



Dadlington & Sutton Cheney Parish Council

Dadlington & Sutton Cheney Parish Council Meeting October 2024

Thursday 3rd October 2024 starting at **7:30 pm** at Dadlington Village Hall, Dadlington

Minutes

Attendees

Andrew Copson – Chairman
Philip Kiteley – Vice Chairman
Neil Franklin
Ambrose Long
John Plant
Valerie Pritchard

Members of the public – Two members of the public & Clerk RFO

67/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies accepted from Linda Mayne and Simon Rees-Jones – approved by full council

68/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST PECUNIARY & NON-PRECUNIARY

None

69/24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The council deferred the signing of the minutes from September 2024 until November 2024 as the minutes had not been circulated to the council for review.

70/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns about the rifle range at Stoke Golding. They were concerned about the ammunition being used and how close the business is to local housing.

This item has been raised at the previous meeting and is on the agenda for the November 2024 meeting.

ACTION – The Clerk is to continue with the investigations into the licenses for the business and ask Borough Councillor Miriam Surtees if any further information has been found.

ACTION – The Clerk is to email the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local police beat team to look into the rifle range.



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The member of the public also requested information on the Dog and Hedgehog pub as there is talk of a planning application for housing being made.

The Chairman advised a member of the public that the council is continuing to work on an ACV application and that there will be further information on this subject in the November 24 meeting.

71/24 DELEGATED POWERS – TREE SURGEON

The council discussed the pressure that Sutton Cheney ward councillors are under to implement the VAS unit as it has been over 12 months since funding has been secured from the Sir William Roberts Trust. The installation of the VAS is taking far too long and some of this is due to the bi-monthly meetings, while other factors are also holding up the project. To speed the process up the council discussed delegating powers to spend to the Clerk and agreed that once three quotations had been sourced, the Clerk could instruct the cheapest provider to complete the works and apply for permission on the HBBC website. The Clerk will use funds in the Sutton Cheney Project Budget and this should not exceed the budget limit of £900.00.

The council unanimously voted to delegate spending authority to the Clerk to spend within the Sutton Cheney Project Fund no more than £900.00 to complete the tree trimming at the Royal Arms VAS sign location ready for the installation of the VAS unit.

72/24 2025/2026 BUDGET SETTING

The council reviewed the first draft of the budget figures for 2025/2026 noting an increase in the following budget lines:

Insurance had increased to £800 as the 2024/2025 insurance had increased and is likely to increase again next year.

The website budget has increased due to the council wanting to move to a .gov website and email addresses, this has been increased to £1500.

The defibrillator line has increased due to the possibility of taking over ownership of the Dadlington Village Hall defib machine. This was increased to £1432.

ACTION The clerk is to communicate with Rupert Satchell the Chairman of the Dadlington Village Hall Committee to confirm transfer of ownership for the defib.

All Three wards have requested an increase in project funds available to complete new works within the individual wards.

ACTION – The Clerk is to look at increasing the budget lines for projects for each ward and look at what increase in precept will be needed to cover these costs.

ACTION – The Clerk is to create a template for a budget line that will show unspent funds to date.

A council member stated that they were concerned that the council may be running into negative funds next year and had been working on a spreadsheet with the council's current figures. The current template does not show a negative balance but to be sure the Clerk is to arrange a meeting with the



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individual councillor to talk through the two spreadsheets and come to a final conclusion. The opinion was discussed to consider having a 5-year plan and increasing the precept each year to try and increase the reserves. The Chairman explained that the council agreed last year to have a 2.5-month reserve fund as that is all the council would maintain at this time. Should the council want to increase these funds then the precept will need to be increased accordingly and this can be reflected in the budget preparation.

ACTION – The Clerk is to look through the previous budget templates and ensure that the template shows the underspend from the previous year.

ACTION – The Clerk is to arrange meetings with Cllr Neil Franklin to work through the two spreadsheets.

ACTION – The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Chairman Andrew Copson once changes have been made

ACTION – The Clerk is to look at creating a Five-year budget plan to increase reserves and the ability to do more within the parish.

The council also discussed the move to Unity Bank as they have the ability to hold ringfenced funds in separate pots, which will ensure that funds secured for specific projects or reserves are held and kept secure. This matter has already been voted on and the Clerk has been trying to complete this, but with several complications, this is taking some time.

ACTION – The Clerk is to make the bank move a priority and make contact with HSBC to see what needs to be done to close down the account and move to Unity.

72/24 2025/2026 PRECEPT

The council discussed that once all the budget changes have been agreed the precept calculations can be looked at and applied accordingly.

Meeting Closed 20:10