

Sydenham Damerel Parish Council

Minute No 103

Wednesday 22nd December 2021 held at St Marys Church, Sydenham Damerel

These minutes are provisional until they are signed by the chair at the next Parish Council meeting.

Meeting opened 7.02pm

Present: Cllrs N. Pratten, H. Payne, R. Windemer. Cllr N. Furze, P van Delft(clerk)

1. **The clerk welcomed all those present.** The clerk confirmed that he would chair the meeting until a chairperson was elected, the meeting would then be transferred to the new chairperson.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr N Jory
3. **Election of new chairperson** - Cllr Windemer proposed Cllr Payne, Cllr Pratten seconded the motion, unanimous decision, Cllr Payne was duly elected chair.
4. **Members of the Public Open Forum** – no members present
5. **Declarations of Interest** - none
6. **Minutes of previous meetings** - 101 & 102 were signed by the chair as true and accurate records of those meetings. Proposed by Cllr Pratten, seconded by Cllr Windemer
7. **New councillors** - Invitations to become a member & elect to Co-opt for the position. Cllr Payne commented that he had discussions with two interested parishioners, they will be invited to attend the next meeting.
8. **Finance** – R.F.O. reporting on: -
 - 8.1 Bank account – update mandate to include new signatories, and e banking. The RFO asked for two additional signatories, Cllr Furze proposed Cllrs Payne and Pratten, Cllr Windemer seconded the motion. Forms to be completed by Cllrs Payne and Pratten and then returned to the bank.
 - 8.2 Retraction of existing Petty Cash procedure (no date) – It was resolved that the PCP should be retracted, motion proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Pratten
 - 8.3 Return of remainder of the petty cash fund – The sum of £65 has been returned and deposited in the bank account.
 - 8.4 The council acknowledged payment for the sum of £35 from the then petty cash account, this sum was spent on a ‘Draw Prize’, the receipt was countersigned.
 - 8.5 Draft budget and precept request for 2022-23 – Draft budget and precept proposals were discussed, it was resolved that a further review was required, the R.F.O. to provide an alternative
9. **Clerk contract** – Review of the draft contract for the clerk – Councillors were provided copies of the contract, no further comments were made. The formal contract to be considered at the next meeting.
10. **Facebook** – Council presence – Cllr Payne suggested that a ‘closed page’ should be developed that is only available to parishioners. Cllr Windemer suggested that a ‘page administrator’ should control the content with some additional support, also ‘rules of acceptance’ should be drawn up. Cllr Payne to report back.
11. **Highways** – Cllr Pratten reported that she had responses from Geoffrey Cox MP and Meg Booth of D.H. to her request for a speed reduction through the village, whilst both parties were sympathetic to the proposal unfortunately insufficient funding would not currently provide for any measures to reduce speeding vehicles. Cllr Pratten had also sought advice from Cllr Edmonds of WDBC who had experience of speed aware signs and also speed-watch groups, it was concluded that both of these measures would be inappropriate for the parish. Cllr Payne suggested if alternative speed

Parish Councillors

Howard Payne (Chair) Nicky Furze, Nicky Pratten, Richard Windemer

Parish clerk: Peter van Delft Telephone: 01566 783023 Email: sydenhamdamerelpc.clerk@gmail.com
Portgate Chapel, Portgate, Lewdown, Okehampton, EX20 4PZ www.Sydenhamdamerel.org.uk

Sydenham Damerel Parish Council

reducing measures that were sympathetic to the environment could be provided by the council in the aim of slowing down road users. Cllr Windemer commented that he had received adverse remarks on the 'urbanisation' of signage in our rural area, overuse of highways warning signage would not be welcome. Cllr Pratten to review the options available. Cllr Windemer reported that he registered with D.H. potholes in Townlake. Cllr Windemer also reported that having spoken to the authorities that the footpath from Townlake to Horsebridge is virtually unusable during the winter period due to excesses of mud and running water remedial work was now required, several parishioners commented that they would like to see an improvement, possibly a working party can be arranged to look at options available to improve its use. Cllr Windemer also reported to D.H. the recent work done by Openreach on one of the parish's highways had left the site with surplus spoil and that the highway was now unusable. D.H. to investigate if the complaint, if upheld D.H. would ask Openreach to make good any defects. Cllr Windemer will be distributing D.H. bags of road grit on the parish's highways verges near where the susceptible black ice spots occur.

- 12. Future of the Parish Council** – The chair suggested that a debate should take place giving parishioners and opportunity to feedback to the parish council what administrative body they would like in the future. Options are; for the parish council to remain, or a Parish Meeting, or to merge with an existing grouped/parish council (if invited). The alternatives could be debated at the annual Parish Meeting in April. Cllr Payne to draft an information sheet on the alternatives with pros and cons for each option.

Items for inclusion for the next meeting – Review of standing orders, clerk/RFO employment contract, Defibrillator quotes and suggested locations, Permission for existing defibrillator location

Meeting closed 8.31pm

Date of next scheduled meeting: - Thursday 20th January 2022

Parish Councillors

Howard Payne (Chair) Nicky Furse, Nicky Pratten, Richard Windemer

Parish clerk: Peter van Delft Telephone: 01566 783023 Email: sydenhamdamerelpc.clerk@gmail.com
Portgate Chapel, Portgate, Lewdown, Okehampton, EX20 4PZ www.Sydenhamdamerel.org.uk