

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Damerham Parish Council

Held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday, 10th March 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. P. Tandy (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. C. Godber
Cllr. P. Doherty

Cllr. D. Crane
Cllr. R. Gilbey
Cllr. G. Perrens

(Minutes taken by Cllr. Gilbey)

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

Public Participation:

In attendance 7 electors of the Parish

Mr. S. Adlem asked why the parish Council met every two months. Cllr. Tandy explained that the purpose of the meetings is to discuss matters that affect the day-to-day running of the village.

Mr. Adlem then asked if councillors walk round the village to see for themselves the situation within the village. Cllr. Gilbey said that he had walked through most of the village in recent days. Mr. Adlem asked if Cllr. Gilbey felt that the village had suffered with the recent bad weather.

Cllr. Gilbey said that the roads were in an awful state with pot-holes, the water courses were flooded and many of the hedges were in need of cutting. Mr. Adlem asked why Damerham didn't get adverse coverage on the radio or television if it was in such a state.

Cllr. Doherty explained that the situation here was far better than many other villages in the county and did not justify any expenditure of time or money by the TV companies.

Mr. Adlem asked the councillors if things are going to get any worse before it gets better.

Cllr. Heron told the meeting that Hampshire was the third worst hit county nationally.

- there has been a Government promise of extra money for repairing flood damage and road repairs.
- Hampshire will get an extra £10 million; on top of the current spend of over £60 million on the roads.
- where property has been flooded, those people will get first priority.
- where the infrastructure has been damaged by flooding this will also get a high priority
- where roads are flooded, "A" roads will be handled first.

Cllr. Heron asked for confirmation that no houses in Damerham had been flooded. Cllr. Godber stated that she was unaware of any houses having suffered.

Cllr. Heron told the meeting that he had received a letter from the residents of Mill End. He said that he was aware of the situation and knows what is needed to be done –by the Highways Department, but he also stressed that the land-owners are responsible for maintaining ditches and water courses.

Cllr. Heron told the meeting of an initiative from Minstead Parish Council who had liaised with Hampshire County Council to create a pro-forma letter to be sent to local land-owners telling them of their statutory duty to maintain their ditches. The letter has to be replied to once the work has been done and if the land-owner fails to respond, then the matter will be taken up by the county Legal Department.

Cllr. Heron said that over the next 2 – 3 months, Hampshire County Council will give priority to those properties that are in danger of flooding if the bad weather continues.

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He also asked for co-operation from local people in reporting pot-holes if they haven't already been marked for repair. Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that over the previous few days he had advised Highways of between 35 to 40 sites – but only 2/3rds had been acknowledged by e-mails.

Cllr. Heron said that whole sections of roads are to be resurfaced where the damage is severe, so the white markers are not so important, but because of the sheer volume some holes will be repaired in the short term by patching. It is recognised that patching doesn't last, but is seen as a temporary fix whilst volumes are so high.

Mr. J. Godber asked if such a letter could be used to persuade land-owners to cut their hedges and Cllr. Heron agreed that this will be possible.

Cllr. Tandy suggested that he would talk with Cllr Heron to get more information.

Mr. Godber asked if the “Damerham” at the start of South End could be replaced – it has been missing for at least a couple of years. Cllr. Gilbey will take this up with NFDC and Hampshire County Council.

1. Apologies: received from Cllr. B. Vincent.

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Perrens stated that his wife had signed the letter referring to flooding at Mill End.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on January 13th 2014

Cllr. Vincent asked for clarification of item 9.1 in that he had been tasked to ascertain the rate of pay for the clerks at Rockbourne and Martin Parish Councils and how many hours did each clerk spend on Council business each week. The following text was added to the minutes “ He also said we should find out what rate was being paid to Rockbourne and Martin Clerks. After amendments to the minutes, it was resolved that these minutes be accepted and signed as a correct record of this meeting.

4. Matters arising:

a) Cllr. Crane asked when the Lengthsman was due to be in the village. Cllr. Tandy had discussed progress by telephone with the Lengthsman and he will be in Damerham in the week commencing 17th March for at least one day.

b) Cllr. Doherty asked what implications there would be if FunQuest closed down if no-one responded to their plea in last month's Pump for new trustees. Cllr. Tandy stated that he felt sure that someone would come forward to fill any gaps – but although there was an agreement between the Parish Council and FunQuest for them to assist with the costs of maintaining the Play Trail, there hasn't been any necessity to ask for help.

Cllr. Crane asked if this could cause difficulties in the long-term if FunQuest ceased to exist. Cllr. Tandy pointed out that the costs of maintaining the Play Trail were working out at less than the previous spend on West Park Meadow before the Play Trail existed.

c) Cllr. Tandy informed the meeting that Mrs. S. Sykes will take up her post as clerk on April 1st and Cllr. Tandy will review the number of hours spent once she has settled in her role.

Cllr. Heron told the meeting that it was unrealistic to compare Damerham with Rockbourne or Martin and he suggested that Wood Green was amore suitable comparison. Cllr. Tandy will liaise with them on this matter.

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Cllr. Tandy said that he will require the necessary paper-work to be signed off as soon as possible to set up the system of payroll etc.

4. **Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer:** Mrs. Jones report is attached to these minutes.
5. **Report from the Parish Water Courses Officer:** Mr. S. Adlem suggested that the problems with pot-holes would be better tackled if the water problems were fixed first.

He felt that money was being wasted as the damage to roads would continue to happen if there is water lying at the site of the pot-hole.

He also commented on the heavy lorries that were damaging verges and collapsing ditches. Cllr. Heron reminded the meeting of the survey carried about two years ago by Hampshire Highways and NFDC to discover that most of the lorry traffic was carrying out local deliveries.

He also pointed out that many of the problems in Mill End had been caused by the parking on the verges at the school causing the collapse of the culverts and the blocking of ditches.

Cllr. Tandy suggested that this would be taken up with the school during the annual walk-about with Highways to be carried out in the next few weeks in conjunction with Cllr. Heron.

7. **Report from the Parish Transport Representative:** Cllr. Gilbey's report is attached to these minutes. Cllr. Gilbey said that after submitting his report, he had been advised that the C38 road through Martin was to be closed for repairs – and the diversionary route was via Littlemill Lane. He pointed out to Highways that the state of the lane with numerous pot-holes would cause problems if any large vehicle tried to get through. No response has been received.

Cllr. Heron said that this route was the only short term solution and the repairs would probably be completed before any reaction by Highways.

8. **Correspondence:** Cllr. Tandy has received a copy of the letter sent to Hampshire County Council regarding the flooding at Mill End.

A letter has been received from St. George's Church regarding ownership of the "triangle" at the church gates. Cllr. Tandy said that the letter confirmed that the Land Registry has said that the church doesn't own that piece of land – but failed to say who does.

Cllr. Heron asked if anyone knew why Hampshire County Council had cut the beech tree a few years ago – the general opinion was that if it endangered users of the footpath, then this was the limit of the Count Council's responsibility.

Cllr. Tandy was of the opinion that it was up to the church to find out who owned it before any further discussions on maintaining it take place.

9. Finance & Payments:

9.1 To approve payments for January, February and March 2014

Chq #487	1 to 1 Web-site maintenance	£35.96
Chq#488	R. Gilbey expenses re distribution of the Pump	£37.84
Chq#489	D. Quennell – Play Trail inspections	£40.00
Chq#490	D. Quennell – Play Trail inspections	£15.00
Chq#491	HALC re - Clerk training course	£36.00
Chq#492	HALC re - Clerk training course	£42.00

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Chq#493	1 to 1 Web-site maintenance	£35.96
Chq#494	Jubilee Seat	£449.99
Total payments for the period are £692.75		

9.2 To approve the bank reconciliation for March 2014

The Bank reconciliation for March is attached – showing a balance agreed to the March Bank Statement of £8,435.56

9.3 NALC Cheques and LRO briefing.

As Councillors hadn't been able to read the briefing documents, Cllr. Tandy explained that the concept of using on-line banking to make payments is being approved, but the procedure was extremely long-winded. It was decided that we would continue to use a manual process for cheque payments until such time that the methodology is simplified.

10. Planning applications:

10.1 To discuss the following applications to NFDC:

14/10098 Greenbank Farmhouse, – to site a mobile home for temporary period of 1 year. The purpose of this application is to allow members of the Mair family to stay on site to care for Mrs. Mair and at the same time supervise the renovation of the house.

It was resolved to allow **Permission PAR3** was proposed by Cllr. Gilbey and seconded by Cllr. Doherty. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

10.2 14/10277 Pound Cottage – ancillary residential use of existing out-buildings. (Lawful Use Certificate for retaining existing use or operation)

This being a re-application to confirm that the barn has not been used for agricultural purposes for at least ten years.

It was noted that a number of long-term local residents had communicated to NFDC on this subject in favour of this application, but the Parish Council is not required to act.

11. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings:

Cllr. Tandy apologised in that he will be unable to attend the Police Liaison meeting in Fordingbridge on 12th March due to pressure of work. It has been noted for previous correspondence that there had been an increase in the number of burglaries in the village. Cllr. Heron suggested that the local Beat Officer be invited to attend the July meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr. Tandy will offer an invitation.

12. Any other item that the Chairman considers to be urgent:

12.1 War Memorial

Cllr. Crane confirmed that Excalibur Stone were in a position to start work on 12th March. They will be cladding the concrete base with Portland stone, and using a filler of the same stone to repair any cracks. The cost is confirmed at £2,513.28.

Cllr. Tandy and Cllr. Crane will apply for a grant from the War Memorials Commission and Cllr. Heron will cover £1,500 of the costs from a grant fund from Hampshire County Council.

Cllr. Tandy is locating historic photos of the memorial as part of the grant application.

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Cllr. Tandy asked that the work be done and invoiced before the end of the financial year to enable the VAT to be reclaimed in this financial year 2013/2014.

Cllr. Crane requested that the villagers be advised of the repairs to the memorial – Cllr. Gilbey agreed to put an article in the next edition of the Parish Pump

12.2 West park Meadow/Play Trail.

Cllr. Tandy stated that the area was too wet to clear another fallen tree. He is also aware that the fascia board has yet to be replaced and the fixing of the sleepers will need to be done prior to the annual inspection.

12.2.1 Footbridge update:

The treads on the footbridge have been replaced – but Cllr. Tandy has asked Hampshire County Council as to why the painting is incomplete. The uprights have been painted, but the hand-rail is still to be done.

12.3 Water problems at South End

Cllr. Tandy told the meeting that the problem at South End isn't the culvert under the road, but is caused by the smaller bore pipe through the grounds of Spring Meadow Nurseries. It was reported that the Humphries family wouldn't allow Hampshire Highways personnel on their property when the large culvert was installed and their own drainage was by a smaller bore pipe.

This has caused the backing up of flood water coming down from Ashridge with nowhere to go, resulting in a flood, at times over two feet deep, in the road at South End.

As a temporary measure a drainage ditch was dug by residents from the culvert to the ditch that runs alongside the Spring Meadow Nursery. This has caused problems at Mill End with the massive flow of water that had insufficient drainage into the ponds at the Trout Lake.

Local residents at South End want to install their own drains, but need help to fund the exercise. Their estimate is that the 60 metres of pipe will cost around £1,000 and the machinery and labour to install the pipes will be around £2,500. One problem is that the owners of Spring Meadow do not want council operatives on their land, but would agree to an appointed/approved contractor to do the work.

Cllr. Godber asked who would pay if the local residents did the work – Cllr. Tandy said that they would have to cover their own costs.

Cllr. Tandy said that the problem could be compounded if Mrs. Dampney has her ditches cleared to drain water from Ashley Park Farm and this will result on even more water coming down towards South End.

Cllr. Gilbey asked Cllr. Heron about the Government Flood Support Scheme – He advised the local residents to make contact with NFDC for more information, but he felt that this scheme may not cover this work as there was insufficient danger of houses being flooded - even with the unusual volume of ground water rainfall that has recently been seen.

Cllr. Heron suggested that the way forward is to get all the information together and ask Hampshire County Council Flood prevention people to site to discuss a method to fix the problems.

Cllr. Heron pointed out that the County people may put the onus on the land-owners to fix their problems – Cllr. Tandy added that by fixing the problem at South End it may just shift the problem further down-stream as seen with the flooding of Richard Herring's workshop at Mill End.

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Cllr. Heron will discuss the matter with Hampshire County Council and a meeting will need to be set up as soon as possible.

12.4 Parish Council forward planning for adverse weather.

Cllr. Tandy proposed that discussion on these plans be put off to the next meeting – but asked Councillors to consider plans prior to the meeting in order to speed up the process.

13. Any Other Business (of a minor nature):

Cllr. Tandy requested that any applications for 127 grants be submitted to him by May 5th. These applications will be considered at the meeting on May 19th and decisions made at the July meeting.

Cllr. Tandy informed the meeting that he has been approached by a resident of Lower Daggons of her interest in becoming a councillor. She will attend the next meeting before making a decision.

14. Date of the next meeting: The Next Meeting will be held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday, 19th May 2014 at 7.30

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____

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Report from the Parish Transport & Traffic Representative

1. LOCAL ROADS

The state of local roads is dire. There are numerous pot-holes around the village and one of the problems getting them fixed is that the continuing rain is washing away the marker paint put down by Hampshire Highways before Amey get to fix the problem – so these holes get missed out!

Because of the delays in getting pot-holes fixed, the holes are getting larger and deeper as traffic goes over them and rain water collects in them. This has resulted in many vehicles suffering punctures and wheel and suspension damage.

Anyone having these problems should report the situation to Hampshire Highways on their web-site as soon as possible, together with photos of the hole and damage to the vehicle.

Make sure that copies of the bills are available in the event of a claim – without them, a claim may be declared invalid.

2. SpeedWatch

The most recent deployment of SpeedWatch has shown that in spite of the weather and the state of the roads, people are still travelling at excessive (and stupid) speeds considering the conditions.

We will continue monitoring the speed of the traffic in the village and will ask for help from Hampshire Constabulary if matters do not improve.

Remember that the penalty for speeding in a restricted area is now £100 and three points on one's licence – and the Driver Awareness Course can only be attended once in three years.

3. TRANSPORT

Dorset County Council have finalised their budget for the Damory "Market" bus service, and the outcome is good news for Damerham & Martin as follows: -

From 7th April, a new time-table for the routes 301/302 will take effect maintaining the Tuesday and Saturday services but at slightly different timings.

A link to the Damerham to Salisbury bus services time-tables can be found on the internet by going on-line to <http://www.damory.co.uk/timetables/salisbury/>

If one doesn't have access to the internet, enquiries can be made by contacting Damory Customer Services on 01258 452545 or in writing to Damory Coaches, Salisbury Road, Pimperne, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8TU.

Robert Gilbey
Traffic & Transport Representative

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Footpath Report - March 2014

State of the Paths

The water-table is exceptionally high: indeed, many springs have broken unexpectedly and water is running across or along tracks and footpaths. As a result there is a great deal of mud, and in some cases bridges, stiles and signposts have started to rot and collapse.

I have already been told about the fallen signpost on Brown's Lane - if walkers have noticed any other water- or wind-damage please let me know and I will inform the County Council or ask the relevant landowner for help.

Rosamund Jones 518437

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Bank	Opening Bank Balance		
	Current	01/04/2013	6155.14
	Minus 2010/11 unrepresented cheques		-20.00
	Opening balance of Funds		<hr/> 6135.14
	Closing Bank Balance Current	28/02/2014	<hr/> 8435.56
	Movement		2300.42
Cash Book	Income		8075.00
	Expenditure		6507.33
	Open Balance		6135.14
	Unrepresented cheques		<hr/> 732.75
	Balance at 10/03/2014		<hr/> 8435.56