

GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16th JANUARY 2013

Present

Councillors Kittle, Plumptre, Ellison and Phillips. District Councillor Connolly.
2 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Compton.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the 21st November 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to James and Emma Loder-Symonds thanking them for donating the Christmas Tree.

Councillor Plumptre reported that the 2 people currently living in a tent on allotment ground have applied for housing through DDC but have been turned down so far and are on a waiting list. District Councillor Connolly agreed to alert the Housing department to see if anything can be done for them.

4. Community Policing

PCSO Gary Painter was unable to attend the meeting but reported that having looked at the calls and crime reports for Goodnestone Parish he had no update to give as nothing has been reported.

5. District Councillors invited to report on DDC

i. Budget

The DDC 2013/14 budget is to go to Council later in January. The settlement from the Government is not quite as bad as expected and front line services are protected, though the outlook for 2014/15 is bleak. Council Tax is expected to rise by just under 2%, equating to a 7p per week rise for a Band D property.

ii. The effect on Parish Precepts

The changes to Council Tax benefits have been fully explained in verbal and written communications regarding how they affect Parish Council Precepts. There is no capping of parish precepts in 2013/14 but the outlook for 2014/15 in this respect is unclear and some parish councils are planning significant rises in 2013/14 to protect funds for community projects in the future.

iii. Littering & Dog Fouling

A new initiative to tackle littering and dog fouling is being launched on Feb 1 following successful trials in Shepway and Maidstone. This will involve the use of private contractors who will be empowered to issue on the spot fines of £75 for littering and £50 for dog fouling. A wide range of DDC employees will also be asked to report unsocial activity if they come across it as part of their everyday work and members of the public are also asked to report incidents if perpetrators can be identified. The contact at DDC is Diane Croucher, Head of Environmental

Protection. The trial will initially last for six months and is being heavily advertised. Ash Parish Council are negotiating with the contractors for additional coverage in the village.

iv. Neighbourhood Forum

The next Neighbourhood Forum for our area will be held at the Phoenix Centre, Sandwich on Feb 26, 6.00 for 6.30. As well as providing the opportunity for useful networking these Forums are the vehicle for the distribution for various grants to local groups.

v. Waste Site Closures

Richborough waste site is still due for closure in August though the KCC leader is coming under increasing political pressure to reverse the decision and there are reports that there are behind the scenes negotiations with Thanet Waste as potential new operators. The closure of this site, and that at Hawkinge, is particularly ironic as DDC has increased its recycling rate from under 30% to nearly 50% in the last few years.

6. **Finances**

i. Payments for Approval

The following were approved for payment:

- a. AON Insurance £479.16
Proposed by Councillor Phillips and Seconded by Councillor Kittle
- b. Clerk's Expense £69.98
Proposed by Councillor Plumptre and Seconded by Councillor Ellison
- c. GW Finn & Sons £100.00
Proposed by Councillor Kittle and Seconded by Councillor Ellison
- d. Goodnestone Village Hall Committee £168.00
Proposed by Councillor Phillips and Seconded by Councillor Plumptre

- Approval of Budget 13/ 14 for Precept

Following discussion and analysis of the budget it was agreed to raise the Total Resource Requirement to £6098.00 (an increase of 4% on the total Precept for 2012/ 13)

7. **Goodnestone Primary School**

Having spoken to the Head Teacher the Clerk reported that the fence along School Lane is to be replaced. The school has not got the funding for this, however KCC are willing to pay and for the School to pay back in their 2013/ 14 budget. It is hoped that the works will take place during the February half-term (commencing 15th)

8. **Footpaths**

Councillor Kittle reported all are muddy. The Clerk agreed to investigate the suspected missing Bridle path sign in Chillenden and get it replaced if necessary.

9. **Highway Matters**

The Clerk reported that Kent Highways confirmed that as there are no parking restrictions in place outside Boyes House, Boyes Lane, and the scooters are taxed and insured, there is nothing stopping the owner from parking them there.

The Clerk reported that following receipt of letters complaining about the condition of the highway along Short Street, she had contacted Annaliese Mortlock of Kent Highways to ask for their advice regarding the situation and was awaiting a response.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm to allow members of the public to speak. The meeting was reopened at 8.20pm.

Following discussion it was decided that two courses of action would be taken.

- 1) District Councillor Conolly would contact Kent Highways to determine what action had been taken in the past concerning the amount of mud on the road and whether further action needed to be taken.
- 2) District Councillor Conolly would then contact the Environmental Protection Officer at DDC to determine the scale of the problem concerning pig excrement on the road and whether any action needed to be taken.

District Councillor Conolly will also pass on copies of the letters received to both Kent Highways and the Environmental Protection Officer.

10. Planning

There were no planning applications to discuss.

11. Written Correspondence

Apart from the letters received as detailed in item 9 there was no written correspondence to discuss.

12. Councillors Reports on Parish Matters

Following complaints of noise from one of the flats in Manicom Close, Councillor Phillips offered to speak to the occupier. The Clerk agreed to contact English Rural to make them aware of the situation and to advise the other residents affected to contact English Rural should the situation continue.

It was agreed the Clerk would write to Shepherd Neame to thank them for finding a tenant for the FitzWalter Arms so quickly following the departure of the previous tenant. The letter will also highlight concerns the Council has regarding Shepherd Neame's commitment to the upkeep of the property and to the new tenants as it was agreed they were a welcome addition to the parish.

13. Any Other Business

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Future Meeting Dates

March 13 th	Goodnestone Village Hall	
April 17 th	Goodnestone Village Hall	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
May 22 nd	Chillenden Church Hall	AGM