

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Damerham Parish Council

Held in Damerham Village Hall on

Monday, 11th November 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. P. Tandy (Chairman)

Cllr. Mrs. C. Godber

Cllr. P. Doherty

Cllr. D. Crane

Cllr. R. Gilbey

Cllr. B. Vincent

(Minutes taken by Cllr. Gilbey)

Cllr. E. Heron (District & County Cllr.)

Public Participation:

In attendance 2 electors of the Parish

Mr. J. Godber apologised for being mistaken at the last meeting when he reported a missing sign at the bottom of Court Hill. This sign re-appeared after the verge cut as it had been hidden by the over-growth.

Cllr. Tandy has suggested that the Lengthsman is utilised in going round the village and strimming round all the signs after the local farmers have cut their hedges and the verges have been cut in the New Year.

Mr. J. Godber asked if the church could use the beacon at the Christmas carol Concert. Cllr. Tandy agreed to this request.

Resignation: Notification has been received of the resignation of Cllr. S. Allsopp as he has moved out of the Parish. Cllr. Tandy will be posting an advertisement for a replacement on the Parish Notice Board as of 12th November 2013.

1. Apologies: received from Cllr. G. Perrens, Cllr. Langdown and Mrs. R. Jones (Footpath Officer).

2. Declaration of Interests: There were no declarations of interest declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings held on September 9th & October 7th 2013:

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted and signed as a correct record of these meetings.

4. Matters arising:

4. a. The state of the hedges in West Park Lane has been covered by a letter from Cllr. Tandy to Tylney Investments requesting that this hedge be cut as soon as possible. As yet no response has been received. Cllr. Tandy will follow up on this matter.

4. b. Cllr. Vincent asked if any approach had been made to Tylney Investments regarding the tree that has fallen into the river at the Littlemill Lane end of their field. Cllr. Tandy suggested that this is a matter for the Environment Agency to take up should it cause any flooding.

4. c. Cllr. Tandy has obtained a replacement wheel for the "ship" in the Play Trail and will be installing it over the coming weekend.

4. d. Cllr. Vincent asked about the overhanging branches in Rockbourne Lane. Cllr. Tandy had approached the land-owner (Mrs. J. Bouskell) regarding this and will pursue it again as although the hedge has been cut, there is still a branch that it causing problems to commercial vehicles.

5. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer: in Mrs. Jones absence, Cllr. Gilbey read her report – "Muddy, Floody & Cruddy" is all that can be said about the state of footpaths after the recent heavy rains and high winds!

6. Report from the Parish Water Courses Officer: No report had been forthcoming.

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- 7. Report from the Parish Transport Representative:** Cllr. Gilbey's report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr. Heron gave an update on the Damory Bus Service in that Dorset County Council are reviewing the service 301/302 with a view to cutting out the Saturday Market bus – leaving only the Tuesday Market service available to local residents.

This cost cutting exercise has been under discussion since June 2013 – and should be resolved at their meeting on December 4th. Any changes would not take effect until April 2014.

Cllr Heron will explore alternatives that could be made available from Hampshire County Council such as a taxi service if it could be justified. He will endeavour to get hold of the user statistics before any decisions are made.

Cllr. Heron proposed that Bob Brown of Hampshire Highways be invited to the village to look at the state of the verges that is noted in the report.

Cllr. Vincent asked if a particular point be made in Lower Daggons Lane before the junction with Steels Lane as constant water there has eroded the verge very badly.

8. Finance & Payments:

8.1- Review Draft Budget

Cllr. Tandy presented a draft of the 2014/2015 budget. It was noted that the Clerk's Salary needed to be fixed as soon as possible as this was a major expenditure not incurred in 2013.

He proposed that there should be a re-alignment of the "General Admin" cost centre showing a reduction of £300 for this item and the cost of the Play Trail maintenance should be closely monitored to show a saving of £300 if possible.

He also proposed that "Asset Maintenance" should be shown separately and proposed a figure of £200 be put into this cost centre. This would cover repairs to the Bus Shelter, the Notice Boards and the beacon. It was noted that the foot bridge is not on the Asset Register as it is the property of Hampshire County Council.

It was proposed that any costs incurred in repairs to the War Memorial be taken from this year's surplus.

8.2 - To consider the Precept for 2014/2015.

Cllr. Tandy proposed that the precept be set at £8,600 to be finalised at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

8.3 - Payments –

<i>a) chq # 474 - External Auditor covering two years</i>	<i>£100.00</i>
<i>b) chq # 475 - Invoice for the Play Trail Inspection by Mr. D.Quinnell</i>	<i>£45.00</i>
<i>c) chq # 476 - Invoice for Wheel – Thorness Limited</i>	<i>£20.50</i>
<i>d) chq # 477 – NDFC for Play Trail Maintenance</i>	<i>£1,382.40</i>
<i>e) chq # 478 – Audit Fee for Annual Return BDO</i>	<i>£120.00</i>
<i>f) chq # 479 – James Byrne – Printing the Pump</i>	<i>£20.00</i>

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9. Planning Applications:

9.1 -To note decisions by NFDC:

13/11097 Greenbanks, Lower Daggons Lane – The application to remove conditions was granted.

13/10731 Pound Cottage – the application for a Lawful Use Certificate was refused.

Cllr. Tandy has been in discussion with David Groom at NFDC Planning regarding this refusal and the reasoning behind this not being put to committee is subject to further talks.

13/11130 Western Downland School – the application for an Extension to be built has been granted with conditions.

9.2- there were no other applications to consider.

10 Councillors attending other meetings:

None reported.

11 Any other item that the Chairman considers to be urgent:

11.1 Jubilee Bench:

Has been ordered, but is on a 10/12 week delivery.

11.2 Foot Bridge repairs:

Hampshire County Council has confirmed that they will be carrying out repairs to the footbridge and are awaiting responses to their tender request. Work will commence as soon as possible as the bridge is now extremely slippery after the recent rains.

11.3 War Memorial:

Cllr. Crane has now received two quotes for repairs to the War Memorial. Excalibur Stone have quoted 2 days @ £550 per day + VAT and Lockerley Stone have quoted £900 + VAT. They have also quoted a charge of £340 + VAT to paint the bronze plaque.

Neither firm have quoted to repair the concrete plinth. It was proposed that in order to complete the Grant Application to the War Memorial Trust, that Cllr. Crane asks for a revised quote from each firm to include the repairs to the concrete plinth before making a grant application.

Cllr. Tandy suggested getting a competitive quote for the base from a local builder in order to have a comparative figure.

Cllr. Heron said that there was an additional sum available from Hampshire County Council covering 50% of the repairs to memorials as part of the 100th year anniversary of the start of World War 1.

Cllr. Gilbey asked if the VAT element of these repairs could be reclaimed. Cllr. Heron will advise the Parish Council.

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11.4

Lengthsman:

Cllr. Tandy asked the meeting for proposed work for the Lengthsman.

- 1) To cut the grass back on the Green Close Footpath
- 2) To prune the apple trees in the Play Trail and to trim nettles and long grass.
- 3) To clear over-growth on the signage in the village.
- 4) To clear drainage “grips” around the village – particularly at the Recycling Bay on the road into Fordingbridge.

11.5

Salt Bin placements:

It was confirmed that the additional Salt Bins should be, firstly at the corner of The Common & Lower Daggons Lane and secondly, at the junction of Brown’s Lane and Pound Lane (known locally as “Eleven Cross”). This information is to be passed to Hampshire County Council by Cllr. Heron.

11.6 *Brian Mair’s family seat:*

The Mair Family are proposing to put a bench in commemoration of Brian Mair in the village. Cllr. Tandy was under the impression that a location at the Village Hall had been proposed – but nobody knew who that had been agreed with?

Cllr. Tandy will give Carolyn Armitage’s details to the Mair Family and pointed out that this is not a Parish Council matter.

Additional item: Correspondence:

Cllr. Tandy has received a communication from the Parish insurance company spelling out the Health & Safety aspects of Snow Clearance. Cllrs. must be aware that once snow clearing has been instigated by the Parish Council, then they have an obligation to continue until the period of bad weather has passed.

A check of the work done must be kept and a log produced in case of accident.

12 Any Other Business of a minor nature:

1. Cllr. Vincent asked if there could be an item in The Pump on a regular basis showing the local Footpaths and Walks. Cllr. Gilbey will liaise with the Footpaths Officer to evaluate this as a possibility.

2. Cllr. Tandy raised the subject of replacing Cllr. Allsopp as Play Trail Supervisor – this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
Cllr. Tandy will take on the role of Police Liaison person.

3. Cllr. Gilbey raised the subject of Broadband – Cllr. Heron said that the “First Broadband” function would not be addressed locally in the initial contract, and could slip to 2017 as a result of delays in getting BT to agree the overall plan.

Date of the next meeting: The Next Meeting will be held in Damerham Village Hall on Monday, 8th January 2014 at 7.30

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____

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Report from the Parish Transport & Traffic Representative

1. LOCAL ROADS

The recent rains have played havoc with the verges – particularly where large vehicles have had to use the grass verge when passing.

This has caused a considerable number of pot-holes at the edge of the roadway and into the verges, and this is proving very difficult to get any action to do repairs in the short term.

HCC Highways people say that the priority is on the roadway and verges have to take a back seat with the current budget restrictions.

If anyone has a query regarding new or outstanding pot-hole repairs, please ring 0845 603 5633 or log on to the HCC web site at www3.hants.gov.uk/transport – the more that get reported, then the more will get fixed.

2. TRAFFIC MATTERS

As a general point, the speed of traffic in villages is a cause for great concern. Throughout the County, SpeedWatch checks have recorded that approximately half of all vehicles were exceeding the 30 mph limit - and Damerham is no different.

We will continue to use the SpeedWatch system in Damerham and letters will be sent to all who are recorded at 35 mph and upwards.

For persistent offenders the Hampshire Police are aware of the results and will take action if anyone is caught more than twice anywhere in the county – and be aware that the fines for speeding are now £100.00 together with three points on the licence.

3. TRANSPORT

We are still waiting on Dorset County Council to give a ruling on the subsidies for the Damory “Market” bus service (301/302). This was to be discussed at a transport meeting on 6th November, but as yet we haven’t been informed of the outcome.

Robert Gilbey
Traffic & Transport Representative

11th November 2013