

**Downley Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held online via Zoom, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7pm.**

**1 Attendance** (8141/09/20)

Chairman Cllr Lazenby, Cllr Bowden, Cllr Burslem, Cllr Chandarana, Cllr Egmore, Cllr Frydberg, Cllr Monroe-West, Cllr Naik, Cllr V Srao, Cllr W Steneskog, Cllr Tozer,

Cllr Turner in attendance representing Buckinghamshire Council

One member of the public present.

**2) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** (8142/09/20)

Cllr Naik declared an interest in item 13 C on the agenda

**3) Minutes of the Previous meeting** (8142/09/20)

Queries were raised with the July minutes; the clerk will look into and make updates where required.

**4) Adjournment for Public Questions** (8143/09/20)

None

**5) Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor** (8144/09/20)

Cllr Turner updated the Council on the work being done by Buckinghamshire Council during the Covid crisis.

**6) DCAG** (8145/09/20)

The Downley Covid Action Group continue to coordinate efforts in the Village supporting those that are vulnerable or in need. It was agreed that the Clerk will nominate the group for the Bucks Pride award.

**7) Allotments** (8146/09/20)

Cllr Bowden asked if allotment rents had been paid, there has been queries over the rents during the lock down and pandemic period with confusion from some plot holders about whether they could use the plots during national lockdown and if rent is due because of the lock down period. It was agreed by the Council that as notices were placed saying the allotments were open, rents are due.

**8) Web accessibility (8147/09/20)**

A paper was circulated from Cllr Burslem about web accessibility, this is now a legal requirement. Cllr Naik agreed to look at the website to ensure we are compliant. The Clerk will work with him on this.

**9) Future Council meetings (8148/09/20)**

All meetings will all be online until further notice as per current guidance. Some Councillors are still requesting in person meetings, this is in contravention of national government guidelines. The Clerk will only be attending remote meetings whilst current national guidance states work from home.

**10) Parish Priorities (8149/09/20)**

A document was circulated listing the following suggested Parish Priorities, these were based on suggestions from Councillors-

- 1) Street Lighting
- 2) Road Safety
- 3) Downley Parish Council action response group
- 4) Environment and Green spaces
- 5) Governance

It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held before the October Parish meeting to discuss the priorities in full.

Cllr Srao suggested diving Downley up into wards. He was asked to make a [proposal with his suggestion an submit it to the council for consideration.

**11) Resource Committee (8150/09/20)**

It was suggested by Cllr Monroe-West that a resource committee be set up to review Council policies. The Clerk will send all Policies to Cllrs for them to review and suggest any changes with a view to all policies being published on the website. If the Council would like a Resource Committee, it will be proposed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**13) Community Centre (8151/09/20)**

Cllr Bowden wanted clarification on the status of the current use of the Community Centre. It is being used by Community Groups that meet criteria set out by the government with all safety measurements in place.

**14) Planning applications and decisions** (8152/09/20)

A) **31 Hithercroft Road, HP13 5LT** | 20/07139/FUL | Householder application for construction of single storey front extension incorporating conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, part two storey side/rear extension, part first floor front/side extension and associated external alterations - DPC recommendation is to accept this application as it is similar to work already approved for neighbouring properties. Although the plans do indicated that the parking to the front will be extended, it is not wholly clear how BCC will ensure the Countywide Parking Guidelines will be met

B) **The Stables, Downley Common, HP13 5YN** | Ref. No: 20/07051/FUL | Householder application for construction of single storey garage- DPC recommendation is to refuse this application on two grounds. Firstly, much as with the previous application, the proposed development represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt, which is, by definition, harmful to it. The proposed building, due to its size and siting, would result in a substantial increase in the built up appearance of the Green Belt and AONB, to the detriment of its openness. Whilst the proposal makes use of the terrain, the proposed garage would still be neither subordinate nor proportionate to the dwelling. It would cause demonstrable harm to the openness of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances have been proposed or are apparent that would overcome this harm. Secondly, the size and height of the proposed garage means it would be prominent and dominate the existing dwelling. DPC believes it would be visually intrusive in the AONB and Downley Conservation Area, resulting in an increase in the built up appearance of the site and, due to its size, design, siting and appearance, erode the open, rural character of the AONB & Conservation Area

C) **2 Court Close, HP13 5JF** | 20/06871/FUL | Householder application for roof alterations including front and rear roof dormers in connection with loft conversion to habitable accommodation with front balcony, alterations to fenestrations and retaining wall to garden. - DPC recommendation is to refuse this application given the negative impact to the appearance of the area, resulting scale and bulk of the works proposed.

DPC also have concerns that plans fail to show how BCC Countywide Parking Guidelines will be met.

**Decision Notices**

D) 20/05744/FUL- 8 The Pastures - Householder application for construction of single-story rear extension, first-floor side extension and loft conversion in connection with front roof light and rear box dormer – Permitted

**12) Accounts** (8154/09/20)

**Accounts**

Please find items set out below for payment by the Council.

Items to be approved in September 2020

<b>To whom paid</b>	<b>Cheque number</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
BALC - Councillor training	1898	41.55
SSE Southern Electric - street light electricity	1899	283.72
Castle Water -Allotments	1900	345.68
C Fenech - Clerks salary and expenses	1901	1,655.72
KAD Garden Services	1902	2,339.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 4665.67</b>

Balance 1<sup>st</sup> September £ 199,725.17.

Balance includes £35,000 reserve funds for the lighting project.

**13) To consider Resolutions and Items for discussion which have been notified**  
(8155/09/20)

- To endorse Cllr Mallens proposal for yellow lines on Mines Close and also signage to deter on street parking

Councilor Mallen has asked the Council to endorse a request from Mines Close residents to place extra signage on Mines Close due to nonresidents parking in the Close and blocking access. There was some confusion as to whether the Council would be contributing financially to the signage. It was agreed that this resolution would be on hold until Cllr Mallen could attend the meeting to answer questions. The Clerk will also clarification the cost.

**14) Correspondence (8156/09/20)**

Correspondence received this month regarding Covid and how Buckinghamshire Council are managing things in the County.

**15) Date and Place of next Meeting (8157/09/20)**

Online – 13<sup>th</sup> October

**17) Date and place of next meetings of Committees (8158/09/20)**

Dosca, DCPS

**18) Closure of the Meeting (8159/09/20)**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm and thanked everyone for attending.

**Chairman**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_