

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Detling Parish Council  
held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 11.00am in Detling Village Hall.**

**Councillors present:** *Bowie  
Clayton  
Coles  
Evernden  
Finn*

***Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, and Members of the Public.***

***The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bowie.***

***Councillor Bowie opened the meeting and read out a statement regarding the recording and filming during the meeting.***

**1. Apologies.**

*Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.*

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Baker-Anderson and Bryant, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast and MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

*To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.*

*To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.*

No interests were declared.

There were no Dispensations to be considered.

**3. High Consequence Infectious Diseases Policy.**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the proposed High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy to all members, this outlined the procedures and delegated authorities that needed to be put in place due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Cllr Bowie proposed the Parish Council adopted the policy and activated it with immediate effect. Cllr Clayton spoke regarding the activities of the Parish Council and the procedures that were already in place for planning matters.

Cllr Finn suggested that the PC still have regular conference calls if necessary and he seconded the proposal by Cllr Bowie.

Cllr Evernden spoke regarding the proposed policy and questioned the delegated activities outlined in this, he questioned whether these should be adopted.

He proposed an amendment to the proposal as follows:

*Should the PC receive an application for a non-recurring payment, the clerk will circulate a copy of the application to each member, and upon approval from two councillors shall be authorised to make single payments up to £500 and on approval of the majority of the council shall be authorised to make a single payment over £500.*

The Chairman asked for a seconder to the amended proposal put forward by Cllr Evernden, none was received and therefore the proposal put forward by Cllr Evernden was not carried.

Cllr Evernden put forward a further proposed amendment to the policy as follows:

*Any payment made to a person or entity shall not form part of a series of payments made to anyone party or parties acting together.*

The Chairman asked for a seconder to the proposal put forward by Cllr Evernden, none was received and therefore the proposal put forward was not carried.

The Clerk confirmed that payments would be circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr Bowie put forward a proposal to adopt the policy unchanged, this was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present with the exception of Cllr Evernden.

The proposal was therefore carried, and the High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy was adopted unchanged.

#### **4. Report from Open Spaces Committee.**

A report from the Open Spaces Committee was circulated to all members for consideration.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding this and informed members that the PC had already agreed to the appointment of the Medway Valley Partnership to undertake the maintenance in Horish Wood, subject to a meeting with the Contractor to discuss the programme of works. He confirmed that this meeting had been arranged to take place in the week.

He stated that he was also in the progress of applying for a RDA Grant of £1300 a year to assist with the maintenance in the woodland.

Cllr Evernden stated that Kent Wildlife Trust had ceased all operations this week due to Coronavirus and he asked if Medway Valley Partnership had done the same. Cllr Finn stated that he would establish the current situation when he met with them in the week.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding the annual contract for the maintenance of the parish and asked members to consider the shortlisted tenders and their costs itemised on the circulated report.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the contract should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the work was being undertaken to a satisfactory standard.

Cllr Evernden spoke regarding Monks Meadow and stated that this area was tended to on a regular basis by volunteers, and he asked how this would be affected by the contract. Cllr Finn stated that the contract included Monks Meadow as the PC needed to make provision for this in the contract.

Cllr Evernden proposed that Monks Meadow be excluded from the contract. This was discussed and it was agreed that it would remain in the contract as it may be necessary to have the contractor tend to Monks Meadow as an adjunct to the volunteers. Cllr Bowie proposed to accept the quotation as it stands, this was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present, with the exception of Cllr Evernden.

Cllr Coles stated that the hedges and trees in the village had been cut to a good standard by Kent Highways.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and proposed that the High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy be activated with immediate effect. This was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present with the exception of Cllr Evernden.

The policy was therefore activated with immediate effect until deactivated by the Parish Council.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 11.45pm.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_