



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Downley Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th May at 7:30 pm

Present: Councillors M Lazenby (Chairman presiding), K Ahmed, S Biggs, P Brooks, K Chandara, A Lenard, A Mann, W Monroe-West, T Snaith and W Steneskog.
In attendance: two members of the public.
Officers: G Tandy (Clerk)

1) Election of Chairman (8509/05/22)

Councillor Lazenby and Councillor Brooks proposed themselves for the role of Chairman. Cllr Lazenby was seconded by Cllr Steneskog while Cllr Brooks was seconded by Cllr Monroe-West. A vote was taken with the result being 6-4 in favour of Cllr Lazenby, who then signed the acceptance of office of Chairman for the ensuing local government year.

2) Election of Vice-Chairman (8510/05/22)

Cllr Chandarana proposed Cllr Steneskog for the role of Vice-Chairman seconded by Cllr Mann. Cllr Brooks proposed herself for the role of Vice-Chairman seconded by Cllr Monroe-West. There followed a vote with the result being a 5-5 split, the Chairman then used her casting vote in favour of Cllr Steneskog and so Cllr Steneskog was duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing local government year.

3) Apologies for absence (8511/05/22)

Apologies were received and accepted from Buckinghamshire Cllr P Turner.

4) Declarations of Interest (8512/05/22)

There were none

5) Minutes (8513/05/22)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May be received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

6) Public Participation Session

A member of the public questioned the progress of the lighting replacement program and requested an update. The Clerk explained that work scheduled for April had not taken place as intended with the contractor being let down by a sub-contractor. Covid has caused a backlog of work which allows skilled staff to pick and choose what they do. Sparkx have now recruited and employed their own joiner to undertake this work and provide them with control. The replacement of lights along Littleworth Road and Commonsides is now scheduled for mid-May.

7) Appointment of Committees and Membership thereof (8514/05/22)

The following committees were appointed:

Allotments – Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr S Biggs and Cllr W Steneskog a plot holder should also be invited as a representative without voting rights.

Finance – Cllr K Chandarana, Cllr P Brooks, Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr W Monroe-West and Cllr W Steneskog.

HR – Cllr A Lenard, Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr W Monroe-West and Cllr W Steneskog.

Planning – Cllr P Brooks, Cllr A Lenard, Cllr A Mann and Cllr Monroe-West

Downley Parish Action Response Group - Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr K Ahmed, Cllr S Biggs, Cllr W Monroe-West, Cllr T Snaith and Cllr W Steneskog.

Environment and Climate Change – Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr K Ahmed, Cllr S Biggs, Cllr T Snaith and Cllr W Steneskog.

Lighting Representative – Cllr P Brooks.

When Cllr Brooks asked what had happened to the Online Communication Working Party the Chairman informed council that it had been disbanded following the completion of the task for which it was formed.

8) Appointment of representatives to outside organisations (8515/05/22)

The followings appointments were made:

Downley Old School Association - Cllr W Monroe West and G Tandy (Clerk)

Downley |Common Preservation Society- Cllr A Lenard.

Downley Communications Forum - Cllr W Steneskog.

Downley Day and Concert on the Common – Cllr S Biggs.

Downley Festival Committee – Cllr M Lazenby.

School Representatives – Cllr S Biggs, Cllr M Lazenby and Cllr W Steneskog.

Sports and Recreation – Cllr M Lazenby.

Wycombe District Association of Local Councils – Cllr A Mann and Cllr P Brooks

North West Communities Board – Cllr M Lazenby, Cllr W Monroe-West and Cllr W Steneskog.

9) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors (8516/05/22)

The Report of Cllr M Hussain & Cllr P Turner, previously circulated was noted.

10) Planning Applications (8517/05/22)

Comments on planning applications as set out in appendix a) of the agenda were noted.

11) Decision Notices (8518/05/22)

The Decision notices made by Buckinghamshire Council in respect of the Planning Applications as set out in appendix b) were noted

12) Community Speedwatch Signage (8519/05/22)

Council considered the purchase of TVP Community Speedwatch Area signage to attach to the four Downley signs. These are treated by transport for Bucks as non-permanent poster signs and as such must be moved every sixteen weeks. Proposed by Cllr Lazenby and seconded by Cllr Lenard, it was RESOLVED that we purchase two Community Speedwatch signs at a cost of approximately £161.00 & that these are rotated across the four Downley signs.

13) Electric Scooters (8520/05/22)

Following last month's presentation on the trial of Electric Scooters Council considered whether they should ask Buckinghamshire Council to remove the supplied scooters from Downley. Cllr Chandarana made council aware of an asthmatic resident who saw the scooters as a lifeline. Council also considered the reduction of the bus service in Downley and given that the trial is due to complete in November it was proposed by Cllr M Lazenby and seconded by Cllr S Biggs and unanimously RESOLVED to wait until the end of the trial before making a decision on whether Electric Scooters be removed from Downley.

14) Beehives at the Jubilee allotments/Mannings Field (8521/05/22)

Council considered a proposal from an allotment holder to site a beehive on their corner plot. Permission has been sought and granted from West Wycombe Estate, the landowner. The views of the other allotment holders had been canvassed, the vast majority of whom were strongly in favour of the suggestion. It was apparent that three of the allotment holders either kept bees currently or had previous experience of doing so. One such beekeeper suggested that if we grant permission for a hive, then we make that permission conditional on the new beekeeper having third party insurance through the British Beekeepers Association or the High Wycombe Beekeepers Association.

It was proposed by Cllr A Mann, seconded by K Chandarana and unanimously RESOLVED that subject to the provision of third-party insurance a hive is allowed on the allotment plot.

15) Appointment of an internal Auditor (8522/05/22)

Proposed by Cllr K Chandarana, seconded by Cllr Mann and unanimously RESOLVED that Claritas Accountants be re-appointed as our internal auditor.

16) Complaints Policy (8523/05/22)

The Complaints Policy, previously circulated, fell due for annual review. It was proposed by Cllr Lenard, seconded by Cllr Mann & unanimously RESOLVED that the policy remain without change.

17) The Clerks Progress Report (8524/05/22)

The Clerks Progress Report was noted

18) Reports from other Committees and Working Parties (8525/05/22)

Councillor Lazenby reported on the recent work undertaken at Sandpits Pond Gosling Grove where she Cllr Steneskog and four volunteers had last Saturday cleared litter and surveyed wildlife.

Councillor Lenard reported on the most recent Speedwatch sessions in which there had been very little evidence of speeding motorists.

19) Bank Reconciliation (8526/05/22)

The latest bank reconciliation was noted.

20) To note the date and place of the next meeting (8508/03/22)

Tuesday 14th June 2022 at Downley Community Centre

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 09:06 p.m.