

Downley Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
Held in the Downley Memorial Hall 13th November 2018 at 19.45

1 Attendance

Chairman Cllr C Burslem, Cllr Bowden, Cllr Chandarana, Cllr Lazenby Cllr Monroe-West, Cllr P Loadman, Cllr Sapsford, Cllr W Steneskog

Wycombe District Councillor –Paul Turner

Apologies – Cllr Egmores, Cllr Srao

Six members of the public were present

2) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda (7837/11/18)

Cllr Burslem declared an interest in planning items 12 Woodcote Green and 100 Southfield Rd.

3) Minutes of the Previous meeting (7838/11/18)

The October minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman

4) Adjournment for Public Questions (7839/11/18)

Two representatives from the Guide and Scout Centre attended the meeting to update the Council on the long-term plans for the Centre. The aim is to redevelop the Centre to make best use of the space. The outdoor sheds will be removed and replaced with one storage unit. Funding streams are currently being looked into by the Committee. The Parish Council have offered assistance with funding applications and suggested local grants that could be applied for.

A member of the public raised the subject of speeding on Middlebrook Rd. The Parish Council recognises that Middlebrook Rd is a speeding hotspot and have been collecting data that will evidence this. The data will be shared with the Police. The Parish Council have requested a speed watch operation on Middlebrook Rd. The Council thanked the member of public for his efforts in maintaining the MVAS on Middlebrook Rd and invited him to the next Traffic working party meeting.

Street lights were discussed. Every light that is out in the Village has been reported, Parish owned lights are being fixed regularly by a sub-contractor. Some lights have been out longer than others due to parts being obsolete. The changeover to LED lights was discussed., this is a work in progress, but all lights will eventually be LED.

It was noted that a member of the public suggested that the SID device on Commonside is not in the most suitable location, this feedback will be passed onto the Traffic working party. Speed awareness signage was also discussed, the Clerk will look into additional signage for roads in the Village that are known to be speeding hotspots.

5) Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor (7840/11/18)

Cllr Turner –

- The Brunel Shed is now subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order, this is positive news for the town.
- A contract has been signed to build a 1500 hotel at the Handy Cross site.
- WDC are in talks to purchase the premises in the town that used to be Octagon Books.
- Cllr Turner gave an update on the Unitary decision, the full impact of this is yet unknown, meetings are currently taking place to work through the implications of the decisions. Cllr Turner will keep the Parish Council updated on any decisions.

6) Budget 2019/2020 discussion (7841/11/18)

A draft budget was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The following questions were raised by Councillors –

- Who would authorise the Clerks pay increases? - the Clerks pay is stipulated at a national level by NALC and they advise when incremental rises are due, year 2019/2020 a 3% increase has been recommended.
- Why are the Allotment figures showing a subsidy to be made up by the Parish Council? The Clerk confirmed that this was correct, and the allotments are not yet self-sufficient.

The budget was agreed in principle however discussions later on in the meeting under agenda item 9, Private security in the Village, prompted Councillors to place the budget decision on hold until the December meeting.

See attachment for full budget

7) CO-OP recent Concerns (7842/11/18)

The Police had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the recent Crimes at the Co-op, they were unfortunately unable to attend. The Clerk will speak to them outside of the meeting for an update.

8) Ward Budget discussion (7843/11/18)

The Clerk will be making an application for ward budget funds in December. Councillors were asked to send any suggestions for funding to the Clerk.

9) Private Security in the Village (7844/11/18)

The Council discussed the prospect of hiring private security guards to patrol the Village. This would be done with a view to reporting any crimes to the Police as they happen and they would hopefully act as a deterrent to drug dealing and anti-social behavior.

The Council decided that this was worth exploring further. The Clerk will contact Writtle Parish Council who are a similar size to Downley and who have recently had a successful trial of Private security in their Village. The Clerk will find out the process they used and obtain some quotes.

This could have an impact on the budget if the Council resolve to trial the security in the Village, it was decided that a previous decision to agree the budget would be placed on hold until the December meeting.

10) Unitary Council Discussion (7845/11/18)

The Secretary of State announced on the 1st November that he was proposing a single Unitary Council for Buckinghamshire. This would be a replacement of the current five existing Councils across Buckinghamshire.

There is no information available yet on how this will work. The Clerk will circulate any information received. Cllr Burslem will continue to represent Parish Councils via BALC at any upcoming meetings.

11) Planning Applications (7846/11/18)

A) 18/07813/FUL - 20 Kestrel Close - Householder application for a part two storey side and single storey rear extension incorporating a raised rear terrace with storage under. Construction of front porch. Creation of additional off-street parking to front- No concerns from DPC.

B) 18/07583/FUL - Shelana, Jubilee Road - Householder application for erection of single storey side extension – No concerns from DPC.

C) 18/07850/FUL - 12 Woodcote Green- Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension- No concerns from DPC

D) 18/07423/FUL - 100 Southfield Road - Householder application for construction of part ground floor, part lower ground floor side and rear extension- Objection from DPC, It is noted that this is a large extension that, when taking into account the new lower ground floor, almost doubles the existing ground floor/external space. The impact of this is lessened, however given the sloping nature of the plot and that the extension will not be ostensibly visible from street scene. It is not clear from the plans submitted how the parking is proposed to support the new accommodation.

E) 18/07524/FUL – 26 The Pastures - Householder application for construction of part two storey, part single storey rear extension, part first floor side extension following –

demolition of existing conservatory and single storey front extension to form porch- DPC remain neutral on this application but support the neighbours concerns.

F) 18/07538/FUL - Downley Lodge Plomer Green Lane - Householder application for reconfiguration of front entrance gates to improved visibility by removing part of the front entrance wall- Objection from DPC - A previous planning application for the same property (17/06516/FUL) was rejected, with the decision being upheld on appeal, citing poor visibility splays that left it unsuitable for a road with a 60mph limit. The splays have been improved with this proposal, but still fail to meet national standards. Furthermore, prior to installation of these gates (Mar 2016) the original entrance was smaller and more discrete. The current and proposed entrance is excessively large, representing an unsuitable suburbanisation of Downley Conservation area. The proposed designs reflect what the Chilterns Conservation Board "Buildings Design Guide" refer to as an unfortunate trend of the dominant & large driveways

G) 18/07656/CTREE - 37 Commonside - - Fell 1 x Holly (T1), crown lift to a height of 3-4m & trim back as far as possible to 1 x Conifer Tree (T2), cut overhang back to boundary to 1 x Holly (T3) & crown thin by 15% and lift to 3m to 1 x Box Elder (T4)- Object - There are insufficient details presented online to allow Downley Parish Council to draw an opinion on this application. Until there is clarity to the scope of the works, this application should not be allowed to proceed.

Decision notices

H)Ref. No: 18/07324/CTREE -The Cottage Downley Common- Fell 3 x Hawthorns & 2 x Elder trees - Status: Not to make a Tree Preservation Order

I)Ref. No: 18/07294/TPO - Twin Firs Downley Common - Crown lift to a height of 10m to 2 x Fir Trees (T1 & T2) - Status: Split decision TPO Application

J)Ref. No: 18/07292/CTREE - Twin Firs Downley Common - Fell and grind stump to 2 x Juniper (T3 & T7), 1 x Dead Conifer Tree (T4), 1 x Thuja (T6) and but back 2m from the fence and 2m height to 1 x Laurel trees (G1) - Status: Not to make a Tree Preservation Order

K)Ref. No: 18/07271/FUL - 22 School Close - Householder application for construction of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension - Status: Application Permitted

L)Ref. No: 18/07144/CLP - 40 Plomer Green Lane- Certificate of lawfulness for proposed construction of rear dormer window in connection with loft conversion - Status: Grant Certificate - Proposed Development

M)Ref. No: 18/07118/FUL - 19 Lyndhurst Close - Householder application for construction of first floor side & front extensions with associated raising of roof, removal of existing dormer window to front and alterations to doors/fenestration. Creation of new forecourt parking to front with associated cross-over and extension of existing dropped kerb and alterations to rear garden steps - Status: Application Permitted

N)Ref. No: 18/07026/FUL - Spinney Cottage Downley Common - Householder application for the erection of a single storey rear extension with associated retaining wall and steps - Status: Application Permitted

O)Ref. No: 18/06900/FUL - Tamarisk School Close - Householder application for construction of part single storey, part two storey front/side extension - Status: Application Permitted

12) Correspondence (7847/11/18)

- Bucks County Council have been awarded a grant to install electric car charging points for residents that do not have off street parking. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any suggested locations.
- The Council have been asked to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant. The Council would like more information about the Covenant, the Clerk will agenda this item at a later date if is of interest to the Council.
- A member of the public contacted the Clerk regarding a recent planning application for 2 Grays Lane. There was an issue regarding a concrete hard standing that was created in place of a front garden, this was not part of the original application. The matter has been reported to WDC who have decided not to take any action.
- WDC have circulated details of a Total Tree Management program for Councils. More details to follow.
- Numerous courses are being offered by BALC, details have been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk suggests that every Councillor attends a Chairmanship skill training course.

13) Reports from other Committees (7848/11/18)

There was a Traffic Working Party meeting in October, the Clerk gave an overview of the meeting, the minutes will be going on the DPC website.

15) Resolutions and Items for Discussion (7849/11/18)

None

16 Accounts (7850/11/18)

Please find items set out below for payment by the Council.

Items were approved in November 2018

DWMH - November hall hire Parish meeting	1690	15.00
C Knapman - SID/Litter picking expenses	1691	21.79
Excel office supplies - Stationary inc ink, envelopes, notice board items.	1692	113.81
BALC- Councillor training X 4	1693	153.28
Chiltern Society- Path clearance	1694	211.12
Chiltern dial a ride - grant	1695	250.00
Kingsbeach Ltd- spare batteries for MVAS	1696	337.50
TBS Hygiene Ltd - Dog waste collection Sept & Oct	1697	374.40
Vizone- Litter picking May -Oct	1698	466.00
Guide and Scout Centre - grant	1699	500.00
Adams Park security Bonfire night security	Cancelled	0.00
C Masters-Clerks salary & expenses	1701	1,549.65
KAD Garden Services- Grass maintenance, fly tip clearing, skip charge, bollards	1702	2,259.00
Wycombe Wanderers Football Club	1703	1,200.00
Marlow First Management	1704	30.00
Total		<u>7,481.55</u>

Bank balance 1st November 2018 - £ 159,406.47

Councillor Monroe-West raised a concern about the grant for the Guide and Scout Centre, there was a question over whether the resolution was passed at the October meeting to grant the money to the Guide and Scouts, it was agreed at the November meeting that the resolution will stand and the cheque was signed.

17) Date of Next Meeting- (7851/11/18)

11th December 2018 at the Downley Community Centre

18) Date and Place of Next Meetings of Committees (7852/11/18)

DOSCA – 20th November 2018

19 Closure of the Meeting (7853/11/18)

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman _____

Date _____