

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Damerham Parish Council held in Damerham Village Hall on **Monday 11th March 2013 @ 7.30 pm.**

Present

Cllr. Tandy (Chairman)
Cllr. S. Langdown
Cllr. B. Vincent

Cllr. D. Crane
Cllr. Mrs. C. Godber
Cllr. R. Gilbey

In attendance

4 electors of the Parish

Public Participation

a) Mrs. S. Sykes asked if the Chairman had had any success in getting a senior planning person to come to a meeting to explain some of the recent planning decisions. Cllr. Tandy had agreed with NFDC that Stuart Elliott would come to a meeting but fixing a time and date was proving difficult.

It was pointed out by NFDC that nobody from the Conservation Office was available to attend an evening meeting as they “Don’t work evenings”.

b) Mr. J. Godber asked if the Chairman knew of a scheme whereby Amey would assist with funding parking at local schools. Cllr. Tandy pointed out the difficulty of finding land around the close proximity of the school as most is owned by Tylney Investments (Mrs. Thomas) and they have proven un-cooperative in the past when it comes to letting go of any of their land. Cllr. Tandy will discuss this with Cllr. Heron as soon as possible.

1. **Apologies:** received from Cllr. P. Doherty, Cllr. E. Heron, Mr. B. Mair (Clerk) and Mrs. R. Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interests:** No interests were declared.

3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting on 14th January and 7th February:**

Resolved that the minutes of the 14th January be signed subject to certain alterations and that the minutes of 7th February be signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters arising:**

Cllr. Tandy proposed that the matters of the War Memorial and the Play Trail be discussed as agenda items during the meeting.

5. **To Co-opt a new Member to the Council:**

It was proposed to co-opt Mr. Glyn Perrens to the Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr. Tandy and seconded by Cllr. Gilbey.

Cllr. Tandy will send the required forms for Cllr. Vincent and Cllr. Perrens to the Returning Officer.

6. **Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer.**

There was no formal report – Mrs. Jones had communicated to Cllr. Tandy that most of the local paths were very wet after the recent heavy rains.

7. **Report from the Parish Watercourses Officer:**

There was no report.

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8. Report from Transport Representative:

Cllr. Gilbey had circulated his report prior to the meeting and a copy is attached to these minutes.

9. Correspondence:

Cllr. Tandy circulated to all present a leaflet that had been received explaining the purpose of the Association of Local Councils.

He also discussed a briefing note relevant to the Annual Return that is due in July. There will be updated documentation in April & May to assist with the on-line submissions.

Cllr. Tandy informed members of certain changes in procedures for correspondence – from Friday, 15th March all in-coming e-mail correspondence will go to all councillors via the Damerham web-site server. From next January, the new Parish Clerk will filter the e-mails and only distribute those that are relevant.

10. Finance and payments

10.1 To approve payments for March & April 2013

10.2 Resolved to approve invoices held by the Chairman

a) James Byrne Printers	£60.00
b) N. F. Quinell Play Trail Inspection to end March	£20.00
c) R. Gilbey Gift for the out-going Clerk	£127.69
d) R. Gilbey Postage etc., re The Pump	£25.09
e) P. Tandy Web-Site Hosting	£35.96

Cllr. Gilbey raised the subject of the change of signatories for Lloyds Bank. Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that the bank had returned the forms as a previous councillor was still on the list of signatories even though he had left the council a number of years ago! Cllr. Jerrard's name has been duly removed.

The revised list of signatories is: Cllr. P. Tandy, Cllr. R. Gilbey and Mrs. S. Sykes as Financial Officer. When Mrs. Sykes takes over as Parish Clerk in January 2014, she will have to be replaced as a signatory according to the rules.

Cllr. Tandy proposed that an additional member of the Parish Council should be made a signatory to cover the signing of cheques for any meeting when he is unavailable.

11. Planning Applications

11.1 To note decisions by NFDC

- 12/99340 – Goesmere Gardens – Granted with conditions
- 11/98568 – Pound Cottage – Refused on Appeal
- 13/10024 – Bouldsbury Wood – Granted
- 13/10023 – St Georges Church – Granted with conditions
- 13/10033 – Higher Lopshill Farm – Granted with conditions
- 13/10020 – Greenbanks – Granted with conditions

11.2 No new planning applications have been received.

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12. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings:

There were no reports.

13. Any other item that the Chairman considers to be urgent.

13.1 Temporary operating procedures for the Council

Cllr. Tandy asked that all councillors must read all in-coming e-mails and any responses must be distributed to all councillors as soon as possible.

13.2 Jubilee Bench

Cllr. Tandy is in discussion with the trustees of the Sportsfield regarding siting the bench on the Sportsfield and will report back to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

13.2 War Memorial

Cllr. Crane has received communication from the War Memorials Trust that Damerham may qualify for a grant of up to £2,500 to refurbish the War Memorial – but any funding must be matched.

The trust requires two estimates for the work before they will consider any grants. Cllr. Vincent has located a firm that will provide an estimate, but they require £500 as a cost for interim cleaning before they can produce an estimate for the full works. This fee includes VAT which can be reclaimed.

Cllr. Crane will approach another firm who have come forward as a result of his investigations.

13.3 West Park Meadow

Cllr. Tandy reported that the Southern Electricity company had completed their tree work in the Play Trail. This included the cutting down of eight birch trees that they considered a hazard to the overhead cables. They have replaced them with six flowering cherry trees at no expense.

14. Any other business (of a minor nature)

a) Lengthsman - Cllr. Vincent queried the work done by the Lengthsman on Court Hill in that he felt that more could have been done to clear the gullies. Cllr. Tandy pointed out that these gullies had previously been dug by mechanical means and that even though only a relatively small amount of clearing had been done by the Lengthsman, they were working in the recent heavy rains.

Cllr. Tandy confirmed that the money set aside for the Lengthsman scheme was controlled by Debbie Vine at Fordingbridge Council and all submissions for work done had to be validated before the Lengthsman gets paid.

Cllr. Gilbey said that if the Lengthsman isn't used, his contract will not be renewed. Any work that any member of our Parish Council considers could be done by the Lengthsman should be sent to Cllr. Gilbey (with a sketch map, if possible) who will consolidate into a day's work and ask for his services as soon as possible.

Cllr. Vincent asked if a half day of the Lengthsman's schedule could be shared with any other local Council who were part of the scheme. Cllr. Gilbey will ask for guidance on this.

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b) Footbridge: Cllr. Tandy has received a report from a firm who have recommended that the footbridge be sanded and sealed as the most effective way of making the bridge safe for the foreseeable future.

This work should only be done when the bridge is dry and they do not consider the use of high pressure washing as a suitable method of cleaning the bridge.

Cllr. Tandy is to try to find out who owns the bridge as it isn't on the Parish Council asset register.

c) Meeting date? Cllr. Godber queried the date of the next meeting on the agenda. It should read the 13th May and not the 6th May 2013.

d) Vice-Chairman - Cllr. Tandy proposed that a Vice-Chairman should be proposed at the next meeting as his business affairs will require him to be unavailable for some of the meetings later in the year.

e) Jubilee Project - Cllr. Godber proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Sykes and Mr. Neil Bedford for the finalisation of the Jubilee DVD project.

15. Thanks to our Clerk Mr B.Mair for his valued service to the Parish:

Cllr. Tandy proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Brian Mair for his valuable service to Damerham Parish Council over the last twelve years.

Cllr. Tandy has indicated that Brian is unable to come to this meeting because of his state of health and he and Cllr. Godber will arrange a meeting to make the presentation of the Decanter Set as soon as convenient. Mrs. Sykes has offered to take photographs of the presentation to go on to Damerham.net web-site.

16. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting incorporates the Village Parish Meeting, the AGM and the regular Parish Council meeting and is set for Monday, 13th May 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

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Report from the Parish Transport & Traffic Representative

1. LOCAL ROADS

Hampshire County Council are having a “blitz” on the road between Damerham and Martin from Littlemill Lane to Tidpit – Operation Resilience is a procedure where carriageway patching and ditch clearing will be carried out on a major basis.

During a three week period starting on Thursday 14th March, the roads **may** be closed to through traffic between 08.00 to 17.00 hours. Where possible the closure may not be used to enable traffic to flow with the minimum of disruption.

There will be advisory signs to notify of any closures and alternate routes.

Any queries – please ring 0845 603 5633 or log on to the HCC twitter feed at www.twitter.com/hantsconnect

The proposed closure of Rockbourne on 4th March has been postponed until 19th March – and is estimated to be closed for one day only, rather than the two days originally proposed.

There has been considerable flooding during the recent rains – and this has had a detrimental effect on Lower Daggons Lane in particular where the road surface has been lifted by the volume of water. This has been reported to HCC and, hopefully, any other problems have been advised accordingly.

2. TRAFFIC MATTERS

The implementation of SpeedWatch in Damerham has been hindered by illness amongst the volunteers, but the system has been active in recent weeks in Rockbourne, Martin and Sandleheath.

There is a need for more volunteers from Damerham to make the operation more effective – please advise Phil Tandy if you, or anyone you know, are able to take part in this scheme.

3. TRANSPORT

There is nothing to report that has any relevance to Damerham and the surroundings.

Robert Gilbey
Traffic & Transport Representative

11th March 2013