

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Additional meeting of the Council on Monday 22nd August 2016

Councillors present: David Crane (Chairman), Pete Doherty, Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major, Glyn Perrens, Glyn Ruth.

Parishioners present: Mr and Mrs R Lack, Mr John Godber

Others: Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk to the Council)

Public participation: Mr Lack said that he and his wife had tried to keep the addition to their property, Home Bakery Cottage, as compact as possible. One neighbour had expressed concern about blocking of light, but the Planning Officer did not feel that this was a concern. The same neighbour had also expressed concern about location of windows and exhaust from the boiler.

1. **Apologies:** were accepted from Mrs Suzanne Musker, Phil Stephens, Barry Vincent.

2. **Declaration of interests** - None

3. **Planning applications**

3i 16/11047: Home Bakery Cottage, Lower Daggons Lane. South End. Damerham:
Two-storey and single-storey rear extensions; front porch; detached double garage.
The briefing document was not yet available. RM believed that the objections which had been made were minimal. The Council discussed the objections which had been made, but were agreed that there was nothing to which they should object and that the size was modest and reasonable. It was felt that the application, if approved, would bring about significant improvements to the property which were much needed.

Motion: 3 The Council supported the application and, should it go to committee, would attend to speak in favour.

Proposed: Pete Doherty Seconded: Glyn Perrens

Voting: unanimous.

3ii 16/11065: Hill Farm, Mill End, Damerham. Use part of barn as 1 holiday let; associated works; parking

It was believed that the owner had gone some way to meeting the objections of the Planning Officer. The last application put forward by this owner had been given a 2 by the PC with 3 councillors for the motion and 1 against. Councillors believed that there had been little change to the plans since then, however the councillors present were different. It was believed that the owner would not be able to bring about a complete change of use without the appropriate permissions being granted; and that the authority would impose instructions if the plans were accepted.

Motion: 1. The council was in favour of the application but would accept the decision of the Planning Officer

Proposed: Pete Doherty Seconded: Richard Major

Voting: Unanimous

3iii 16/11016; Western Downland Primary School, Mill End, Damerham SP6 3HU
Single-storey side extension to form new classroom

The Chairman read the comments of the Planning Officer which were overwhelmingly positive. Mr John Godber was invited to speak as a governor at the school; and said that he

believed that the new build was to house a nursery school unit. Some councillors were concerned about the increased problem with parking as the school expanded and the ongoing problems with the bridge in Church Lane were also mentioned. Worry about the increased size of the school and the change to its general appearance within the village were discussed. The view was expressed that the siting of a school within the village was important and that this might outweigh other considerations. Most councillors present were able to see arguments on both sides of the question.

i) Motion: 4. The PC rejected the proposal but would accept the decision of the Planning Officer. This proposal did not find a seconder and was rejected.

ii) Motion: 2. The PC in favour of rejecting the application on the grounds that there were likely to be severe problems with traffic and parking. However they would accept the decision of the Planning Officer, which they believed would be acceptance of the application...

Proposed: Richard Major Seconded: Mrs Cathy Godber

Voting: unanimous.

4. Tree work application:

Millbrook Cottage, Mill End. Damerham: fell 1 yew tree which has failed and fallen across the river.

It was agreed that this tree needed to be removed. Should the right to comment exist then this comment would be recorded.

5. Discussion of council intentions re:

16/1117: Ringwood and Fordingbridge Skip Hire, Courtwood Farm, Court Hill, Damerham. Extension to material recovery facility to allow storage of waste, skips and parking of vehicles.

There was discussion over the need for recycling sites versus the adverse effects of expansion of this particular site and a proposal was made: The Chairman suggested that the Council write to Richard Natt expressing concern about the possibly consequences of this expansion within a rural environment. The possible deterioration of the road surface, following additional usage by very heavy traffic, was also noted.

Motion: 4. The Council was against the application and would attend Committee should this be called.

Proposed: David Crane Seconded: Pete Doherty

Voting: 4 in favour with 1 abstention.

Action: Chairman to draft letter to Richard Natt. Clerk to phone him to find out if there was a right to comment.

Action: Clerk to phone Clerk at Sandleheath and ask if the PC there would also want to take an interest in this application.

6. Clerk's update on PlayTrail issues.

The Clerk reported that the tyre swing on the PlayTrail had been wrenched from its safety support. This had been reported as slightly loose but of no immediate danger on the RoSPA report. Parents gave it as their opinion that older youngsters had climbed on top of the structure and applied some force. SUS was grateful to the resident who had told her of this occurrence and had put warning tape around the whole structure. This had been removed by local resident Mr Winky Smith when he very kindly mended the swing. SUS has seen his indemnity insurance certificate and, with the addition of two nuts at the top bar it looked now as if the structure was safe. Councillors agreed with PD when he said that RoSPA must now be asked to return to inspect the structure.

The Clerk was concerned that residents did not know that the PlayTrail belonged to the PC and therefore did not report faults. The Council unanimously agreed that she should get a sign made and erected explaining this.

Action: Clerk to contact RoSPA to return and inspect the swing.

Action: Clerk to have sign made advising users of the PC ownership of the PlayTrail and giving her phone number to report any future damage.

Some more minor tasks were still outstanding on the PlayTrail and the Chairman had contacted The Odd Job Man with a view to employing him to make good these tasks.

Motion: That the Clerk be empowered to spend up to £300 + VAT to carry out necessary tasks as detailed in the RoSPA Report.

Proposed: Pete Doherty Seconded: Glyn Ruth

Voting: Unanimous.

Winky had also taken on the regular inspections of the PlayTrail and been given the forms to complete, which he would return to the Clerk on a regular basis. He had said that he wanted to take this on as service to the community and because he had two young daughters who used the PlayTrail and that he did not want to be offered payment.

SUS also reported that she had had one tree surgeon out to look at the tree down at the end of the PlayTrail and that he had given it as his opinion that it would be best to cut the tree up completely and remove it. This could either be done after chipping; or, if anyone wanted the wood, it could be left on site. SUS would meet Marcus there and get his estimate on 5th September. Councillors deemed that a third quote was unnecessary. Whilst inspecting the tree, the tree surgeon had been approached by a neighbour who said that a resident in West Park Lane had said that he would cut up and remove the tree for the cost of the wood, which he could use. The neighbour also reported that another resident had offered to drag the stream to clear the weed. This latter assertion appeared to be unfounded. The following actions were unanimously agreed:

Action: Clerk to get second quote from Marcus so that a decision could be made at the PC meeting on 5th September and the work be then carried out as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to investigate the possibility of using surplus Lengthsman time to clear the stream of weed; once the tree was removed. Failing this to look into other possibilities.

Winky Smith had also offered to fit a bolt and chain with padlock to the gate so that it would be more difficult for unauthorised vehicles to gain access. This, too, was unanimously agreed.

7. Any other matter brought forward by the Chairman for discussion or information.

DC raised the following matters; all of which would appear on the agenda of the next PC meeting:

7i Lengthsman:

Marcus' next visit was on 5th September. Priorities were agreed to be: the grips on Court Hill – road signs cleared on approach to East End – other grips around the parish.

7ii Planning Applications

Richard Major agreed to take on oversight of the planning application process and he and the Clerk would meet to discuss what was involved in the near future...

7iii PC Standing Orders

The Clerk would have begun the work of updating the standard format and customising it before the next PC meeting but was unsure if this would be finished by then.

7iv Asset register

DC proposed listing properties within the parish which – should they ever become available – would have a community use.

7v Church Lane

The Chairman reported that the County Council proposed fixing the metal barriers on either side of the bridge and reopening the road ready for the start of the school term. However he understood

that the new signs would not be in place by then. The meeting noted the undergrowth to either side of the Causeway which would make the passage of vehicles almost impossible.

Action: The Clerk to write immediately to Mr Bryant asking him to cut his side of the lane. She should also determine how far Cllr Heron had got with investigating the scheme for enforcing cutting of the other side of the lane.

7vi Council reorganisation

DC reminded councillors that he and the Clerk were attending a briefing on Wednesday 14th September (after the PC meeting). He would report back fully, but said that the existing information available was extremely lengthy and that councillors might prefer to wait for his summary.

7viii Vodaphone

One resident was enquiring if there had yet been a reply from Vodafone about the lack of service in the village. There had not. However RM was pursuing this issue on his own account through the Ombudsman. It was agreed that, when the outcome of his action was known, that the Council should take similar steps to get a response to their queries and to the complaints from residents.

7vix The defibrillator

The Clerk would contact Andy Carr to make a date for training for herself and the Chairman so that the defib. would be inspected on a regular basis.

8. Date for meeting of street co-ordinators for Neighbourhood Watch: Friday 2nd September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Date of next PC meeting: Monday 5th September 2016

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

Clerk to contact Andy Carr re inspecting the defib.