

Sydenham Damerel Parish Council

Minute No 112

Thursday 9th March 2023 held at Milton Abbot Village Hall, Milton Abbot

These Minutes are provisional until they are signed by the Chair at the next Parish Council Meeting

Meeting opened at 7.10pm

Present: Cllrs N. Pratten, R. Windemer and S Miller. Cllr Jory, WDBC

1. In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Pratten proposed that Cllr Windemer be the Acting Chair for the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Miller. The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: None
3. Members of the Public Forum: three members of the public were present.
Cllr Pratten informed everyone that she would be taking the minutes of the meeting in a voluntary capacity and would not be paid for this service. She reminded everyone of the correct protocol for the public forum
 - A parishioner was concerned about the amount of unsightly plastic "waste" on the private land behind the telephone box in Sydenham Damerel and wanted to know if the PC could do anything about it. There is also concern about the amount of garden waste that has been dumped and is causing the wall adjacent to the main road through the village to collapse. **ACTION:** Cllr Jory to ask Environmental Health to view and advise on how to proceed. Cllr Miller is happy to have an informal chat with the owners of the property.
 - The same parishioner expressed concern about the car parking area opposite the Old Chapel. The PC explained that this was being dealt with by WDBC Planning Department.
 - Another parishioner asked if the minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting be published prior to this year's meeting. The acting Chair stated that this will be discussed by the PC before that meeting.
 - The PC was asked if the salt bags would be collected up and stored. This would be discussed under the Snow Warden's report in item 14.
4. Declarations of Interest: None:
5. Minutes of the previous meeting 111 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Pratten, seconded by Cllr Miller. Unanimous. The acting Chair signed the minutes.
6. Finance:
 - 6.1 Authorisation to pay outstanding invoices: Repayment- to Cllr Windemer for hire of hall £15.00 Proposed by Cllr Pratten, seconded by Cllr Miller, to Cllr Pratten for printing costs for the winter newsletter, proposed by Cllr Windemer, seconded by Cllr Miller and to Mr P van Delft, Locum Clerk duties £192.96, proposed by Cllr Miller, seconded by Cllr Pratten/
 - 6.2 RFO Report: The PC accepted the RFO's Report. Proposed by Cllr Windemer, seconded by Cllr Miller, passed unanimously.
7. Councillors' Reports: Cllr Pratten informed the PC that following her early conversations with the Curate of St. Mary's Church regarding the provision of a toilet at the Church, she was delighted to report that the Curate has started the process to acquire toilet facilities. This is excellent news.
Cllr Pratten had distributed a couple of articles via the SD Distribution list but this is not ideal. She spoke to someone from the Information Commission Office about setting up a PC distribution email list and outlined what would have to be done. The PC would have to be GDPR compliant. There is another possibility of using the Mail Chimp service. **ACTION:** Cllr Pratten to speak to councillors from Stowford PC which has just started using this service for further information. Feedback to be given at the next meeting.
No other Councillor reports.

8. Cllr Jory, WDBC Report: Cllr Jory reported that it is getting close to local Government council elections so WDBC is very busy with preparations. It is using the Levelling Up funding from the Government for a second railway station at Okehampton. Discussions are on-going to open the line between Tavistock and Plymouth. WDBC bid for, and received, one million pounds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which gives businesses and farmers support and advice. WDBC is also taking advantage of the Government scheme which will fund the purchase of properties for refugees. WDBC is planning to do this in conjunction with the Homes for Ukraine Fund. in supporting households. The Council has amended their 20-year vision plan. The budget for WDBC balances for the next financial year.
9. Governance Review: All householders in the Parish had received a letter regarding the Community Governance Review. Parishioners have been invited to respond by 5.00pm, 14th June 2023. A discussion was held and it was agreed that little information about the three options was laid out in the letter. A parishioner had already suggested that information be sent out to all households in the Parish in leaflet form giving an unbiased and balanced explanation of each option, listing the pros and cons. A draft had already been circulated to the PC and it was agreed that joint working was the best way forward. **ACTIONS:** Councillors would go away and review the leaflet and, following discussion and amendments, the agreed format would be sent to Cllr Jory who would ask the Secretariat at WDBC to check the wording prior to distribution which would be by hand.
10. Replacement Clerk: Cllr Pratten explained that the PC had received an application from a very capable and experienced candidate but they had to withdraw before interviewing due to serious family circumstances. Cllr Pratten proposed that the post be advertised through DALC and the Tavistock Times. Seconded by Cllr Miller. Unanimous. **ACTION:** Locum Clerk to advertise the post through DALC and The Tavistock Times.
11. New/ replacement benches: Cllr Windemer said that the donated bench needs some maintenance work carried out on it. Although he had provided a cutting list to the Chair, he had not heard back. Cllr Pratten was very concerned that this has been an agenda item for quite a long time and we are no further forward. **ACTION:** Cllr Windemer to contact the Chair but if he doesn't hear back by a certain date, he will obtain some quotes for what is needed to either make or buy a wooden bench.
12. The Coronation of King Charles III, May 2023: Information about submitting a bid for PC funding towards a community event had been included in the last newsletter. An email from the organising committee for two Coronation events had been submitted. The bid was very detailed, and the events would benefit the community. Some costs had been estimates. Cllr Pratten proposed that the bids were accepted, Cllr Miller seconded. Unanimous. Receipts would be submitted to the PC immediately after the events. Cllr Pratten had spoken to the landlord of the local pub regarding any possible events that he was planning but he was unsure at the time but he was made aware of the funding.
Cllr Pratten had investigated the cost of a commemorative mug and had three quotes. She proposed that the PC fund a mug for every child in the Parish. Cllrs Windemer and Miller disagreed and felt that it was an old-fashioned gesture so the proposal was not accepted.
13. Defibrillator: Townlake - Cllr Pratten reported that a Townlake resident had started asking their neighbours on the PC's behalf about whether they wanted a defibrillator in the hamlet, bearing in mind that there are already two in the Parish. There was a mixed response from the small number approached (less than 50% of Townlake households). After a discussion, Cllr Windemer proposed that we put this on hold for the moment as two defibrillators are more than ample, seconded by Cllr Miller. Unanimous.
VETS- Village Emergency Telephone Scheme- Cllr Pratten reported that after advertising the scheme in the last newsletter, only two people plus herself and her husband had put their names forward expressing an interest in becoming a volunteer. The scheme needs ten volunteers so it is not possible for the PC to continue to investigate further.
14. Highways: Derriton Cross update- Cllr Pratten informed the PC that she had responded immediately when a parishioner reported severe problems with drainage at Derriton Cross. She requested a site visit with Cllr Jory and he attended with an update from the Devon Highways Neighbourhood Officer. Cllr Pratten drew attention to the collapsed culvert further up the hill and Cllr Jory agreed that it was a health and safety issue. Devon Highways attended the following week to carry out further drainage works which has

made a small difference but the culvert is not allowing excess water to drain away. Cllr Pratten contacted the DH Officer but had no response. The Locum Clerk then forwarded her email and the DH Officer responded stating that he no longer has his own budget. Our concerns have been passed to his line manager and it may be that work can be carried out using a budget for small drainage works but no date would be set. Main roads have priority over smaller roads. Cllr Pratten thanked Cllr Jory for his support. **ACTION:** Cllr Jory to follow up with DCC and Lois Samuel, our representative at DCC
Most, if not all, of the drains have been cleared in the Parish.

Snow Warden Update: Cllr Miller is the PC's new Snow Warden. He has had the training. Cllr Miller reported that he had ordered two tons of salt bags and distributed some around the Parish. He had ordered some empty bags and towards the end of March, he will collect up all the salt bags and store them correctly until next winter. Next year, he could order up to four tons of salt. He may also be able to obtain some containers. Devon Highways cannot fund bins because "they have no money." The Acting Chair thanked Cllr Miller for all his hard work.

15. **Date for the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting:** This was agreed for Thursday 20th April at 7.00pm. Cllr Pratten suggested that it would be good to have a speaker, perhaps someone from WDBC to give an update on the Community Governance review. Cllr Pratten reminded the PC that the minutes from both 2021 and 2022 would have to be amended if necessary and agreed at this meeting. The venue was discussed and whether we can hold the meeting at St. Mary's Church. **ACTION:** Cllr Jory to check venue and the availability of a speaker
16. **Correspondence:** WDBC had sent posters reminding parishioners that they needed to take photo ID with them when voting in the local Government elections. Posters will be put on the noticeboards.
17. **Items for inclusion at the next meeting:** Authorisation to pay outstanding invoices due for Coronation events payments, Communication via Mail Chimp, benches update

Meeting closed at 8.58pm. The Acting Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meeting: 11th May 2023