

**GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH 2012**

Present

Councillors Plumptre, Phillips, Kittle and Compton. District Councillor Conolly.

1. Apologies

Councillor Ellison sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the 18th January 2012

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Community Policing

PC Callaghan was unable to attend the meeting.

5. District Councillors invited to report on DDC

Councillor Conolly reported the following:

5.1 Budget 2012/13

“Following the 2011/12 reduction of 14% (£1.34m) in the central support grant from Government there will be a further 11% reduction (£868K) in 2012/13. It is anticipated that there will be further reductions in the following two years, though exact details of these will not be known until December. If best estimates are accurate this will imply a 30% cash reduction from the 2010/11 base, or a real reduction of circa 41% once inflation is taken account of.

DDC has the lowest council taxes in East Kent: 12% below Canterbury, 32% below Thanet and 46% below Shepway. Because of these pressures we have decided to increase the DDC element in residents’ total council tax bills by 3.45%. This equates to an additional 11p per week for the Band D taxpayer. This runs contrary to Government’s wishes. They have offered support of 2.5% for a further council tax freeze in 2012/13, but unlike 2011/12 will not consolidate this into the tax base. We would have taken up the offer had it been consolidated. We believe that around half of Kent districts will adopt the same policy as DDC.

We will extend the Green Waste service to the whole of the District (currently around 70% coverage) but in line with other East Kent authorities will institute a charge of £40 per annum. While not popular we believe this is actually fairer as currently those who cannot use the service and those who either have no need for it (flats and town houses) and those who can compost their own green waste, are effectively subsidising those who do use it.

There are minor increases in peripheral car park charges but the main town centre car parks will not be affected.

There are significant budget risks over the next two years because of changes to the administration of council tax benefits and the localisation of business rates, as well as the as yet unknown implications of the Universal Credits scheme. “

5.2 Pfizer site

“It has been announced that the London and Metropolitan (property and development) Company have taken over the marketing of the site, now known as the Discovery Park. Currently there are 800 jobs on the site.

There is potential for major problems for DDC if ‘unusable’ parts of the site are demolished as this would have a big effect on our business rates collection. For this reason DDC is pressing for the Park to be excluded from the normal business rate processes.”

5.3 Future of Deal

“With approval given and funding available for major flood defence work in Deal a survey on the future needs of the town has been carried out by consultants and is now out to consultation. This includes a review of traffic infrastructure needs.

As part of the localism agenda DDC is taking a leading role in establishing, in partnership with KCC, a District Locality Board which will guide policy in areas such as Youth Services. We are also an early implementer of Health and Well Being Boards which are part of the NHS reforms currently going through Parliament.

The Olympic Torch arrives in Dover on July 18th. After being run through the town (including a trip up to the Castle) the Torch will go to the seafront where there will be an evening spectacular with live music and entertainment, food stalls and a firework display. The following day the torch will go through Deal, Sholden and Sandwich.”

6. Affordable Housing Scheme

Manicom Close is to welcome its first residents on 28th March with an official opening to follow later in the year. There are still 2 properties available for shared ownership and anyone interested should contact Steven Bland of English Rural on 0207 820 7930.

7. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Councillor Kittle and Megan Passmore are organising the Parish Celebration of the event. Initial plans include a picnic & get-together on the Millennium Field but more will be announced in due course.

8. Goodnestone CE Primary School

The School is looking for a new community governor. The role involves attending 6 Full Governors meetings a year (one a school term) and to be part of a monitoring pair. A monitoring pair works with another governor on a specific section of the school improvement plan. There is training available free of charge to new governors. Termly meetings alternate between a 3.30pm start and a 7pm start. Meetings last about 2 - 2.5 hours. Governors are key stakeholders in ensuring that all children are receiving a good/outstanding education and the school is working hard to achieve this for everyone.

9. Footpaths

All appear to be in good condition with many gates having been repaired by a footpath group.

10. Highway Matters

Fly-tipping has been reported between Goodnestone and Chillenden. There is still rubbish being dumped at the bottom of Park View Close. The Clerk agreed to write to the most local residents asking if they would “keep their eyes open”.

11. Finances

11.1 Payments for Approval

The following were approved for payment:

Action with Communities in Rural Kent £65.00
Proposed by Councillor Kittle and seconded by Councillor Plumtre

G W Finn & Sons LLP £100.00 BC JP
Proposed by Councillor Compton and seconded by Councillor Phillips

Clerk's Salary (6 months) £810.73
Proposed by Councillor Kittle and seconded by Councillor Compton

12. Planning

12.1 Application

Treework in Conservation Area

Proposal: Remove two Dawyck Beech Trees Location: Goodnestone Park, CT3 1PL

The Council agreed to respond supporting the application but to request replanting.

13. Written Correspondence

A request has been made by a resident asking for the brambles to be cut back on the Millennium Field that are encroaching on to the neighbouring garden. The council agreed to ask Roger Austin to cut these in addition to his regular agreed mowing at an extra cost of no more than £60.

14. Councillors Reports on Parish Matters

It has been reported the Pond may be suffering from pollution. The Clerk agreed to contact the Environment Agency.

Councillor Phillips offered to arrange for a coat of varnish (or whatever is appropriate) to be applied to the Ron Holyer Memorial Bench in Chillenden.

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no other items to discuss the meeting closed at 21:03 hours.