

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DITTON PARISH COUNCIL, HELD IN THE DON CARMAN HALL AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 19TH MAY 2022

CHAIRMAN: CLLR. J E LOVER

PRESENT: CLLRS MRS J DEARDEN, MRS G GODDEN, A R MULCUCK, M J PORTER & MRS A THROSSELL

MRS NICOLA GREENAWAY (Clerk of the Council), MRS S CRAIG (Business Administrator),
MRS G JEFFS (OSA & Planning Administrator) & MRS D GREGORY (Community Centre Administrator)

KCC CLLR A KENNEDY & TMBC CLLR D COOPER

APOLOGIES: CLLRS N NEWMAN, A LAIDOUCI & TMBC CLLR R CANNON

ATTENDANCE: AS PER ATTENDANCE REGISTER TOTALLED 29: 6 PARISH COUNCILLORS, 4 OFFICERS,
15 ELECTORS, 4 OTHER

1. WELCOME

Cllr Lover, Chairman of the Council, opened the Meeting at 7.30pm and extended a warm welcome to those present.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

Posting of the Notice of the Meeting was certified by the Clerk.

3. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VILLAGE

Achievement awards were then presented:- The Chairman announced that the Council was very pleased to acknowledge two volunteer groups and one very special person that have made a real difference in recent years.

Firstly he said a big thank you to all the volunteers for Ditton Book Exchange. Ditton Book Exchange was started by our wonderful KCC Warden Sue and is a great facility for local people to drop in and exchange books and have a chat. It is now run by an amazing group of volunteers, most of whom are here this evening and Sue nominated all the volunteers to receive this award. Each volunteer was invited to come forward to collect their award - Janice Cordwell, Jennifer Wardle, Judith Boarer, Liz Lipscomb, Peter Dalton, Marion Walters. Louise Denham and Lorraine Barr were also nominated but unfortunately they were not able to be here on the evening.

Secondly the Parish Council thanked the volunteers that came forward to set up and run the Covid Support Volunteer Service. The service came about when Floyd Risby approached the Clerk and Sue, our Warden about how to best help the most vulnerable in our community during the first lockdown. Many kind donations both financial and food were received and then a group was set up to coordinate shopping, deliveries of emergency food parcels and collect prescriptions. Enquiries were directed by phone or email to Nicola, the Parish Clerk and she then forwarded them to the co-ordinator Pat Cox, who in turn passed the requests on to the volunteers. All involved provided an invaluable service at a very difficult and unprecedented time. Again, the volunteers were invited to come forward to receive their awards - Sadie Stevens, Lucy Robinson, Sophie Mannering, Maggie Pointer, Tina Francis and Jackie Dearden. Unfortunately, three of the volunteers - Pat Cox and Floyd & Kay Risby were unable to be here to receive their awards.

Finally, the final recipient – the Chairman invited all present to join him in saying a massive thank you to Sue Absolon our KCC Warden. Sue played a big part in both groups that have been acknowledged this evening and has also made a huge contribution to the village – she always goes above and beyond for our residents. Sue is a friendly face and will always go out of her way to help. Sue was invited to accept the award as token of our appreciation for all that she does. The Chairman added that everyone was looking forward to hearing more about her role in her talk.

All recipients were congratulated again for their outstanding contributions to the community of Ditton.

4. **TALK – THE ROLE OF A KCC COMMUNIYT WARDEN BY SUE ABSOLON**

KCC Warden Sue Absolon presented a slide show to accompany her talk about her role as a KCC Community Warden. She explained that her role is part of the Community Safety Unit which means she can respond to emergency events along with building and maintaining relationships with local people. In her every day role she hopes people will see her and approach her. She supports the elderly and vulnerable and pre-covid attending lots of coffee mornings. Now she undertakes more one to one visits. Her role is also to promote well being and the book exchange is a good example of this as it enables people to come together. Her role is non confrontational and non judgemental. She hopes to bring many more initiatives to the village including road safety and inclusion. Sue finished by advising she had leaflets with information about the warden services and this could also be accessed via the website.

5. **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 17th MAY 2021**

PROPOSED by Cllr. Porter, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Throssell that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2021 be taken as **READ** and **CONFIRMED**, and **SIGNED** as a correct record of the Meeting. **CARRIED NEM. CON.**

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Financial Report was taken as **READ** and the Audited Accounts for 2020/2021, showed:-

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT as at 31st March 2021

	Notes		2021	2020
Income				
Precept on Borough Council			269,231	269,287
Grants Receivable			97,533	-
Rents Receivable, Interest & Investment Income			17,224	14,201
Charges made for Services			35,573	306,060
Other Income			-	221
Total Income			423,561	589,769
Expenditure				
Direct Service Costs				
Salaries & Wages			(258,570)	(261,276)
Grant-aid Expenditure			-	(400)
Other Costs	1		(108,223)	(283,958)
Democratic, Management & Civic Costs				
Salaries & Wages			(37,611)	(34,725)
Other Costs	1		(15,926)	(22,591)
Total Expenditure			(420,330)	(602,950)
Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year			3,231	(13,181)
Investment Profit/(Losses)			-	63,994
Net Operating Surplus for Year			3,213	50,813
STATUTORY CHARGES & REVERSALS				
Capital Expenditure charged to revenue	11		(4,940)	(9,534)
Reverse (Profits)Losses on investment disposal				(63,994)
Transfer (to) Earmarked Reserves	23		427	47,194
(Deficit) for the Year (from) General Fund			(1,282)	24,479
Net (Deficit) for the Year			(1,709)	(22,715)
The above (Deficit) for the year has been funded for the Year to as follows:				
Transfer (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	23		(427)	(47,194)
(Deficit) for the Year (from) General Fund			(1,282)	24,479
			(1,709)	(22,715)

The Council had no other recognisable gains and/or losses during the year.

BALANCE SHEET As at 31st March 2021

	Notes	2021	2021	2020
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets	10		416,057	438,090
Long Term Assets				
Investments Other than Loans	13		523,043	523,043
Current Assets				
Stock	14	2,600		6,107
Debtors & prepayments	16	14,098		21,482
Investments	15			50,829
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>162,253</u>		96,864
		178,951		175,282
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and income in advance	17	<u>(36,468)</u>		<u>(31,091)</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>199,551</u>	<u>187,256</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			1,081,583	1,105,324
Deferred Grants	19		<u>(10,090)</u>	<u>(123,017)</u>
Total Assets Less Liabilities			1,071,493	1,092,307
Capital and Reserves				
Capital Financing Reserve	21		405,967	425,073
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	22		523,043	523,043
Earmarked Reserves	23		55,918	56,345
General Reserve			<u>86,565</u>	<u>87,846</u>
			1,071,493	1,092,307

These Accounts were approved by the Council on 7th June 2021.

PROPOSED by Cllr. Mulcuck, **SECONDED** by Cllr.Porter that the Financial Report be **ADOPTED. CARRIED NEM.CON.**

7. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS (* copies filed with minutes)

(a) **Allotment Managers***

Cllr Mrs Godden gave a report on the work of the Allotment Managers. She advised that tenants were making excellent progress with their planting this Spring. She also advised that several plots have been re-let during the year and advised that the plots are generally well tended. She advised that the plots are inspected by the Allotment Managers regularly, usually every three times months. DATs – the allotment tenant association – continue to hold social events and welcome new members. In March DATs hosted our neighbouring allotment holders from Aylesford as they had heard such good reports about the Ditton Allotments. She concluded by wishing all involved good times ahead for both growing and socialising.

(b) **Community Centre Committee***

Cllr Mrs Dearden advised that most hirers had returned now that all restrictions were lifted. She reported that maintenance is ongoing in the centre and the corridors have been fitted with new energy saving lights that work on a sensor. Some painting has also been undertaken and the Kilnbarn Bar will be getting re-painted and a new carpet soon. She added that Kilnbarn Bar continues to do well since reopening Fridays – Sundays and will soon be opening Monday – Thursday as well. She reminded everyone that there will be a Platinum Jubilee Music Festival on 4th June and all were welcome. She finished by thanking the staff and hoped for a successful year.

(c) **Open Spaces & Amenities Committee***

Cllr Mrs Godden gave a report on the work of the Open Spaces Committee. She advised that both recreation grounds are well used and the football pitches are used to capacity. She also reported on the ongoing conservation work in the quarry and a meeting with KCC to discuss ongoing maintenance of the Ford as the

Parish Council is not legally responsible for it. She advised that two memorial benches had been placed and provide poignant memorials for loved ones to be remembered. She concluded by thanking all the Grounds Staff and office staff for their hard work and expertise.

(d) **Planning Committee**

In the absence of Cllr Newman, Chair of the Planning Highways and Transportation Committee, Cllr John Lover READ Cllr Newman's report for the year:-

The report advised that there had been many new applications to review in the year. He advised that the former Aylesford Newsprint Site continues to be developed by Panattoni and that DPC has worked with East Malling and Larkfield PC to highlight concerns, particularly to do with the historical aspects such as the pond. He updated the current status of the application at Ditton Edge and advised that the new TMBC Local Plan was still awaited following the previous one being rejected. He thanked Cllr Laidouci for his support with the committee work and the Clerk and Planning Admin Clerk for their assistance with planning matters.

(e) **Personnel Committee**

Cllr Mrs Dearden gave an update on the work of the personnel committee and current staff.

She advised that Nicola, Sally and Gemma continued to work hard in the office but that we sadly said goodbye to Ben. However, we were pleased to welcome Deborah to the admin team. The Grounds staff are working fully and we sadly said goodbye to Lee and wish him well and we welcomed Bradley to the Grounds Team. The caretaking team are all back. We have a great team of bar staff all working well and thank you to Sam and Sally for getting the bar back up and running. She ended by saying she would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their continued hard work dedication of these very hard recent times.

8. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave his report on the work of the Council over the past year. He said the last two years had been extremely challenging for us all but we have come through it and are ready to face new challenges going forward. He said he was pleased to acknowledge the work of the volunteers during the pandemic along with thanking the volunteers for the book exchange and our KCC Warden Sue. He thanked all the committee chairs for their reports, reported on the New Year's Eve Dance and the forthcoming jubilee celebrations. He advised no Twinning Events had been possible due to restrictions but it was hoped they would soon be able to recommence. He reported that there had only been a small increase in the parish precept and also that there were still vacancies on the parish council. He finished by thanking his fellow councillors, our borough and county councillors along with all the staff.

9. **QUESTION TIME AND GENERAL DISCUSSION**

No questions had been previously submitted and no questions were raised at this time.

10. **CLOSURE & THANKS**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm, thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

Chairman
24th April 2023