

DOWN AMPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT DOWN AMPNEY VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2020, 7.30PM

Present : Cllrs Jenkins (RJ), Higson (AH), Bellamy (LB), Matthews (AM) and Dangerfield (KD); Cllr Spivey – CDC; Cllr Parsons - GCC (SP); Clerk – Gail Dillon. 2 members of public inc P Fryer Ward (PFW) (re information boards).

Apologies : Cllr Tappern (GT) and Cope (GC).

	Action
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting: These were circulated and approved by the meeting.</p> <p>Matter arising from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green waste follow up – see below• Information boards – see below• Tree planting – LB advised volunteers are needed to help dig trenches for the planting of the trees which have now been delivered.• Hedgecutting – clerk to follow up with Alasdair as RJ has been unable to. Unlikely works can be carried out until June now due to nesting.• Repair to pillar – see below	<p>Cllr Bellamy</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>3. GCC Report RJ reported there has been correspondence with Richard Grey (RG) regarding the damage to the grass verge on the village green, caused by the developers of the two new properties. RG has proposed a 50/50 split of the cost of the repair work with DAPC. However everyone feels this is not acceptable as it is the developer's responsibility to 'make the site good'. The developers have also not actually completed their work on the site to comply with the planning conditions. RJ has written to Mike Napper at CDC Planning regarding the matter. RJ will continue to pursue this matter and LS agreed to follow up with Mike Napper.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of heavy vehicles going down Church Lane and backing onto and damaging verges to turn around causing further damage. SP advised Highways need evidence (e.g. photos, registration numbers and details of vehicles, etc) to be able to take action.</p> <p>SP also advised the road through Meysey Hampton would be resurfaced over the next couple of weeks. All welcomed this news.</p>	<p>Cllr Jenkins/Spivey</p>
<p>4. CDC Report See Appendix C</p> <p>LS reported that the new recycling receptacles have now been delivered to properties. All noted they were surprised at the size of the blue cardboard bag as it was expected this was going to be bigger than the</p>	

<p>previous blue bag. It is wider though so this should aid putting materials into the bag without it tearing. LB enquired what the bags are made of and where they are made – LS agreed to find out.</p> <p>RJ raised the PC’s disappointment at the outcome of the recent planning applications for the change to a fence on the boundary of No55 DA and of the refusal to change the affordable housing proportion on the Broadway Farm development. Ref No 55 – LS clarified that her position had always been that the wall which was part of the original planning conditions should be upheld and therefore refused for it to be changed by a non-material amendment thus forcing the builder to submit a formal planning application to change this to a fence. However on canvassing numerous opinions in the planning department and committee it was concluded that it was extremely difficult not to allow this change under current planning and NPPF laws.</p>	<p>Cllr Spivey</p>
<p>5. Chairmans Report See Appendix A.</p>	
<p>6. Planning See Appendix B Brambles – LS confirmed the ancillary part over the garage has been removed from the plans.</p>	
<p>7. Finance Report The current finance report was distributed. There is a surplus for the year to date of £6,355 but there are many expected costs in the coming months which have been delayed for a variety of reasons. The donation to the churchyard extension which was approved over 2 years ago has now been paid to All Saints Church as the works are now being planned in. £28,808 is held in the bank accounts.</p>	
<p>8. Village Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways: nothing to report. • Flooding: recent wet weather has caused flooding in the village in 2 areas of the High Street and behind the Pheasantry. Highways were informed but there was a feeling that as Down Ampney Brook was completely overwhelmed and all the surrounding meadows were under water that there was just nowhere for the rain to go. RJ has suggested the PC appoints a flood warden. LB has volunteered and has already been in touch with CDC on the matter. No specific training is available but there CDC flooding representative will be meeting with her. SP is unsure if there is an equivalent at GCC but will check and advise. It was agreed that a plan needs to be put in place for future flooding. Lawrence King at CDC is very involved in flooding matters and can potentially enforce on landowners their responsibilities for clearing ditches etc. RJ advised he has met with the Co-op and their agents and have advised them of the 	<p>Cllr Parsons</p>

<p>too harsh however PFW advised that the other suggested colours would blend in too much with the rest of the design and it was agreed the logo should stand out. It needs to be confirmed who will be doing the printing of the boards, what size they are to be (it is believed to be A0) and whether there is any covering to protect the board from weathering) AH to follow up these points with GC.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to add The Old Vicarage to the map as it was the birthplace of Ralph Vaughan Williams. AM will check with the current owners whether they are comfortable with this but all agreed it is a good option.</p> <p>The shop/hall should also be added to the map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VE Day: LB suggested something should be arranged to celebrate the date and could perhaps involve the school. It was agreed this was a good idea. SP may be able to obtain some funding for this. 	<p>Cllr Higson/ Cope</p> <p>Cllr Matthews</p> <p>PFW</p> <p>Cllr Bellamy/ Parsons</p>
<p>9. Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RJ advised he had been informed that Sanctuary Group are intending to start facilitating works on the Broadway Farm site in May and that building work will roll on from that. • AH advised she has been given 2 x fly-tipping signs to display at appropriate points around the village. These should be moved on a regular basis to different sites to expand awareness. RJ asked that LS pass on the PC's thanks to Kevin Lea of CDC who has been very proactive and provided a lot of assistance for us to combat fly-tipping. • Village litter pick – AM advised he had received confirmation that all equipment will be available for the litter pick on Sunday 5th April. He will arrange collection and return of the equipment to CDC. • There has been a query as to whether the Telephone Box committee need to get planning permission to do anything to it. This is not thought to be the case but LS will double check. • RJ advised that Anne Jenkins has now completed the production of a village information sheet and has had 20 copies printed with a view to them being delivered to new residents when they move into the village. AH requested that the PC receive an electronic version if possible. 	<p>Cllr Jenkins</p>
<p>10. Meetings/Training Attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to monthly PC meetings: Although some were in favour of this option, not all are. RJ, as chair, advised that there should not be a change to monthly meeting but that instead if sub-committees felt the need to meet in between the full council meetings that this process should be adopted instead. • AH advised that a meeting had now been held with Plunketts regarding the future of the village shop and discussions were ongoing. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RJ advised that a productive meeting had been held with representatives from the Co-op and Savills, the agents and a list of works required around the village had been agreed. This includes work to repair the damaged pillar in Church Lane. • KD advised she has been asked whether another surgery will be held and it was agreed this should be arranged. 	
<p>The meeting closed at 9.00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting, which will also be the AGM, will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7.30pm in the Wynne Room. 	

DRAFT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

APPENDIX A

A meeting has been held with Charlotte Barton, (the Savills appointed agent for the Co-op) to discuss matters of merit concerning their retained landholding at Down Ampney. Items included:

- 1) Condition of retained farmland around DA where land was allowed to go to waste rather than be farmed / grazed. It was agreed that action would be taken to find a suitable tenant for these areas.
- 2) The condition of empty cottages requires attention. It was agreed that garden and hedge maintenance would be carried out from time to time. All properties were sub-standard to allow future letting and are to be sold eventually.
- 3) Drainage issues. Arrangements were made for Charlotte to meet with the Highways Manager so that they could discuss the need for the Co-op to carry out drain clearance. This also included the ditch adjacent to the Community Garden.
- 4) Planning issues were discussed and, whilst Savills are not to be involved in any planning applications, your chairman made it plain that it was essential to enter into dialogue with the PC before applications may go in. This message would be passed to Rob Bignold, head of property.
- 5) Issues at the Duke's Field was discussed, including the H & S survey of trees of the copse, but primarily, the cutting of trees and shrubs and state of the gravelled track leading to the footpath and garages. Charlotte was to ascertain rights and responsibilities in respect of this matter.
- 6) WE discussed the spare piece of land adjacent to The Old Estate Yard that has been abandoned. Chairman requested that this too must be maintained rather than lie idle.

Bromfords have made inroads into repairing the drainage in Broadleaze and we await a conclusion to provide evidence that flooding will not happen their again.

With the recent storms it is highly apparent that DA will be subject to potential flooding. The Ampney Brook was at full capacity overflowing into fields and failing to take surface water from the roads.

The need to identify and clean any ditches has already been made and we shall seek support from Highways Agency, Farmcare and the Co-op to ensure that all ditches, culverts and drains are clear.

However. It is more than apparent that the climate is changing. Many towns and villages reaped the wrath of recent storms and we were very lucky to have got away with local road flooding. There is also no defence for idiots charging through standing water to wash water into the front of properties!

Whilst this is of no comfort to those who feared having water come into their houses, we need to be more prepared to act quickly should the climate deteriorate further and that flooding becomes an issue.

This more so if we are to fend off large scale developments that will produce greater runoff.

It has been disappointing that the police have failed to carry out speed checks in the village so far.

Cllr Ray Jenkins

APPENDIX B

Planning (Agenda item 6):-

1/. 20/00651/FUL | Single storey rear and side extension | 29 Linden Lea Down.

I've quickly looked at the application and will go and see the neighbours (who are on circulation list) to see what they think.

2/. 19/04378/FUL. Erection of boundary fence (retrospective). Acorn House 55B Down Ampney.

In spite of objections from the Parish Council and other villagers this application was permitted. Note the comment in "Recommendations". "The planning system allows for retrospective applications for amendments to permitted schemes and each will be assessed on its planning merits in accordance with relevant planning policies. Any references to the cost of the development is not material planning consideration".

Note that even having a Neighbourhood Plan would not make any difference to this decision.

Note that the developer was prepared to build the houses as per the approved application.

This must be considered the base line. If the developer puts forward an amendment to improve the property or enhance then should be considered. But if it is to degrade the original application merely to save cost then must be refused.

3). 19/03280/FUL. Alterations and extensions to dwelling. Cranleigh Church Lane. Down Ampney.

Refused and no new modification to proposal is on the CDC web site. The parish council has offered to meet with the developer to discuss the design.

4). 19/03065/FUL. Erection of 3 bedroomed dwelling and detached double garage with ancillary living accommodation above. The Yard at rear of the Brambles.

No further news.

5/. 19/02916/FUL. Variation of condition 2 of 17/03826/REM. Reduce affordable homes from 50% to 40% at Broadway Farm development.

This application was supported by the Parish Council. In spite of agreement between the developer and Parish Council this application was refused by CDC. **Could a build schedule be obtained from Sanctuary please.**

6). 24A Down Ampney Road. Query raised by Gareth Cope.

Councillor Lisa Spivey raised the comments made by Gareth with CDC Planning. Ben Bendall visited the site and is satisfied that the work being carried out were within permitted development rules.

Neighbourhood Plan (In agenda item 8):-

Objectives fixed and now working on policies. There will be a Skype discussion with Liz Beth (our NP consultant) on March 13th to look at and advise on progress to date. To help obtain information for the Housing Section there will be a meeting at CDC with Strategic Housing Dept on March 20th. Also plan to include update on the review of the CDC Local Plan. There will be a presentation (walk in day) in the village hall on Saturday 28th March.

For the presentation event six display boards (A0) size are required. Free standing or table top mounted. Does anybody have access or know where they can be borrowed. Becoming urgent now.

I have had no "offers" ref borrowing display boards and am looking at buying six. Would like to split cost between Parish Council Budget, and Neighbourhood Plan budgets. Cost inc. VAT is about £75 each. There is no budget line in the Neighbourhood Plan costing and will have

to come from reserve. Surprised that the Parish Council does not have any. Please discuss at meeting.

Cllr Tappern
02.03.2020

DRAFT

Since we last met, there has, as always, been much work happening at the District Council offices.

January's Full Council meeting saw:

1. A cross party commitment to support positive mental health in our community, proactively listen to those who need help and prevent discrimination on the grounds of mental health.
2. A pledge to work in partnership with the Police and Domestic Abuse services to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms across the District with a particularly moving presentation by Nick Gazzard of the Hollie Gazzard Trust
3. A continuation to the commitment to open up public access to your local democracy by holding Council Meetings in the afternoons and evenings
4. Support for the feasibility study for the re-opening of a railway connection between Kemble and Cirencester

Cabinet in February saw:

1. A demand to improve the council's building control service after poor results in Q3
2. The rejection of the Government's consultation on the Future Homes Strategy as insufficient and inadequate
3. Funds allocated to upgrade the vehicle testing equipment at the waste depot to reduce cost and unnecessary travel
4. Plans approved for cashless car parking machines, making them easier to use
5. The administration's budget recommended to Council

And last week at Full Council, that budget was passed, securing the future of this Council and beginning the work to deliver on the priorities identified in the current corporate strategy.

Perhaps the most pressing issue at the moment is the outbreak of Coronavirus in the Cotswolds.

Coronavirus

This report may well be out of date by the time we meet, but I am sure you will have heard of the cases in Tetbury and are aware of the school closure. The school is undergoing a deep clean and plans to reopen on Wednesday.

This is an issue which may affect many of us over the coming weeks and months. The Council and its Members are being regularly advised by Public Health England and County Council as the leads on Public Health. We are receiving regular updates and current advice is to take reasonable precautions and remain calm. Please avoid stockpiling supplies, but make sure if you do need to self-isolate, that you have enough essentials for 2 weeks.

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Joe Harris, sent out the following statement today:

“Cotswold District Council is working closely with our partners at Public Health England and the County Council to safeguard the health of residents here in the district and I am confident that our tried and tested plans for dealing with emergencies mean that everything that can be done is happening.

“I’d like to ask for the support of everyone here in the Cotswolds in making sure everyone does their bit to help. Together we can make sure that everyone knows the importance of good hygiene – regular hand washing and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough - as well as where to go for the most up-to-date advice.

“If you have recently been to one of the [affected areas](#) and have symptoms including a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, you should phone the NHS 111 helpline for further advice straight away – please don’t go to your doctor or a hospital.”

The situation is fast-moving and members of the public can find the latest information online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

In other areas, there are the following updates:

Cirencester Car parking

Work at the Rugby club carpark has begun and should be operational in the Spring. A planning application for the Waterloo carpark will be submitted in the next couple of months and the carpark is undergoing a full review to make sure that it is in line with the carbon neutral building standards passed at November’s Council and delivers on the strategic objectives previously identified. I can confirm that, despite rumours to the contrary, there is still a commitment to the delivery of this carpark. The Old Memorial Hospital site should be ready in the next few weeks.

Waste Service

The new waste service goes live on the 18th March. You should have received your new grey food bins and the blue bags for cardboard. If you haven’t received yours by the 6th March, please get in contact with the Council.

The council website has a list of FAQs and good, informative videos, but do let me know if you have any questions.

Flooding

There was a flood meeting chaired by our MP, Geoffrey Clifton Brown held on the 7th February. It was attended by the Environment Agency, Thames Water, County Council, Highways, FWAG/WILD and CDC.

It was clear that whilst much work has been done by both TW and the EA, there is still much to do and that in certain areas the problems are on the rise. I was especially concerned to hear that when the system is under pressure, TW are allowed to discharge sewage into the watercourses.

The weather patterns we have experienced this winter show that with increased frequency we are under more and more pressure and threat from flooding, as has been noted in this village in the last few weeks. My particular concern is that the speed of remedial works and flood resilience strategies and their implementation are simply not quick enough. Whilst we are not at the danger levels of neighbouring towns and areas directly on rivers, we are not far from it and it would be a real pity for the situation to get to that point when correct remedial action now could mitigate it.

In this village there is an long standing issue in Broadleaze which Ray is spearheading action on and I hope that we will see a solution to that problem in the coming months and I know that flooding will be addressed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan as per Geoff's notes.

Fly Tipping, Speeding and Dog Fouling

You may have seen that the Council has had a couple of successful fly-tipping prosecutions and has in general, been very proactive in tackling fly-tipping as I know you have experienced. I have to say that I am very impressed by the ERS team who despite being a small unit are working very effectively across this large District. They have created some signage which they hope will help to discourage these anti-social practices which they are entrusting to local residents to administer. Thank you Ann!

It will be interesting to see whether this makes any difference to behaviours.

This is, of course, just an overview of what is happening at your Council, if you have specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best wishes,

Lisa

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