

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 4 October 2016 at 7.30pm.

**1. Present and apologies:**

B Merriman (chair)  
G Akhurst  
H Densham  
R Little  
G Smith

KCC member Steve Manion  
14 Members of the public

Apologies: A Calthorpe  
DDC Member Nick Kenton

- 2. Approval of the September 12 minutes:** Subject to a change to the seconder in item 5 to Cllr Calthorpe the minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Smith and all members voted in favour and they were signed by the chair.
- 3. Declarations of interest:** None.
- 4. Matters arising from September 6th and 12th September:** The litter pick was very successful with 18 volunteers turning out collecting 40 large bags of rubbish across 96% of roads in the parish. This is likely to result in further such activities. Regarding the spoil on Downs Road Cllr Merriman is still chasing Robin Gregory from KCC for a substantive response. Cllr Manion reported that Mr Gregory had replied yesterday to say at the moment it is not clear whether the land is owned by KCC and suggests a round table meeting to help resolve the spoil issue once ownership has been established as different enforcement options may be available. Apple Day was a success and apples were evident at this evening's meeting. A response regarding bollards from Highways has been received saying although they installed them they no longer have the funds to replace them unless they are on dangerous corners, around ponds etc. Mrs Sue Smith will be starting as Parish Clerk from 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- 5. Visitors:** various comments were made regarding land on Stoneheap Road which has been cleared. The Chairman pointed out that no planning permission had been given for any development here. It was noted that the 30 mph sign from Northbourne into Stoneheap Road was covered in vegetation. The soakaway before Gaddestone on private land is blocked. Cllr Manion updated the meeting on the incorporation of a leisure centre into the Whitfield development and the merger of DDC into a "superdistrict" with four other councils. He also explained the principle of free school buses to the nearest school.

**6. Engaging the Community:** To be put on the agenda for November.

**7. To approve the payment schedule for October:**

Clerks Wage July	£333.43
Clerks Wage September	£333.43
Litter pick expenses Claire Inglin	£14.25
CPRE membership	£36
D Stokes (Evergreen) September	£193

Reissue new cheque to Mr D Stokes (Evergreen) £593 July and August) as Bank would not accept original cheque as it was made out to Evergreen.

Approval of the above payments were proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Little and all voted in favour.

September reconciliation (current account £9474.51 and reserve £16,573.94) proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Little with all in favour of accepting the reconciliation.

Funding petrol costs for new clerk to attend website training was proposed by Cllr Little and seconded by Cllr Merriman – all voted in favour.

**8. Planning:**

*DOV/16/00679*

*Lynwood, Roman Road, Maydensole*

*Erection of a side garage extension and single storey rear extension (existing rear extension and porch to be demolished)*

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Akhurst seconded and all voted in favour of the motion that this application be fully supported so long as the roof line is no higher than the existing roofline.

It was noted that the application for development at Outrigger had been approved on appeal to the Secretary of State although refused by DDC.

It was noted that the demolition of existing and construction of two new properties at Canton had been refused permission by DDC.

**9. Allotments Memorial Garden, Playing Field and BMX track.**

Revised allotment agreement draft for approval. Certain elements of the draft were discussed and Cllr Akhurst was asked to provide a redraft for consideration at the November meeting.

**10. Annual Maintenance Report on physical assets**

Cllr Merriman reminded the meeting that the counsel should consider keeping its assets in a reasonable state of repair. A list was drawn up and at the September meeting it was agreed that Mr Stokes be asked to provide a quote for works in this respect. The total for 14 separate lots of work was £255. Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Little and all voted in favour that Mr Stokes go ahead with those works.

### **11. Speeding and Traffic Issues**

A traffic mirror on Strakers Hill was discussed. Cllr Manion said the current policy was that mirrors added rather than removed danger. Cllr Manion suggested the Council contacted Richard Heaps of Highways who could provide advice regarding the visibility issue on Strakers Hill.

As regards a traffic survey Cllr Manion explained that each Rumble Strip Survey would cost £750. The Council felt that baseline surveys on the main routes through the Parish should be considered and Cllr Merriman agreed to write to Richard Heaps at KCC, whom Cllr Manion indicated to be the correct person, with a view to arranging a meeting to consider the matter further and it was to be included on the agenda for November.

### **12. Cleaning of the village, street and traffic signs, cutting back vegetation and gully/drain cleansing :**

After some debate it was decided to discuss the matter further next month.

### **13. Correspondance**

Mr Norris emailed asking whether the Council was planning on doing anything about the unpleasant smelling fertilizer being put on fields. Cllr Akhurst explained that the farmer had indicated it was organic nutri-sludge from FGS organics and that DDC on its website anticipated and indeed encouraged this kind of use of organic fertilizer including Sewage sludge. Cllr Akhurst agreed to update Norris.

A Highways and Transportation survey was to be emailed to Councillors for their comments prior to the November meeting. Louise Smith from KCC has said she is willing to meet in the day time to discuss "landowners with flood issues" and options for run-off plans. Cllr Little agreed to meet with Ms Smith.

The Kent local transport plan was mentioned with no comments from Councillors.

A letter has been received from Mr Hogben asking if he could be considered for the Councillor vacancy. This was to be placed on the November agenda.

Willow Road to be closed for two days 20-21 October.

### **14. Any other business/matters to discuss:**

Cllr Merriman indicated the annual return had been received from the external auditors with a clean audit report. This would be put onto the website. Cllr Little thanked Cllr Akhurst for supplying the Ray Odell memorial walnut tree. Cllr Akhurst updated the meeting on "current year spend" in light of comments at previous meetings. Taking into account all approved payments for the 7 months from and including April and tonight's meeting spend was a little under £5000 as against a precept and grant from DDC of a little over £10,000. He further noted that spend with Evergreen for grass cutting which was the Council's second largest commitment was typically much lower in the winter months. Consequently spending appeared to be in hand and within precept.

### **15. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 1 November at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 9.16pm.

Signed:  
Graeme Akhurst  
Vice Chair  
1st November 2016  
Signed paper copy on file with Clerk.