**MINUTES OF SANTON DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Mr M Mackender (Chairman) Mrs Debbie Cock (Parish Councillor)

Mrs Sylvia East (Parish Clerk) Mrs Ann Landells (Parish Councillor)

Mr Adrian Baugh (Parish Councillor) Mr Kym Daplyn (Parish Councillor)

Mr Paul Brown (Parish Councillor)

In attendance: Cllrs Victor Lukannuik (County Councillor) Phil Wittam (District Councillor)

and Joules Savage (District Councillor)

Members of the public: Mrs Christine Field, Ms Eleen Howard, Ms Dot Sayer, Mr Colin Young

1. **Chairmans Welcome**
2. The Floor was open to the general public but other than issues appertaining to Ms Sayer and Mr Young which were to be discussed anyway, there were no other comments.
3. Apologies received from Mr Butcher (Vice Chairman) and Mr Slade (Forestry England)
4. Declaration of Interest there were none

5) Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, 4th September were signed as a true record

6) **Parish Clerk’s Report**

**Financial**

* Since little had altered from the previous meeting the Clerk advised the balance stands at £14,383.22
* Norway Maple –Following a brief assessment received from Urban Forestry, who kindly took a look at the Maple whilst carrying out some tree work for Mr Baugh. Urban Forestry concurred with the advice received from another Arboriculturist and suggested it is a tree ‘full of character’ and should be left as it is, but if any action was decided upon it would be best not to trim all over. it was agreed to leave the tree as it stands and monitor the situation.
* The Oak - Ms Sayer reported her dissatisfaction with the way in which the Oak tree item was portrayed advising it was not she who raised the matter and stating the Parish Clerk had not researched sufficiently. The Parish Clerk advised a complaint had been received from No 1 and therefore had to be taken forward to the Parish Council. Ms Howard, on behalf of Ms Sayer handed the Parish Clerk some research she had undertaken regarding responsibilities for rented land. The Parish Clerk thanked Ms Howard and Ms Sayer but stated the subject remained ‘cloudy’ given the additional issue of the Lease. The Parish Council agreed it would look further into this matter. In the meantime the Parish Clerk had been in touch with West Suffolk in the hopes of them sending an assessor out to view the matter in hand. The response was that this would not happen unless a Planning Application was submitted which was why this matter was once again on the Agenda. The Parish Council agreed this would now take place. Ms Sayer asked if this meant the Parish Council were saying the issue of the Oak remained her responsibility and the answer given was the matter remained to be yet determined. If West Suffolk allows any work on this Oak then at that point the a decision would need to be made, and all parties concerned would be involved. A planning application will be put into West Suffolk asking if the branches overhanging into No. 1 could be pruned. The matter will now be shelved until such time as this has been undertaken.

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* Grit Bins – The Parish Clerk apologised for yet again having to bring this matter to the attention of the Parish Council but advised any grit bins purchased would need to be placed in the exact position the ‘heaps’ had previously be placed and also any grit supplied by Highways can only be used on the main roads and not on any of the village owned roads. Following some discussion it was agreed we should opt for one large grit bin to be placed on the site opposite the church, this to then service the road down the hill which unfortunately is not gritted by Highways.

**General**

* Planning Application DC/23/1248/FUL Temporary change of use of land for siting of a caravan for use as a Café’ and installation of six tables and chairs. Since Mr Young was in attendance he was asked to give a brief outline of the intention. Mr Young advised the idea was to open Friday to Sunday and Bank Holidays during the warmer weather and was aimed at walkers, horse riders and cyclists. It was stated the Forestry Car Park would be utilised for parking. The Parish Council advised it had no objections to this project.
* Update on the Village Hall and progress with the Sub Committee – It was advised everything was now in place and it was full steam ahead. A copy of the Parish Council Code of Conduct would be required to be adhered to by this Committee, along with a Constitution. Copies were handed to all Parish Councillors for them to read at their own pace and comment upon at a later date if necessary. A question was raised as to whether the Village Hall would be discussed at every Parish Council Meeting and the Clerk stated it would not be necessary. The Sub Committee has only just begun its role and therefore it has been necessary to keep the Parish Council in the loop, in future this item will be raised only when necessary.

7**) Parish Councillors Reports**

* Mr Daplyn raised the issue of speeding through the village, something that has been raised from time to time. Once again the question was what could we do? Cllr Lukannuik mentioned the idea of volunteers with speed guns and it was agreed this would be looked into further.

8**) County and District Councillors Reports**

* Cllr Lukannuik had nothing to report
* Cllr Wittam also had nothing to report but was asked if he knew who looks after the verges down Green Road by the water station, opposite the houses. Cllr Wittam said he has reported this to Highways but will chase this further.
* Cllr Savage had nothing new to report

9) **Chairmans Report**

* The Chairman raised the issue of the need to have the tractor serviced. A quotation has been received of £500 plus VAT and it was agreed this needs to be carried out.
* The Chairman asked for a volunteer to assist with monthly Defibrilator checks, Mr Daplyn offered to take this on.

**Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 6th November at 7.00 pm**

**Meeting Closed at 8.10 pm**

SAD/PC/02/10/2023(2)