



PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD

MINUTES OF THE **HIGHWAYS and GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** MEETING
HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 3rd July 2019** IN THE OLD SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE, DENMEAD,
COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm.

Members:

Cllr I Brown (Chairman)	
Cllr K Andreoli	(P)
Cllr P Langford-Smith	
Cllr N Rusbridger	(P)
Cllr K Scholey	(P)
Cllr G West	(P)

Also Present: 3 members of the public were in attendance and
Lydia Merriman, Deputy Clerk to the Council.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Brown, the Vice-Chairman Cllr West took the Chair.

039/20H **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Brown and Cllr Langford-Smith. **Noted.**

040/20H **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest made at this time. **Noted.**

041/20H **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2019 were submitted for approval. **It was RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.**

042/20H **Public Participation:** At 7.34pm the meeting recessed into open forum to allow comments and questions from members of the public. The meeting re-convened at 7.41pm.

It was RESOLVED that item 12 on the Agenda should be dealt with in the following order:

043/20H **Footpath Matters:**

(b) **Proposed Closure of Footpath:** Correspondence had been received from a local resident in relation to a request made to HCC Countryside Access Team to close an existing footpath which is situated in School Lane leading up to Forest Road. Objections to the proposal had been received from The Open Spaces Society and the Ramblers Association.

Cllr Scholey stated that he felt there was no reason sufficient to close the ancient footpath. Cllr Rusbridger suggested that perhaps this path should be added to DPC's Priority Cutting List for next year's annual cutting programme in order to keep it better maintained. Cllr Andreoli felt that the public should continue to exercise its rights of the footpath and therefore very much opposed the closure. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that DPC declined to support any attempts to close the footpath.**

044/20H (a) **Footpath Works:** Separate correspondence had been received from a Footpath Warden and HCC's Access Team in relation to the fact that defects are regularly identified along local footpaths and that arrangements are made to carry out necessary works. The Community Engagement Ranger from HCC's Access Team stated that he would keep DPC informed of any future issues and he had provided an inventory report to show repairs and maintenance which had recently been carried out in Denmead. Correspondence had also been received from the Footpath Maintenance Team Co-ordinator at the Ramblers Association, to inform that vegetation clearance activities and path furniture maintenance was carried out regularly by volunteers. Committee members commented that the work of the Ramblers Association and other volunteers should be supported. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that an article in the Denmead Scene should be included in the next edition, in which residents should be encouraged to report any footpath issues or defects direct to DPC. It was further RESOLVED that at this time, it would not be viable to reinstate the Footpaths Sub-Committee.**

Matters Arising and Outstanding Matters from previous Minutes:

- 045/20H (a) Street Lighting Maintenance: As resolved at the last Committee meeting, advice had been obtained from a private contractor in order to compare DPC's existing maintenance charges. COLAS, the company which provides a service to South & Widley Parish Council, confirmed that DPC does not currently have the ability to change its provider due to the Controlled Management System, which is not compatible with the system used by HCC. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that HCC should be contacted to request if maintenance costs could be reduced in line with other private contractors.**

Correspondence:

- 046/20H (a) Part-Night Lighting: Correspondence had been received from a local resident in relation to safety concerns with an increase of crime when the lights are extinguished between 1.00am and 4.00am. Committee members commented that at a recent SNP meeting this year, the Police advised that there had not been a significant change in anti-social behaviour since the introduction of Part-Night Lighting in Denmead. In fact, Sgt Gilmour stated that evidence would suggest that there is less criminal activity during times in the night when it is dark and there are no street lights, although he did advise that people should install home security lighting if they were concerned. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that a reply should be sent to the resident informing him of the Police's advice and to further advise that public members should always dial 999 in an emergency.**

New Power Connection ~ Village Green:

- 047/20H (a) SSE Power Installation: and External Meter Kiosk: Members were informed that confirmation had been provided by SSE in relation to the installation of a new power connection and that a date for installation had been arranged for 8th August. SSE recommended that the required lockable external meter kiosk, measuring 500 x 320 x 910mm, should be located behind the flowerbed on the Village Green. A quotation had been sought in relation to the purchase of the required sized Meter Kiosk which would accommodate SSE's cables plus meter, as advised by SSE. Members expressed their concerns with respect to the large size of the Meter kiosk and the fact that it would dominate the village green. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that SSE should be contacted to either postpone or cancel the date of installation, as per their terms and conditions. This was due to the fact that DPC would wish to obtain more information in relation to the size required for the External Meter Kiosk and that the matter should then be re-assessed accordingly at the next Committee meeting on 11th September.**
- 048/20H (b) Electrical Works and Grounds Work Required: Until the matter of the new power installation on the village green had been agreed, **it was unanimously RESOLVED that all electrical and grounds work contractors who had been contacted in relation to quotations, should be informed of the delay.**
- 049/20H (c) Highway Sign: Due to the fact that the Give-Way sign on the village green cannot be used to install a new power connection, and the fact that the sign is rotten and does not work, **it was unanimously RESOLVED that HCC should be contacted with a request for removal of the sign if the sign was not deemed to be necessary and that the sign should only be replaced, if HCC considered it essential to road safety.**
- 050/20H Denmead Works Phase II: Further to attendance at the last Committee meeting by HCC and HBC, correspondence had recently been received from Mr Damien Walsh, Project Engineer at HBC, in which a draft route proposal for the dual-purpose cycle ways through the Greenways had been provided. There were areas depicted on the map which indicated that work was required in order to widen the Greenways and also that clearance of vegetation would be needed. Mr Walsh concluded his correspondence to inform DPC that before any works could be carried out, he would contact HCC Safety Team, due to the fact that there were identified improvements which required attention. Cllr Brown had commented in his previous correspondence to members, that the running track located at Harvest Field had been included in the route proposal, but he wished to state that this area had never been officially part of the Greenways and therefore should not be included in the route. He also commented, with the agreement of other Committee members, that the main routes which run parallel with Forest Road and Ashling Park Road, should be considered as key routes. **Noted.**

- 051/20H** **Removal of Sign:** A sign which had previously been erected without permission on DPC land at the War Memorial Hall had now been removed by WCC. **Noted.**
Burial Ground:
- 052/20H** (a) **Applications:** The list of applications received since 22nd May 2019 had been distributed to members for their information. **Noted.**
- 053/20H** **Finial Rings:** Confirmation had been provided from the contractor that the Rudley Mill Finial would be refurbished and work would commence at the end of July. Members were also informed that the necessary business insurance certificate had now been received. **Noted.**
- 054/20H** **Flooding:** In order for the re-installation of the ditch at Whitehorse Lane to be carried out, ownership of land for the adjacent field would need to be obtained. To identify ownership of the land, **it was unanimously RESOLVED that an application should be made to the Land Registry.**

The meeting closed 8.27 pm

**The next scheduled meeting of this Committee
will be held in The Old School, School Lane, Denmead
at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 11th September 2019**

Signed _____ Date _____

PUBLIC SESSION ~ HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 3rd July 2019

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Cllr Scholey stated that he felt there was no reason sufficient to close the ancient footpath. Cllr Rusbridger suggested that perhaps this path should be added to DPC's Priority Cutting List for next year's annual cutting programme in order to keep it better maintained. Cllr Andreoli felt that the public should continue to exercise its rights to the footpath and therefore very much opposed the closure.

Mrs Coode introduced herself and explained that she had made a recent request to HCC Countryside Access Team to close footpath 25, which had become very overgrown and unmaintained. She said she was representing herself, her sister and other neighbours who live near the footpath and that they all have the same view that it serves no necessary purpose. She said that over the years, problems had occurred which included dumped bikes and escaped horses. Mrs Coode continued that there was evidence to suggest that the footpath is rarely used by members of the public. She concluded by stating that the path comes out along Forest Road, which is a very dangerous place for pedestrians or walkers to negotiate and she asked Committee members to support her proposal to close the footpath.

Mr Peter Westron introduced himself and told members that he had wished to attend in order to represent the views of the Ramblers Association. At his request, the Vice-Chairman read out Mr Westron's correspondence in which he opposed the closure of the ancient footpath. He stated that it was a very useful direct route for walkers and provides a link between Forest Road in the south and Hambledon Road at Well Hill in the north. He continued that although Forest Road is indeed a busy road for pedestrians, that was no acceptable reason to close the adjacent footpaths and that there was evidence to prove that the path is used, as it is visibly worn. He wished to inform members that the northern part of the footpath had become overgrown with brambles and low branches but he had reported these issues to HCC Countryside Access Team and had been duly reassured that the problems would be rectified in due course.