

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present:

David Crane, Pete Doherty, Bob Gilbey, Mrs Cathy Godber, Mrs Suzanne Musker, Glyn Perrens, Phil Tandy (Chairman), Barry Vincent

Parishioners present:

Mr John Godber, Mrs

Others present:

Spinney Adlam (Parish Watercourse Office), Councillor Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Ros Jones (Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk) Ms Catherine Kirkham (Housing)

Public participation

Mr Spinney Adlam asked what was being done to maintain the telephone kiosk. It was pointed out that he had missed the last council meeting where this had been discussed and the Chairman and Cllr Heron updated him on this. Mr Adlam insisted that it was the responsibility of the PC to cut the brambles.

Mr John Godber remarked upon the reported cut back in policing in the county. There was also an increase in crime in the village. He invited Cllr Heron to comment. Cllr Heron was disappointed that a third of the front line police had been cut in the area. He said that it would be useful for the PC to write to the Police Commissioner with their concerns about cuts. He believed that a recent inspection had identified the solving of rural crime as an area for improvement.

Action: *Chairman or Clerk to write to Police Commissioner*

1. Apologies:

All councillors were present

2. Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:

No interests were declared.

3. Housing Needs Survey results

Ms Kirkham presented a summary of the Housing Needs Survey (attached). She pointed out that a housing scheme of the size recommended would not totally meet the needs of those seeking housing within the parish and other properties would therefore be needed.

Cllr Heron said that it would be good to approach the relevant landowners face to face. He also pointed out that sometimes applications were from people who did not currently want to actually live in the village.

BV pointed out that "affordable" rents were still £100 higher than other rents in Fordingbridge. Councillors agreed that this was the case and that if the aim was to attract families back to the village then flats would be a less expensive option. There was considerable discussion around this. GP contributed his professional knowledge of grants and rents and Cllr Heron explained the Council's position on building social housing. It was agreed that there were difficulties, but that the PC should proceed to investigating the possibilities for building affordable housing. The following actions were agreed:

Action: *PT and Cllr Heron to approach local landowners.*

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Action: Cllr Heron to speak to the District Council Housing Officer and investigate whether applicants would want to rent properties should they be built

Action: Once investigations had been carried out and action agreed Ms Kirkham would send the clerk details of how parishioners should register their interest in the possibility of renting an affordable property should one be built.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th January 2015

The clerk had already made a correction and asked that all councillors would let her know of any changes when they first received the minutes, This enabled her to bring a corrected copy to the next meeting for signing.

The minutes of the January meeting were agreed and signed. Not all councillors had received the February minutes and these would be approved at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to forward minutes of February meeting to all.

5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

5i Neighbourhood Watch:

Once a co-ordinator was found a scheme could be instigated.

6. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer

Mrs Ros Jones presented her report as follows:

“State of the paths: Along with the weather this winter, the paths and tracks have been by turns soaking wet and pleasantly dry – but mostly wet. All are passable as far as I know.

“Warning from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpaths Society: Because of recent weather conditions and the growing number of wild deer, numbers of ticks in woodland and long grass areas have soared. Ticks can infect humans and dogs with various serious, sometimes fatal, diseases. Pet owners are urged to check cats, dogs and themselves for ticks.

In February I wrote to the Rights of Way section at HCC listing some continuing problems such as the subsiding bridges on Footpath 49, fallen signposts and the collapsing steps on to Rockborne Lane. The Countryside Access team has logged them all and allotted each one a priority.

I have received a number of complaints from walkers about dog fouling on the footpaths. I asked Councillor Bob Gilbey if I could put a notice in the Parish Pump asking people to clear up after their pets, and he also kindly laminated a couple of notices for me, which I have put up in two of the worst areas. I rang NFDC to ask if we could have a disposal bin put up on the triangle opposite the top end of West Park Lane – the lady I spoke to said that it should be fine, but Bob warned me not to hold my breath . . . “

Action: Cllr Heron to investigate with NFDC to determine whose responsibility a bin for dog waste would be.

It was noted that the path from the Church to Mill End was very muddy but that this was probably unavoidable. The footbridges towards the fishing lakes and fish farm needed replacing and Cllr Heron regretted that the money was probably not available.

Action: Ros Jones, Cllr Heron and SM to inspect the site in question with Sam Jones (Countryside Service) in the spring.

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7. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer

Spinney Adlam reported that water levels were low. He commented that traffic usage was already widening the road at South End.

Councillors noted that there was fly tipping in some places including South End and that litter was currently bad in the village. Cllr Heron commented that householders were legally liable for the disposal of their own rubble and rubbish – should a contractor have been employed to do this on behalf of the householder; they still remained responsible.

Action: BG to put a paragraph in the Parish Pump.

The Litter Pick was on 28th March this year.

Action: Cllr Heron to get the council to gather litter in areas that were unsafe for volunteers to cover.

8. Report from Transport Representative

BV presented his report:

“In my last report I asked about the Lengthsman clearing the grips around the village to get the water off the road and this was agreed. I then received an email from the clerk in which the date of the 6th March was given for when the Lengthsman would be working in the village. On Sunday 8th March I walked around the village to find to my disappointment but not surprise that nothing had been done.

I have reported various potholes that need sorting out around the village and I have been notified that these will be looked at.”

He also raised the problems of getting work done in a timely matter by the Lengthsman. The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Heron reported on the measures which were being taken to tighten up on work that still needed doing. There was considerable discussion of the difficulties experienced by DPC and other councils in getting the priority work done in a timely manner and it was agreed that the new tighter measures monitored by the Clerk and Chairman would be given time to take effect before any further measures were discussed.

Action: PT to submit prioritised new Job Sheet. Clerk to ring Robert Heron before each scheduled visit and alert PT or BG when he was due to be in the village. Clerk to receive completed Job Sheet and forward to PT.

Action: Clerk to ring Lengthsman and ask for an extra day.

9. Correspondence

None that had not already been forwarded to councillors.

10 Finance and payments

10i Bank reconciliation 13th January – 9th March

The clerk reported that she had not received a paper copy of the current period bank statement as yet and that the website for internet banking had today refused to recognise her. She assured councillors that to the best of her knowledge and belief all cheques, with the sole exception of that to the Chairman for web site management for £35.96, had been cleared by the bank.

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10ii Budget update

The Clerk circulated copies of her spreadsheet showing spending under headings to date. This showed amounts paid out of the account since the last meeting and gave an idea of the amount of money remaining in the budget. She would update it by the end of the financial year. She took the councillors through several of the headings and PT queried the amount sent to Autela and HMRC which she would double check.

10iii Payments for February/March were as follows:

- Cheque no: 540 to Autela – for payroll services - £30.00
- Cheque no: 541 to S.U.Sykes – Clerk’s January salary - £174.86
- Cheque no: 542 to S.U.Sykes – Clerk’s February salary - £175.06
- Cheque no: 547 to HMRC – Clerk’s paye - £131.20
- Cheque no: 548 to Damerham Village Hall – hire of Committee Room - £180.00
- Cheque no: 549 to Mr N.F.Qinnell – PlayTrail inspections - £40.00
- Cheque no: 550 to James Bryne Printing Ltd – Parish Pump - £20.00
- Cheque no: 551 to P. Tandy (1 & 1) – web site management – £35.96
- Cheque no: 552 to S.U.Sykes – expenses - £25.96

(Clerk’s note: *Cheque no:543 spoilt cheque*
Cheque nos: 544 and 545 would be Clerk’s salaries for March and April
Cheque no: 546 made out to Autela Payroll Services who had changed their
payment dates which were now due in arrears.)

11. Planning Applications

15/10155 Damerham Fisheries: Variation of condition 3 of Planning Permission. This would enable the new owners to change the name of the property.

Motion: 3. That the PC approves the application.

Proposed: Richard Major Seconded: Barry Vincent

Vote: unanimous

12. Parish Lengthsman’s Scheme

This item was already covered under Item 8 above

13. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings

13i Police Liaison Committee

GP reported that he had attended this meeting at which there had been robust questioning addressed to the Police Commissioner on the cuts in services. However it was noted that the nearest custody suit had been in Lyndhurst for several years. The Commissioner was keen to see Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, Travellers procedures and improved sharing of information across agencies in relation to domestic violence. GP asked if councillors had any concerns for him to take to the next meeting. There were none raised other than the cutting of services mentioned above.

13ii Broadband Update meeting

PT, BG and Cllr Heron had attended this meeting at which it was reported that 95% of households over the country would have faster broadband by the end of 2017. This did not

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mean that this percentage in rural Hampshire would have this. Discussion of the difficulties followed. There had been several updates by e-mail forwarded to all councillors.

Action: *BG to respond to the letter from the Chairman of Local Authorities.*

14. Other matters brought forward by the Chairman

14i Precept increases by other councils

PT noted that Sandleheath had increased their precept by 31%

14ii Elections

The Chairman reminded councillors that nominations for places on the council needed to be completed and delivered by hand to Lyndhurst by the deadline, which was Thursday 9th April. It was not sufficient to put these in the post. He hoped that all existing councillors would stand again and reminded councillors who had not been through an election before that it was up to them to find a proposer and submit their nomination.

Clerk's note: *I believe that Cllr heron has offered to take nominations through to Lyndhurst if these are put through his door in good time.*

The clerk reported that she had just received an apology from the Democratic Services Manager at the NFDC for sending no information on the procedures for nomination until now: and that this message contained important information on the procedure for submitting nominations and a link to further details.

Action: *Clerk to forward this e-mail to all councillors immediately*

Clerk's note: *I shall post notice of elections on the Parish Notice Board when I receive it on Friday 27th March.*

13. Other matters (of a minor nature) brought forward by councillors

13i Change of date for next meeting

As two councillors were unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th May (one of whom was the Chairman) it was proposed to change the date to Monday May 18th

13ii Litter bin

That by the bus stop had been removed,

Action: *Cllr Heron to investigate which council should pay for replacement.*

13iii Closure of fence in field below Church

It was noted that the landowner had closed the gap in the fence and that, though there was no right of way, he would open a way through when the field was used for car parking e.g. for the Village Show.

14. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 18th May

The meeting ended at 10.00pm