

DAMERHAM PARTISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council in Damerham Village Hall on

Monday 14th March at 7.30pm

Councillors present: David Crane, Pete Doherty, Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major, Mrs Suzanne Musker, Glyn Perrens, Phil Tandy (Chairman).

Others present: Cllr Edward Heron (NFDC), Spinney Adlam (Parish Watercourses Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Parish Clerk)

Parishioners present: Mr John Godber, Mr Len Sharpe, Mr and Mrs Ian Head,

Public Participation:

Trees on Court Hill

The clerk asked to mention several comments that she had received about the overhanging trees on Court Hill. One in particular had been observed over a period of time by a resident of the village using the road on a regular basis and was believed to be slipping down the bank.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Bryant explaining concerns.

Baptist Church land

Mr Godber asked if there was any news on the sale of the Baptist Church and land as he believed it would be a good site for affordable housing development. The clerk said that she had heard no further news on this and believed that there would be none until the Baptist union of GB had made a decision to declare the Church redundant.

Action: Clerk to enquire again of local contact to check progress.

1. Apologies and declaration of quorum

Apologies were accepted from Bob Gilbey and Barry Vincent. There was discussion of continual absences from PC meetings. SUS believed that it was only if apologies were recorded as not accepted that there would be an issue with a councillor. However, the Chairman said that he would speak to one of the councillors about this matter.

2. Declaration of business interests: None.

3. Minutes of the previous meetings: held on 11th January and 8th and 22nd February These were agreed and signed

4. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

4.1 Editorship of the Parish Pump

The meeting discussed the editorship of the Parish Pump: it was agreed that this was the voice of the Parish Council and that, as such, there needed to be Council control over the inclusion of items which might not be parish based. Having said this, it was agreed that the Chairman should speak again to Maria Langdon, who had expressed a willingness to take on this task.

4.2 Planning applications

The Stocks Cottage application had been granted. That at Hill Farm was withdrawn. There was no news yet of the application at The Old Corn Mill.

5. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

Mrs Ros Jones had sent her apologies for the meeting and said that she had nothing to report.

The footpath behind Spring Meadows but at the Common Road end (the garden at the back Villa) It was understood that PD would walk down there and take a look with a view to talking to the householders if necessary.

The matter of the footpath beside the Fisheries was still unresolved. It was believed that Cllr Heron would chase this up.

Action: Clerk to remind Cllr Heron.

6. Report from the Parish Watercourses Officer

Spinney Adlam had nothing to report but said that he continued to be concerned about the state of the grips throughout the parish.

7. Report from the Parish Transport Representative

Barry Vincent had forwarded his report in advance:

"Traffic Report March 2016

I have reported various pot holes around the village, several of which have been repaired but I felt that some had not been repaired to an acceptable standard and were not lasting. I have phoned Bob Brown about this and he has informed me that he will be re doing the ones I have asked about and they will also be sending the patching machine up West Park Lane and also the High Street to fill in the various pot holes there.

One piece of good news regarding the bridges, Bob Brown informs me that he hopes to carry out the work to the bridges **BEFORE** the set date.

I wondered if Sue has written to Sean Woodward yet about the causeway and the signage and if so what the reply had been.

When the next lengthsman list is compiled would it be possible to add the cleaning of the railings on the bridges."

The clerk apologised for her slowness in getting the letter to Sean Woodward sent off but said that this was now in hand.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had received the following:

- Installing and commissioning certificate for the defibrillator
- Information about the Community First Night Stop and a CD
- Cranborne AONB Annual Update and report

9. Finance and payments

9i Income and Expenditure update

The clerk presented this and commented that the roll over continued to increase year on year. It was agreed that money could be spent on the Clerk's manual from SLCC and on the Playtrail maintenance (see below).

9ii Payments for March / April

595 James Byrne printing	Pump: February & March	£40.00
596 Bob Gilbey	Expenses	£22.13
597 S.U.Sykes	Clerk's expenses	£89.52
598 Phil Tandy	I&1 Internet (web site maintenance)	£35.96
560 HMRC	Clerk's paye	£131.20
561 S.U.Sykes	Clerk's salary (March)	£175.06

562 S.U.Sykes
562 Hall

Clerk's salary (April)
Hire of Hall

175.06 max
£144.00

9iii Bank reconciliation 11th January – 14th March 2016

The Clerk also presented an update on the year's expenditure and commented that the carry over was steadily rising.

She asked if the Council would consider purchasing a copy of the Clerk's Manual from the Society of Local Council Clerks. The cost was reduced for members but she suggested that membership and Manual was possibly more than she needed and recommended purchasing the Manual in a binder for £67.50 which was considerably less than membership + Manual at reduced cost. Councillors voted to unanimously sanction the purchase of the Manual and/or membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

10. Planning applications: updates if any See above at Item 4.2

11. Parish Lengthsman:

It had been agreed by the Chairman and Clerk that it would be most practical for SUS to take over the completion of Lengthsman's Worksheets. She said that she would be dependant upon councillors to recommend tasks and that she would remind them of this by e-mail. She would notify them when the dates of visits were due so that a councillor could let her know that he/she would meet the Lengthsman on site during his visit. She would also liaise with Fordingbridge Council and receive the completed Worksheets.

The question of maintenance of the Playtrail was discussed again and it was agreed that the decision that the Lengthsman should not be asked to work on the Playtrail should be reversed.

Motion: That the Parish Clerk could ask the Lengthsman to carry out necessary pruning and cutting back on the Playtrail, but that clearing of the grips throughout the parish should be prioritised.

Proposed: Phil Tandy

Seconded: Richard Major

Voting: Unanimous

It was also decided that the Clerk could get a contractor to carry out necessary maintenance work on the Playtrail at need; to the limit laid down in the Standing Orders of the Council which was believed to £100.

Clerk's note: it has been later discovered that this authorised amount is £50. This needs to be increased by order of the Parish Council to a figure more realistic by today's prices.

Action: Item for next PC meeting agenda

Action: DC to speak to Malcolm Parker about taking on occasional jobs at the Playtrail and to e-mail SUS.

12. Neighbourhood Watch update

The village meeting had been well attended and notes of the meeting were available (attached on file). As soon as she was able to find volunteers to co-ordinate the High Street and West Park Lane, the clerk would call a further meeting of volunteers with the police representative and Sarah Beeley. It was hoped that an overall co-ordinator and contact for the police would come forward from this group of street co-ordinators.

Len Sharpe had reported that Mill End had started a mini-scheme whereby those neighbours who had responded to a letter had shared their contact details and agreed to keep watch for each other and to stay in touch on matters of neighbourly interest and safety.

13. Defibrillator – update and date for first responder CPR training

The defib. was fitted to the side of the Hall facing the road and a sign would be fitted higher up the wall to show its location. A meeting was being arranged between Andy Carr and the persons responsible for the defib.

Action: The clerk would contact Andy Carr to get the name of the person who would be able to hold a training session for those interested and would then get some suggested dates.

14. Her Majesty's 90th Birthday celebrations update

CG and SUS had these in hand. A meeting would be held on Sunday 10th April for the organisers of the various parts of the afternoon Village Party. It was understood that Gilly Chance was also confident that the arrangements for the evening Loyal Variety Show were well in hand.

15. Vodafone issues

DC had drafted a letter to Vodaphone which he read to the councillors. He would tweak this and e-mail it to the clerk who would send it to the Chief Exec of Vodaphone and to Desmond Swaine MP.

Action: Clerk to send letter to Vodaphone.

Public phone box

Several councillors and residents had contacted BT to ask for reconnection of the line to the box opposite Crossways Farm and it was hoped that action would be taken.

16. Local bus service

DC outlined the investigations into an alternative bus service from the village into Salisbury on a Tuesday, following the impending withdrawal of the current service on April 9th. One option is for the Herrington service currently running from Fordingbridge to Salisbury through Whitsbury and Breamore to include Damerham. We are currently awaiting a reply from Colin Wright, Principal Transport Officer at HCC. The advantage of this option is that bus passes can be used. The other option is for a minibus service provided by Community First New Forest from Damerham to Salisbury. The main obstacle here is funding as a return fare of at least £7 per person would be required to make the service viable.

He also outlined the current Community Taxishare Scheme from Damerham into Fordingbridge. This service provided by HCC needs to be promoted in the Pump to encourage better utilisation to ensure that it is not withdrawn through poor uptake.

Action: BG to insert information in next edition of The Parish Pump.

17. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings. None.

18. Other matters considered urgent by the Chairman. None in addition to the above.

19. Other matters raised by Councillors.

Phil Tandy notified councillors that his pressure of work currently meant that he was only in the village for a short time each week and that he had taken the decision to step down from the Parish Council at the APM in May. Councillors noted that this would mean the election of a new Chairman as well as creating a vacancy on the Council.

Bob Gilbey had also indicated at the last PC meeting that he intended to step down after the APM as he and Mrs. Gilbey had put their house on the market and were moving out of the parish.

Councillors recorded their grateful thanks to both Phil and Bob for their long and devoted service to the Council. Their contribution would be sorely missed.

20. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 9th May 2016

Monday 9th May to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting and election of officers.

Damerham Parish Council. SUS.