November 28<sup>th</sup> 2025. He is also the new Cabinet Member for Development and Coastal Regeneration.

### 7. COMMUNITY MATTERS & REPORTS FROM POLICE/PCSO

Latest newsletter from Kent Police has been circulated to Councillors. Special constables spent about 90 mins carrying out speed watch recently and caught two speeding cars driving towards

Canterbury. They have agreed to do more enforcement a week or two after the PC has put speed banners up.

## **8. PARISH**

### **a. Highways**

The draft HIP was discussed and included Village signs, Speeding traffic, horse riders reported concerns with speed, potential 20mph limit change through Wootton and moving the current 30 mph limit to extend past Deacon's site. Cllr Thomas to put a draft on Facebook for comments before the document is formalised and sent to KCC Highways.

The Wootton Village welcome signs was discussed and this is still with Kent Downs.

### **b. Footpaths/Public Rights of Way**

None.

### **c. Village Halls & Wootton and Denton Recreation Ground**

Wootton village hall is well into its wedding season and finances are good. Complaints of noise from Lydden Hill Race Circuit during weddings was raised. Jill Hogben's memorial garden has been opened with plaque on wall.

Wootton and Denton Recreation ground gave an update on events with the open bars doing well. Still waiting for contractor to carry out car parking improvement.

## **9. FINANCE**

The bank balance as of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 was £26,100.82 (£137.37 in current account and £26,100.82 in savings account)

### **a. Receipts:**

Unity Trust – Credit Interest - £157.43

#### **Payments:**

Unity Trust – Service Charge (May & June) - £12

Hugo Fox – Website Charge (June & July) - £23.98

Ionis – Email Charge (June & July) - £8.40

Stephanie Woods – Salary (May, June & July)

ICO (DD) – Annual Membership - £47.00

Ricky Edwards - £71

Allyn Thomas – Cllr Akehurst Leaving Gift - £40

A £2,000 transfer from the savings account to the current account and the above payments were proposed Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Hodges – ALL AGREED.

### **b. Financial Regulations**

The new Regulations have been circulated and amendments discussed. Cllr Hodges proposed that the PC adopt the new Regulations which was seconded by Cllr James. ALL AGREED.

## **10. PLANNING**

### **a. LHRC**

Meeting scheduled for next week but no agenda for meeting has been circulated. WEPG keen for consultative committee to work and be constructive. Traffic management was discussed and Cllr Beaney has already sent the video of the events in November 2024 to KCC Highways. Cllr James read out letter from a resident who is experienced in traffic management. KCC Highways have spoken to LHRC and hopefully will be better at this year's event. Cllr James will forward letter

onto KCC on residents' behalf and resend all background information to KCC Cllr King for progression with KCC.

**b. Deacons/Woodside Development**

Discussed above in item 3.

**c. Environmental Monitoring – Now Ecology Monitoring**

Cllr Welch is delighted to be on PC and recognises his duties outside of this project. Looking to produce a planning variance notice by community audit of what exists today in Parish based on a software platform and people will feed into it. Cllr Welch requested an accurate boundary map and Clerk to speak to DDC to see if this is available. Ramblers volunteer details to be given by Clerk to Cllr Welch for her possible involvement in the project.

**d. Local Planning Matters**

Applications 25/00722 and 25/00723 were discussed and it was agreed to Support with no further comments.

**e. Holiday Lets**

DDC Planning Enforcement was written to about the above in February and then May and this is still currently under investigation. Clerk to speak to DDC Planning enforcement to see if there is any update.

**11.ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.**

- Six month Finance Review
- Meeting Dates for 2026

**12.CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:18.

**Next meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm in Denton Village Hall**