



Minutes of the Meeting of the Downley Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Councillors M Lazenby (Chairman presiding), K Ahmed, S Biggs, P Brooks, A Lenard, C Lenton, W Monroe-West, T Snaith and W Steneskog
In attendance: Three members of the public present
Officers: G Tandy (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence (8794/02/24)

Apologies were received from Councillors A Mann, K Chandarana and Buckinghamshire Councillor P Turner

2) Declarations of interest and Dispensations (8795/02/24)

None

3) Minutes (8796/02/24)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4) Public participation session (8797/02/24)

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the volume of discarded nitrous oxide cylinders in the village. Nitrous oxide abuse should be reported to the police.

A member of the public commented on litter in the village and suggested that the Parish Council consider employing a Lengthsman to deal with this and similar issues. It was agreed that this should be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

A further member of the public spoke about litter and specifically nitrous oxide cylinders left throughout Downley. He was advised not to place these in bins but to leave them at the roadside and report their presence through FixMyStreet. He also asked that users of Mannings Field be encouraged to use the car park there and not park in the lane.

5) To receive and note the reports of Buckinghamshire Councillors (8798/02/24)

Buckinghamshire Cllr. Paul Turner had provided his written report which had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

6) Planning Committee (8799/02/24)

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 11th January 2024 were received and noted.

7) Chairmans Report (8800/02/24)

Cllr Lazenby advised that Chris Hamilton the former Clerk to Downley Parish Council, sadly died after a long illness on Monday 29th January. Chris fulfilled the role of Clerk from 1994 through to November 2014 giving 20 years exceptional service to the community.

8) Councillors Reports (8801/02/24)

There were no reports on external bodies by Councillors.

9) Solar Panels at the Community Centre (8802/02/24)

JA Solar, a firm certified under the SA8000 standard by Social Accountability International as maintaining and applying socially acceptable standards in the workplace had been proposed as the supplier of solar panels. It was RESOLVED unanimously to accept JA Solar as the supplier of solar panels to the Community Centre.

10) Heritage Project (8803/02/24)

Council considered the proposed costs of the Heritage Project, up to £2835.00. This would see historic photographs of Downley installed at appropriate sites through the village. The following decisions were RESOLVED:

- I. To accept the costs as itemised by Cllr. Biggs
- II. To apply for funding for the project through the National Lottery Community Fund
- III. For the Parish Council to pay for the project if external funding is not available. Here the following votes were cast in favour: Cllrs Ahmed, Biggs, Lenton, Monroe-West, Snaith and Steneskog. There were no votes against the proposal.

11) Football at Mannings Field (8804/02/24)

Proposal that Xtra time football be allowed use of Mannings Field for women's football and Men's walking football, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings through May, June, July and August 2024. It was RESOLVED unanimously to allow this use.

12) Employee Assistance Programme (8805/02/24)

To consider the proposal by Buckinghamshire Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC) to extend the availability of its existing Employee Assistance Programme and make it available to Councillors. It was RESOLVED unanimously to take up this offer.

13) AdvantageEDGE Finance(8806/02/24)

Council considered the renewal of this accounting package; a cheaper alternative is now used. It was RESOLVED unanimously to cancel AdvantagEDGE.

14) Rogation Sunday (8807/02/24)

Council considered a request that they are involved in the Annual Rogation Sunday Walk that visits the boundaries of the Parish. It was agreed that the following councillors would take part in this year's walk on Sunday 5th May, Councillors: Ahmed, Biggs, Lazenby, Lenard, Lenton and Snaith.

15) Bank Reconciliations (8808/02/24)

The reconciliation of the current account dated 29th January 2024 was noted. Cllr Lenard volunteered to check the reconciliations for the next three months.

16) Budget (8809/02/24)

Council noted the year-to-date income and expenditure against budget.

17) Invoices (8810/02/24)

Payments made since the last meeting on 9th January 2024 were noted and approved. The schedule of invoices received through January and February and still outstanding was considered and authorised.

18) Clerks Progress Report (8811/02/24)

Noted.

19) To note the date and place of the next meeting (8812/02/24)

Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Downley Community Centre

20) Closure of the meeting (8813/02/24)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:35.

Chairman

Date