

**DOWN AMPNEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT DOWN AMPNEY VILLAGE HALL  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017, 7.30PM**

**Present :** Cllrs Sillett (PS), Matthews (AM), Job (JJ), Cope (GC) and Jenkins (RJ); Cllr Fowles - CDC (DF) and Cllr Parsons – GCC (SP), both present for part of meeting. Clerk – Gail Dillon; 2 members of public (inc G Tappern (GT)). D Job – Village Hall Chairman (present for part of the meeting).

**Apologies :** Cllr Skinner (DS).

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>2. Minutes of last meeting:</b> These were circulated and approved by the meeting.	
<b>3. Co-option of new councillor:</b> A notice was posted to invite residents to be co-opted to the vacant councillor position. The clerk advised that one application was received. All present existing councillors unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Geoffrey Tappern as councillor. GT then signed the declaration of office and will complete his register of interests in due course and return to the clerk.	<b>Cllr Tappern</b>
<b>4. Elections of Officers</b> The election of officers was carried out for the coming year and agreed unanimously. Details are in Appendix A. The chairman and vice-chairman signed their declarations of office.	
<b>5. Matters arising:</b> <b>Highways and related issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SpeedWatch – RJ has received a visit from the local WPC who has confirmed they will be undertaking some speed awareness training with the children in school to involve them in the initiative. 3 further sessions have now taken place and it has been suggested that it done in the first full week of each month. RJ has therefore booked the equipment for this week for the next 3 months. Cllr Job noted that she has noticed the number of lorries going through the village has increased recently. It was agreed to put a note in the DA News about this advising residents what to do if they saw lorries going through the village.</li><li>• Potholes – this is an ongoing issue and unfortunately RJ is now getting no response from Amey. He will continue to follow up.</li></ul>	<b>Cllr Jenkins</b>
<b>Village hub:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speed hump maintenance – to be completed during school</li></ul>	



<p><b>8. Meetings/Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None attended in the period.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Village Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Management of Village Hall</i> – DJ addressed the meeting and confirmed that he would be resigning as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee effective November 2018. He is giving 18 months notice in order that a succession plan can be put in place due to the vast number of duties he undertakes for the village hall, most of which are necessary from a legal or insurance point of view. JJ advised cataloguing exactly what tasks need to be done and the time it takes to do them. DJ advised he has started documenting everything he does on a day-to-day basis. No one on the existing management committee has come forward to say they are interested in taking on the role of Chairman. DJ advised there was a 10-year plan following the fire for the rebuild of the hall. He believes that new blood is needed to take the hall forward for the next stage. There was then a general discussion regarding the fact there is an issue with all village organisations and a lack of volunteers, especially younger volunteers. It was agreed that there needs to be a big push from all of these organisations. PS proposed that everyone go away and before the next meeting have a think about some possible solutions/ideas to attract people and discuss at the next meeting. Possibly some sort of village meeting/publicity day for all organisations in the village?</li> <li>• <i>Fly-tipping</i> – as has been discussed on a number of occasions, there is an increase in fly-tipping in Church Lane, the Marston Meysey Road and where the burger van is on the Latton Road. RJ believes CDC are too slow at picking up the litter but DF said they rely on the public informing them that the litter is there. It was suggested that another note is put in the DA News with details of how to report fly-tipping. It was noted that some of the fly-tipping is happening on Wellcome Trust land and they are looking at installing CCTV cameras. RJ pointed out that a number of councils across the country are putting up webcams in areas renowned for fly-tipping and queried why CDC weren't considering the same. DF/SP agreed to look into the process of dealing with fly-tipping, costs, etc and report back at the next meeting.</li> <li>• <i>Grasscutting on Church Lane</i> – an issue has been raised regarding some residents cutting not only grass but also wildflowers down on verges along Church Lane. There is a question as to whether, other than for line of sight cutting back, should country lanes be left to grow for flora and fauna</li> </ul>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Fowles/ Parsons</b></p>

<p>purposes? DF agreed to find out what the policy is regarding verges, how much is owned by Highways and how much by the homeowner, who can cut the grass and how much can be cut, etc. He will report if possible before the next meeting on a way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JJ put forward a stretch of grass in one part of the village which should possibly be added to the grasscutting contract. It was discussed and unanimously agreed that it should be added. Clerk to discuss with grasscutting contractor. Clerk will also discuss contract as it is in the final year of a 3 year contract.</li> <li>• <b>GCC Report:</b></li> <li>• Cllr Parsons reported that following his re-election he will move forward with the plan to improve the pavements in the village but needs to liaise with Amey first to arrange this work.</li> <li>• GT raised the issue of A419 noise and queried why GCC/WCC hadn't done certain tasks he believed they had agreed to, having had sight of minutes of Latton PC meetings. SP confirmed it was actually a Highways Agency problem and all they were able to do was lobby the Highways Agency but that ultimately there is no money available to resurface the road.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Fowles</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>10. Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New churchyard application: comments have been submitted and the application is going to the full planning committee for a decision on 10<sup>th</sup> May. AM and DS are attending on behalf of DAPC and All Saints Church PCC respectively.</li> </ul> <p><b>11. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state of the bus shelter at Broadleaze was discussed and it was agreed that anti-graffiti paint should be bought to paint over the obscenities. RJ and PS to organise.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch – DJ has been 'temporary' coordinator for over 10 years now and wonders whether the PC should be more involved in this. It was decided to leave this for discussion at the next meeting as part of the village-wide issue of volunteers noted above.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting closed at 9.55pm. The next meeting is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Wynne Room.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Jenkins/ Sillett</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>