

Minutes

Meeting held in Studdal Church Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30 pm.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present**

G Akhurst (chair)  
D Willet  
A Calthorpe  
H Densham  
DDC Member Nick Kenton  
KCC Member Steve Manion  
A Nigol (Clerk)

4 members of the public

**Apologies**

B Merriman  
R Buxton

Noted that as a resignation email had been received just before the start of the meeting. Linda Steger is no longer a councillor.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Approval of the minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

Cllr Akhurst and Cllr Willet have finished cutting back the branches at the Millennium bank, Jacks Bush and BMX track. Cllr Willet has kindly taken away all the branches.

**5. Visitors**

None

**6. Finance**

i) To approve the payment schedule for January was proposed by Cllr Willet seconded by Cllr Caltrope and all members voted in favour.

Chq No.

001532 Clerk	January wages	£468.00
001533 Clerk	January ex - Onedrive	£13.68

ii) Bank reconciliation at 23<sup>th</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. The Current account has a balance as at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 £12,458.86 and the reserve account as at 30<sup>th</sup> December £15,672.41. With the one cheque that had not been presented, but had been written with the value of £750.00 that leaves the current account as of 23<sup>rd</sup> December £11,708.86 making a total of £27,381.27 To approve the

reconciliation was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

## **7. Precept/Budget**

Update on 2023/4 precept. £14,858 was submitted to DDC and Clerk received the confirmation from DDC finance department.

## **8. Update on renewal of Grass Cutting Contract**

At the moment only one quote has been received. Clerk to follow up with other potential individuals and show them the areas that need cutting. To go on March agenda.

## **9. Local Community**

- i) Update on road salt bins. Some of the salt was delivered by KCC Highways. Clerk requested some more to be delivered to Cllr Densham, but had not received yet. One salt bin located at the Boys Hill and owned by the Parish Council had gone missing. Clerk to get a quote for a salt bin. Clerk to follow up with Highways about the salt delivery.
- ii) Update on blocked drain outside the nursery. This was reported to Highways back in September and has not been completed. After several emails the clerk has received an apology and confirmation from KCC that the works will be completed within 28 days.
- iii) The Nursery building development and parking on the green verge. Cllr Merriman has emailed a report that vehicles have been parking on the verge and some lorries have been breaking up the bank. Cllr Merriman had spoken to one of the workers and passed on the message to the manager that they need to find other arrangements for the contractors cars.
- iv) Flooding at the bottom of Strakers Hill, opposite the community hall. Clerk to report this to KCC Highways.
- v) Update on potholes survey by Highways on Roman Road. KCC has completed this task.
- vi) Update on potholes survey by Highways on Homestead Lane. KCC works been programmed.
- vii) Update on Local Bus services. KCC still working with Stage Coach to see if there are any opportunities to replace this service.

## **10. Community Litter pick.**

Council considered the risk assessment from Cllr Calthorpe relating to the proposed litter pick. To approve the assessment was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.

## **11. Local Planning**

For consideration by Councillors:

- i) 23/0055 Koringi, Downs Road, East Studdal CT15 5DB. Erection of an annexe.  
Council had a discussion about this development, however decided not to comment on the application.

To note:

- ii) 22/00530 Appeal. Wentways Farm, Strakers Hill, East Studdal, CT15 5BS. Erection of agricultural barn.

## **12. Report from DDC/KCC**

KCC member Steve Manion reported on the following:

The financial pressure on local authorities as they are setting the budget for 2023/24

The inflation at the moment is around 10 per cent and the council tax can only go up by 5 per cent.

New household support scheme is available for house holds struggling with the energy bills. It's a one off support of one hundred pounds towards the energy bills.

DDC member Nick Kenton reported on the following:

Financial pressure on DDC as they are trying to keep the community sport centres and swimming pools open.

A £45 million grant was confirmed for Dover Port to develop their infrastructure. Due to health and safety issues the green waste project has been delayed for a year.

### **13. Allotments & Orchard**

- i) Grant funding online application update. Clerk to contact Linda Steger for an update.
- ii) The new measurements for two new plots update. Cllr Akhurst thanked Doug Vickers for measuring out the two new plots. Clerk to contact people on the waiting list.
- iii) Council agreed to spend £26.00 to purchase five packs of grease bands for the apple trees. It was proposed by Cllr Akhurst seconded by Cllr Willet and all members voted in favour.

### **14. Correspondence**

- i) DDC Housing Needs Survey runs until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This information is available on the Parish website and notice boards.
- ii) Email from DDC about the Community Roots Van visiting rural areas.
- iii) A letter from the Pension Regulator. Re-enrolment and re-declaration as a legal duty. Cllr Akhurst proposed that he will write a letter and re-declaring compliance. It was seconded by Cllr Densham and all members voted in favour.

### **15. Any other business to report/matters to discuss**

It was suggested that a road sweep was required for the parish from Highways. Clerk to contact KCC.

Cllr Calthorpe suggested that new nets for football batch are required this year, Cllr Willet agreed to measure the size of the nets and give an update on next meeting

Apologies from Cllr Akhurst and Cllr Densham who are unable to attend the March meeting.

### **16. Date and status of next meeting**

Monthly, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.30pm – Studdal Church Hall

Meeting closed at 20:18

A Nigol

Parish Clerk