

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Downley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 7:30 pm**

Present: Councillors M Lazenby (Chairman presiding), K Ahmed, S Biggs, P Brooks, A Lenard, A Mann, W Monroe-West, T Snaith & W Steneskog
In Attendance: Buckinghamshire Councillor M Smith and one member of the Public Officers: G Tandy (Clerk)

Those present observed a minutes silence in memory of Councillor Richard Bowden

1) Apologies for Absence (8409/10/21)

Apologies were received from, Councillor Chandarana also Buckinghamshire Councillors Hussain & Turner. For the benefit of the assembly the Council introduced themselves.

2) Declarations of Interest (8410/10/21)

There were none.

3) Minutes (8410/10/21)

It was **RESOLVED** that the **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021 be received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.**

4) Public Participation (8411/10/21)

A resident requested an update on Speedwatch & on what the Parish Council was doing on Climate change. It was explained that Climate Change would be discussed as agenda item 10. The latest SID data was posted on the Parish Facebook page. This covered Pheasant Drive downhill & Commonsides going east. The data wasn't as dramatic as it has been. SIDS have now been moved to Plomer Hill & Littleworth Road. Progress continues with Speedwatch and Councillor Lenard is due to meet with the Police. It was agreed that the Downley Parish Speedwatch would coordinate with DARS.

5) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors (8411/10/21)

Buckinghamshire Councillors Hussain, Smith & Turner had each provided written reports. There followed a discussion around the proposed doctor's surgery. This was inconclusive & it was agreed that it would be of benefit if Dr Gallagher was able to attend & answer questions at a future Council meeting.

6) Comments on Planning Applications (8412/10/21)

Comments on planning applications as set out in appendix a) of the agenda were noted.

7) Decision Notices (8413/10/21)

The Decision notices made by Buckinghamshire Council in respect of the Planning Applications as set out in appendix b) were noted

8) Lighting Update (8414/10/21)

The Clerk had not received a progress report from the Contractor but was aware that the Lamp post outside the shopping parade in Littleworth Road had been replaced having been damaged & removed some three years earlier.

9) Queens Green Canopy (8415/10/21)

Councillor Biggs advised of various sites through the Parish that had been identified as potential sites for trees to be planted. It was noted that plantings would be dependent upon the agreement of residents & that we must avoid doing anything that spoils residents' enjoyment of land. We would need to seek the permission of Buckinghamshire Council as the landowner & establish title & ownership of the trees. It was proposed by Councillor Biggs, seconded by Councillor Mann & unanimously RESOLVED that Downley Parish Council should take part in the Queens Green Canopy project.

10) Climate Change/environment & update on Sandpit Pond at Gosling Grove(8416/10/21)

Councillor Snaith proposed the motion that "Downley Parish Council has declared a climate change & biodiversity emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate change represents a threat to life, opportunities & well being for future generations & needs to be addressed at all levels of government. The Council further declares that all future actions and decisions will take account of the need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and reach net zero carbon by 2030. The Council also recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, well-being & community resilience." Following debate an amendment to the wording of the motion was proposed by Councillor Mann & seconded by Councillor Monroe-West to read "Downley Parish Council has declared a climate change & biodiversity emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate change represents a threat to life, opportunities & well-being for future generations & needs to be addressed at all levels of government. The Council further declares that all future actions and decisions will take account of the need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and target to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The Council also recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, well-being & community resilience. It was resolved that the motion be amended. The amended motion was then proposed by Councillor Snaith & seconded by Councillor Ahmed but this was NOT RESOLVED.

The Clerk gave an update on progress with the Sandpit Pond at Gosling Grove explaining that Councillors & volunteers had met with Katie Horgan of the Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust who will develop a staged plan of month by month activities.

11) SSAFA fundraising event August 2022 (8417/10/21)

The Clerk gave details of a proposal to hold a fund-raising event in August 2022 at Mannings Field on behalf of SSAFA, the armed forces charity. The proposal was at an early stage, we would require sight of public liability insurance, the permission of the landowner, the West Wycombe estate would be required & the approval of the Sports association would also be required. Proposed by Councillor Steneskog & seconded by Councillor Monroe-West it was RESOLVED that subject to those approvals the event could take place.

12) Replacement of posts around the Common (8418/10/21)

Councillor Lenard explained that many of the wooden posts surrounding the Common were rotten & required replacement. A quote had been received for replacing these posts with new flat-bottomed posts that require a hole digging & then infilling. An additional quote was being sought for pointed posts to be driven into the earth. It was agreed that the matter be added to November's agenda for consideration.

13) The Clerks Progress Report (8419/10/21)

The Clerks Progress report as set out below was noted.

Progress Report to Council September 2021

Minute Reference	Subject	Progress (updates to bold)
8304/03/21	Streetlight replacement project	Contract awarded to Sparkx on 1 April 2021 Currently all columns have been inspected and numbered on site. Lantern installation currently underway Ongoing
7973/07/19 7997/09/19 Finance Committee 30.7.19 8242/01/21	The Downley Controlled Crossing Feasibility Study	Email sent to Community Board on 15.01.2021 confirming DPC will contribute £4,855.22 towards this scheme as its matched funding contribution. Buckinghamshire Council will invoice Downley Parish Council upon completion of the scheme or at the end of the next financial year (March 2022) whichever is sooner. The Downley Communications Group has contributed £2,500 towards this feasibility study. No further progress to report
8221/12/20 Fin Cttee 4.3.21 17(ii)	Use of the Community Centre as a Council Office	Council to review the £3,000 contribution to DOSCA for use of the library and negotiate use of the Maple Room as an office from 1 April 2021. Ongoing
8222/12/20 8295/03/21	Park Fencing School Close Park	Buckinghamshire Council invited to erect posts around the Green similar to those around the Common. Ongoing

8224/12/20 8240/01/21	Additional Defibrillator for the Village	Council to procure an additional defibrillator from London Hearts. Sprit Hair confirm happy with the location Ongoing
Min. no. 9 Fin.cttee 7.12.20 8211/12/20	Cloud Storage	Up-to-date Quotations sought from Edge for their packages. Ongoing
8147/09/20	Web accessibility	Clerk to receive training on website. Continue with and update existing website to make it more visually appealing, compliant and resolve accessibility issues. Website is being updated, quotes now required to understand the cost of meeting accessibility requirements. Ongoing
8265/02/21	Banking arrangements for the Council	New bank account now set up with Unity Bank. All councillors to sign bank mandate prior to activation. Deferred until after election Ongoing.
8268/02/21	Community Right to Bid	Council agreed to make application for the re-listing of the Le De Spencer's Arms and the Bricklayers Arms as Assets of Community Value. Council must make new application stating grounds for listing. Cllr Lazenby to assist the Clerk in this matter. Ongoing
8270/02/21	Gosling Grove Pond	Project to be progressed in 2021/22. Advice obtained from BBOWT. Ongoing
8271/02/21	Signage	(i) Residents to erect sign themselves naming the 3 cottages off Plomer Green Lane (ii) West Wycombe Estate has granted permission to sign allotments – To be progressed by new clerk (iii) email to DOSCA about signing the Community Centre. Ongoing
8340/05/21	Street Lighting in Narrow Lane	Tree growth obscures light cast by streetlight. Clerk has sent standard letter requesting tree be cut back. Sparkx require accreditation to undertake overhead cabling work
8359//06/21	Provision of a skip for allotment holders.	Clerk has contacted allotment holders and asked them to burn their bonfire which once done will provide a space on which a skip can be placed. Clerk to order a skip once bonfire held. Ongoing.

14)Payment of invoices 8420/10/21)

The payment of the following invoices was noted

Frequency	Chq. No.	Payee	Amount	Details
M	2023,2024,2025	Staff salaries, tax & expenses	£1917.46	Salaries, tax & expenses for September
O	2020,2021	Kyzen Media	£87.96	Stationary
A	2022	West Wycombe Estate	£450.00	Allotments rent
M	2026	TBS Hygiene	£234.00	Dog waste bins
A	2027	ASW Marquees Ltd	£180.00	Chair hire
A	2028	Buckinghamshire Council	£5112.52	Election costs
		TOTAL	£7981.94	

**15) Date & place of next Meeting (8421/10/21)
Tuesday 9th November 2021 at Downley Community Centre**

16) Closure of the meeting ((8408/09/21)

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 09:17 pm