

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Damerham Parish Council

Held in Damerham Village Hall on

Monday, 13th May 2013 following on from the Village Assembly.

Present

Cllr. P. Tandy (Chairman)

Cllr. D. Crane

Cllr. S. Allsopp

Cllr. Gilbey

Cllr. G. Perrens

Cllr. Langdown

(Minutes taken by Cllr. Gilbey)

In attendance: -

3 electors of the Parish

Public Participation

Mr. Paul Toynton asked about the survey of speeding vehicles in the village. He was interested to know what happened next.

Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that the next step was the involvement of Hampshire Constabulary officers to carry out enforcement in areas where excessive speeds had been recorded. This involved the use of “speed guns” and the prosecution of those caught exceeding the limits, rather than just the warning letters that were issued as a result of “SpeedWatch” activities.

Cllr. Allsopp told the meeting of his disappointment at the rejection of his proposals to vary the road layout within the village to reduce the speed of traffic by having enforced “Stop” signs at various junctions. These proposals were rejected by NFDC and Hampshire County Council and increased costs were given as the prime reason.

Cllr. Tandy said that in addition to the costs involved, additional noise of vehicles stopping and restarting was also quoted by the District & County Councils. They also stated that they felt that the extra signage would be “not appropriate” in the village.

Mr. Toynton asked about fixed “Speed Warning Indicators” as a possibility to slow traffic as used at Ibsley and other locations. Cllr. Tandy pointed out that these devices cost in excess of £3000 and this was outside of the range of the Parish Council budget.

Mrs. S. Sykes asked what action the Parish Council could take with NFDC and Hampshire County Council to try to reduce the speeding within the village. Cllr. Tandy will request a meeting with Cllr. E. Heron to further this proposal.

1. **Apologies:** received from Cllr. P. Doherty, Cllr. Mrs. C. Godber and Cllr. B. Vincent.
Cllr. E. Heron apologised as the District & County Councillor.
2. **Declaration of Interests.** Cllr. Tandy expressed an interest on the matter of planning at Willow Cottage 13/10362 with reference to the Satellite Dish.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings on 11th March and 22nd April:**
Resolved that the minutes of these meetings be signed as a correct record of these meetings.
4. **Matters arising:**
Cllr. Tandy proposed that discussions on the Footbridge be discussed during the course of the meeting.
5. **Appointments of Representatives:**
 - 5.1 *Village Hall Committee* Cllr. Godber
 - 5.2 *Police Liaison* Cllr. Allsopp

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- 5.3 *Sports Field Committee* Cllr. Tandy
5.4 *West Park Meadow (Play Trail)* Cllr. Allsopp

6. Report from the Footpaths Officer:

Mrs. Jones report is attached to these minutes. Cllr. Crane asked about the state of the footpath between The Common and Mill End. He said that the tree work done by Southern Electricity had resulted in the stile being removed and the ground around this area was now waterlogged.

Mrs. Jones agreed to investigate the situation.

7. Report from the Water Courses Officer:

Mr. Adlem asked the meeting about the ditch work between Damerham and Martin. Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that he was unable to find any person within Hampshire County Council who knew anything about the work – including the Highways Manager for this area (Bob Brown).

Cllr. Tandy asked Mr. Adlem to make a list of known problems with the Parish that were outstanding to see if any of them can be tackled by the Lengthsman.

Cllr. Tandy informed the meeting of the visit by Mr. Bob Brown at which certain items that were in need of urgent attention – these included the “grips” on Court Hill, which would need a JCB to clear the water run off areas on the hill and below. Another area of concern was the culvert under the road at south End where the railings had collapsed. Mr. Brown will request urgent repairs.

8. Report from the Traffic & Transport representative:

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

Since the initial report was written, Cllr. Gilbey had been informed by Cllr. Heron of the possible withdrawal of the rural bus service on Tuesday and Saturday's to & from Salisbury Market.

Due to a review by Dorset County Council of their expenditure on this service, in conjunction with Hampshire County Council, the economics of running this rural bus are in doubt.

Cllr. Tandy will write to Dorset County Council to express the concern of the Parish Council, as this service is the only means of some residents of Damerham and Martin to get out of their villages to Salisbury.

Cllr. Allsopp asked if there was any means of using the subsidy that Hampshire County council pay towards this service to expand the “Taxi Share” that is currently running in the Fordingbridge area to take in Salisbury as well. Cllr. Tandy will take up this with Cllr. Heron at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that he had received a letter from Mrs. Mary Toynton expressing her concern as a regular user of this service that it may be discontinued.

9. Correspondence:

Cllr. Tandy informed the meeting that he had received a letter from AON Insurers increasing the annual premium on the Parish Council items.

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He has also received a communication from RoSPA regarding the annual inspection of the Play Trail. Cllr. Allsopp indicated that he would be present when the inspection was to be carried out.

Cllr. Tandy apologised to the meeting about the volume of e-mail traffic that was being received by members. He pointed out that all incoming messages from NFDC and HCC were being passed on, but this would change once the new Parish Clerk was in post when messages would be prioritised and only relevant messages would be distributed.

Cllr. Allsopp asked if the warning messages sent out by the "Safer New Forest" team could be displayed on the Parish Web site as a means of informing the public of problems in the area. Cllr. Tandy will action this as soon as possible.

10. Finance and Payments:

10.1 *Appointment of an Internal Auditor* – Mrs. Sophie White has agreed to continue in this role. Cllr. Tandy will work out a form of remuneration (proposed as a donation of £50.00 to FunQuest rather than as a fee).

10.2 *Payments –*

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|--------------------|---------|---|
| a) Lockley Stone | £250.00 | Preliminary cleaning of the War Memorial |
| b) James Byrne Ltd | £40.00 | Printing of 2 x editions of the Parish Pump |
| c) Village Hall | £162.00 | Annual fee for hire of the Hall |
| d) HALC | £202.00 | Annual fee for membership of the ALC |
| e) Mr. Quinnell | £35.00 | Inspection fee for the Play Trail |

10.3 *Governance Statement.*

The required forms were filled in with members of the meeting giving their full cooperation and agreement.

10.4 *2012/13 Accounts.*

Cllr. Tandy proposed that the Asset Values of those items owned by the Parish Council be reviewed over the 2013 period to establish true values of everything and not use the insurance values with their escalation clauses. This would enable the cost of replacement be established as an improved record.

Cllr. Tandy proposed that the opening balance for the 2013/14 accounts be £6,153.14 and that the 2012/13 accounts be approved and passed to the Internal Auditor.

A vote of thanks to Cllr. Tandy was proposed for his work in preparing the accounts during the take over period from Mr. Brian Mair.

11. Planning Applications:

11.1 *Decisions by NFDC – Lopshill Farm application was passed for minor alterations to outbuildings with S106 Agricultural ties in place.*

11.2 *To discuss planning applications-*

13/10362 - Willow Cottage – replace security lights; outside switches; replace TV aerial; Satellite Dish; Double socket; tap; replace security alarm boxes; replace chimney liner for wood burner; associated works (listed building consent).

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Cllr. Gilbey pointed out that this application may be rejected because of the Satellite Dish – this listed building is in a Conservation Area and both these factors may cause concern at NFDC. After discussions, the meeting chose to approve the application.
Proposed by Cllr. Crane and seconded by Cllr. Langdown.

13/10363 – Willow Cottage – Increase the height of the doorway at the top of the stairs to 1.98 metres. The meeting approved this application.
Proposed by Cllr. Gilbey and seconded by Cllr. Langdown.

12. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings.

None reported.

13. Any other items that the Chairman considers important:

Cllr. Tandy raised a number of points on the Play Trail.

a) Are the piles of chippings considered a hazard? Cllr. Allsopp said that in his opinion these piles were better left as they were rather than spreading them along the riverbank. The RoSPA inspector will be asked to comment during his annual inspection.

b) Nettles have been found along the boundary with the West Park Lane properties and will need to be treated. Cllr. Gilbey has contacted the Lengthsman regarding spraying these nettles to eliminate them – but is waiting a response regarding licensing of this procedure.

c) Cllr. Gilbey asked about the missing fascia board on the gazebo. Cllr. Tandy will replace this missing item as soon as possible.

d) Cllr. Tandy asked about the logs left by Southern Electricity after the tree felling exercise. Cllr. Allsopp did not consider them to be a hazard and the logs had been stacked to provide another play feature for the children.

14. Any other business (of a minor nature):

Cllr. Crane asked when the War Memorial people would be on site to carry out the initial cleaning. Cllr. Tandy will endeavour to get the date confirmed.

Cllr. Langdown has identified another company to give an alternate quote for repairs as required by the War Memorial Trust.

Cllr. Tandy has been passed details of a company to make safe the footbridge. This information was passed by Cllr. Vincent prior to his holidays.

Cllr. Tandy informed the meeting that the banking rules for Parish Councils are being looked at with a view to allow electronic transfer of funds.

15. Date of the Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 8th July at 7.30 p.m. in Damerham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

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Report from the Parish Transport & Traffic Representative

1. LOCAL ROADS

We had a meeting with Bob Brown of Hampshire Highways to discuss a number of problems with the roads and drainage systems in the Parish. This resulted in a plan to fix these problems as soon as possible.

The problems identified included the large holes on Court Hill, the flooding in Lower Daggons Lane opposite Royal Cottage, the damaged road surface in Lower Daggons Lane beyond South End Farm, the railings by the culverts in South End, amongst a number of others.

Court Hill repairs would require a road closure and as would the repairs beyond the junction of Brown's Lane, Pound Lane and the Cranborne Road. We are also advised that the road would need to be closed to make the necessary repairs at East End at the junction with West Park Drive.

NFDC Highways have issued Road Closure notices for Court Hill, East End and Cranborne Road for June 11th and June 19th to take one-day maximum. (Court Hill was closed on May 7th to carry out major resurfacing at the junction of Church Lane, which means that they may not require further closures for this stretch). Notice of these closures will be issued in the next edition of The Pump.

Highways will endeavour to clear the blocked drains in Lower Daggons Lane and hopefully this will avoid the flooding problems around Royal Cottage. They will also re-arrange the signage at the junction of The Common and Lower Daggons Lane.

Emergency repairs have been requested for the large pot-holes in Lower Daggons Lane beyond South End Farm as these are across the whole carriageway and are likely to cause damage to vehicles.

Other "patching" and drain clearing will be done as a result of this visit – but the damage to verges caused by larger commercial and farm vehicles is not on the agenda at present.

Any queries – regarding new or outstanding repairs, please ring 0845 603 5633 or log on to the HCC web site at www3.hants.gov.uk/transport

2. TRAFFIC MATTERS

We are still not in a position to carry out much work on the implementation of SpeedWatch in Damerham due to the unavailability of the volunteers, but the system has been active in recent weeks in Rockbourne, Martin and Sandleheath. If anyone else would like to be involved in making the village a safer place, please make contact with Phil Tandy as soon as possible.

3. TRANSPORT

There is a distinct possibility that Dorset County Council will withdraw their support for the "Market Bus" to and from Salisbury on Tuesday and Saturday's – the following is a statement from Dorset County Council:–

"Services 301 and 302 to Salisbury are operated by Damory Coaches under a subsidy contract with Dorset County Council. Dorset meet the majority of the subsidy costs but Hampshire County Council does make a contribution for the section of route through Damerham and Martin in view of the service provided to residents there.

In common with all local authorities, Dorset County Council has been required to revise its budgets owing to reducing grants from central government and reductions to the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant. It is therefore currently reviewing its entire subsidised bus network to see what economies can be achieved. No decisions have been made but I understand that a report will be considered by their Cabinet at the end of June, which will present a range of options to their Members and provide feedback from their recent consultation exercise."

Robert Gilbey
Traffic & Transport Representative

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Footpath Report - May 2013

State of the Paths:

At the moment the paths are mostly dry, and free of encroachment by vegetation. It is a good time for walking along them as the wild flowers and unfurling leaves are glorious, and you can also hear and see many birds and insects.

I know of no hazards or obstructions at present.