**MINUTES OF SANTON DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 22nd JANUARY, 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**Present:** Mr Michael Mackender (Chairman) Mr Adrian Baugh (Parish Councillor) Mr Andrew Butcher (Vice Chairman) Mr Paul Brown (Parish Councillor)

Mrs Sylvia East (Parish Clerk) Mr Kim Daplyn (Parish Councillor)

Mrs Ann Landells (Parish Councillor) Mrs Debbie Cock (Parish Councillor)

**In attendance**: Cllr Jools Savage (District Councillor)

**Members of the public**: Ms Eleen Howard and Ms Dot Sayer

1. **Chairmans Welcome**
2. The Floor was opened to the general public . There were no comments raised
3. **Apologies**  these were received from Cllrs Lukannuik and Wittam
4. **Declaration of Interest** there were none
5. **Minutes** of the meeting held on Monday, 18th December 2023 were signed as a true record

6) **Parish Clerk’s Report**

**Financial**

* Parish Clerk advised no change from previous statement and stated the Precept for 2024/2025 - £8,140 has now been put forward

**General**

* The new Grit Bin has been installed by the Chairman with assistance from Michael Finch and the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk advised it has been half filled from remaining Council Emergency stock in the hope Highways will replenish as required
* With regard the issue of a sign for the Village Green re no overnight camping, this remains outstanding and will be dealt with
* The Parish Clerk commented on the situation regarding the new Village Hall Sub Committee, stating there was a full schedule of events planned. It is imperative the Village Hall survives and to ensure this survival a lot of hard work will be involved. The emergency funding will not last too long and it is necessary therefore the Parish Council gives full support to the Hall Committee. The Parish Council concurred the Hall Committee has its full support. The Car Boots are to be resurrected, as indeed it was always considered likely. The Hall Committee has requested permission for the use of Parish Council owned land for car parking for car boots and any event that may require additional parking area. For smaller events the triangle green opposite the Village Hall can be utilised. As in the past will make a donation to the Parish Council of £20.00 per car boot to be paid annually. It was reiterated that in the case of Car Boots it is imperative a car parking access/exit and car parking area is mapped out to avoid the newly planted areas, and that car park attendants should be arranged

**Plug in Initiative**

* The Parish Council have been invited to apply for this Scheme which is fully funded and maintained for a minimum of 7 years and will provide a revenue stream. The application has been put in but obviously further research and discussion will need to be involved. Ultimately this will be a Parish Council decision

**7. Parish Councillors Reports**

* Mr Butcher made mention of a very large pothole on the road towards Brandon, and commented the Green Road issue still remains outstanding
* There was a general discussion about the rubbish on the side of our roads

**SAD/PC/22/01/2024(1)**

8.**County and District Councillors Report**

* There was nothing to report but Cllr Savage did mention the sad passing of Judy Rowe who she felt a few of the Councillors may have known. Cllr Savage made mention of the fact there is a Police representation now allocated and she will let the Parish Clerk have the details

9.**Chairman’s Report**

**The Oak Tree overhanging No. 1**

* The Chairman raised the issue of the Oak Tree standing on the edge of the land rented out to Ms Sayer and advised we would now bring the matter to a conclusion. The Parish Clerk had handed all Councillors a simple voting sheet to be completed and mentioned swiftly that in future any such voting issues would be dealt with in the ‘old’ way ie proposed, seconded and final decision notated.

The result of the two items to be voted on :

1. Whether the Parish Council should take responsibility for this Oak – the outcome 4 in favour and 2 against. It will now be noted any further issues with this Oak Tree will be the responsibility of the Parish Council
2. Did the Parish Council agree the Oak Tree should be lightly pruned – this was a tied vote and the final vote rested with the Chairman. The agreement reached was to have the Oak tree branches trimmed as previously discussed with the Arborist

**Overhanging vegetation around the public toilets**

* This continues to be an unsightly area and the Chairman also reported he had received complaints regarding the state of the toilets internally. It was agreed the Parish Clerk would write to

Forestry England

**State of our private roads**

* The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors to bring forward any issues regarding our private roads for discussion at the next meeting.
* Once again the speed issues through the village was raised and it was considered a speed gun would have to be phase one since we would need to supply evidence if we were to take the matter further. A price had been obtained by the Parish Clerk and after much discussion it was generally considered, at this point in time, this would be a reasonable way forward. However, the debate moved onto flashing signs and no overall vote was taken. The possibility of a flashing sign was again discussed and Cllr Savage was asked whether or not it may be feasible for some assistance from County or District Councillors Locality Budgets. Cllr Savage agreed to look into this.

10. **Any Other Business**

* Nothing was put forward

11.**Date of Next Meeting**

* The Parish Clerk advised it was not necessary to continue having meetings every month since in the event of emergencies popping up, an Extra Ordinary Meeting can always be called.

The meetings therefore for 2024, which can always be open for change, are as follows:-

Monday, 4th March – to approve the Annual Governance

Monday, 13th May

Monday, 24th June – to approve accounts needing to be published before 1st July

Monday, 2nd September

Monday, 4th November

Monday 23rd December (usual pre Xmas meeting)

12. **Meeting closed at 7.40 pm**

**SAD/PC/22/01/2024(2)**