

**Minutes of the meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 19th May 2014 following the Annual Parish Assembly**

Councillors present:

David Crane, Bob Gilbey, Mrs Cathy Godber, Glyn Perrens, Phil Tandy (Chairman), Barry Vincent.

Parishioners present:

Ms Leah Adlem, Mr James Burton, Mr John Godber, Mrs Christine Owen.

Others present:

Mr Spinney Adlem (Parish Watercourse Office), Mrs Ros Jones (Parish Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Parish Clerk elect)

Public participation

Mr John Godber asked if there was to be Paint Balling in the woodland behind the recycling centre at the lay-by on the Sandleheath road.

Action: *Cllr Tandy to enquire from NFDC if anything was known about this.*

1. Apologies:

Were received from Councillors Pete Dogerty and Stewart Langdon

2. Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:

No interests were declared (But see below).

3. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10th March and 22nd April 2014

Minutes of the Council Meeting on 10th March and the additional Council meeting to discuss planning applications held on 22nd April were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on agenda. None.**5. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer**

Mrs Ros Jones gave her report as follows:

5.1 State of the paths:

"The tracks along the bottoms of valleys are still wet, most notably Stony Lane from Cornpits right up to the Allenford pig-unit, but most of the others are drying out. The wild flowers are spectacular and so is the nettle growth: on narrower and less-frequented paths I'd advise stout trousers.

5.2i Problems

- a) A wetsuit would have been advisable for Path 31 (up to Ashridge from the corner of Cornpits Lane) as a disgruntled walker complained that after rain the oilseed rape left him wet to the neck. I spoke to Mrs Yarrow who had a nice wide path cut without delay – thank you to her.
- b) Some months ago complaints were made that an impromptu river was gushing over the path across the back of Spring Meadow Nurseries (Footpath 7). Richard Nicklen has been able to unearth a collapsed ditch and broken pipe and divert the torrent. Many thanks to him and Sue Humphries."

There were no questions or additional comments on this report.

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6. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer

Mr Spinney Adlam was still most concerned about overflowing and flooding following recent heavy rains and the continuing height of the water table. A spirited discussion ensued concerning the responsibilities of landowners, the Parish Council and the District Council; about the historic state of certain properties and the behaviour of certain landowners.

Action: *The Chairman undertook to contact NFDC again with a view to stronger action being taken by them in the case of landowners who did not carry out their public obligations.*

7. Report from Transport Representative

Cllr Bob Gilbey presented his report as follows:

7.1 Local roads

"A great effort by the repair team has resulted in fewer pot-holes on our local roads. The damage to the verges is still a problem, but we understand that the priority is to fix the carriageway in the short term and address the verge problem later.

We are awaiting a replacement for the Lengthsman to carry out the work specified earlier – but with Robert Heron out of action for an unspecified period; we are hoping that the Fordingbridge Clerk has worked out an alternative person from another area.

7.2 SpeedWatch

We have been unable to deploy SpeedWatch recently due to shortage of both time and people – the speeding traffic in the village is still a problem and we are hoping that over the next few weeks that others may come forward to assist.

7.3 Transport

The replacement services for the Market Bus appear to be working well and hopefully this service will continue in spite of further cuts in funding from Central Government and the County authorities."

It was generally felt that SpeedWatch was a necessity in the village but there were no specific questions or comments on the report.

8. Correspondence

All electronic correspondence was still being received by all councillors. Once the Parish Clerk officially took office this would go to her and be filtered as had previously been done. There was no outstanding postal correspondence.

9. Finance and payments

9.1 To approve payments for April 2014

Invoice for Mr N.D. Quinnell for weekly playtrail inspections	£35.00
Invoice for Insurance with AON	£900.00 (aprox)

To approve bank reconciliation for April 2014

This (attached) had been carried out by the Chairman and was approved.

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9.2 To discuss and approve S137 Grants for 2014

The following (attached) applications had been received:

- a) Fun Quest: £500 for itemised children's activities
- b) St Georges Church, Damerham: £500 for Churchyard maintenance
- c) Victim Support: £50 for recruitment of volunteers to support local victims of crime

Councillor Mrs Cathy Godber declared her interest in the application from St Georges Church and the applications were discussed. The following grants, within the S137 budget allocation were agreed: *Fun Quest £475; St Georges Church £475; Victim Support £50*

10. Planning Applications

The following matters were discussed:

10.1 Preplanning

The Barn at Rear of The Compasses

Mr James Burton (present at the meeting) distributed a copy to each councillor of detailed pre-planning for Ellie's Mere, a barn conversion at the rear of the Compasses and adjacent to the Sports Field. This included site drawings and NFDC correspondence (attached). The meeting thanked him for this and the Chairman said that councillors would consider it carefully.

10.2 Planning applications

14/10517 Courtvale Farm, Court Hill – Retention of Single storey office extension

The Chairman said that no real problems were anticipated though there had been one objection from a neighbour.

PAR1 (Planning Officer to decide) was agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Barry Vincent. Seconded: Bob Gilbey.

14/10545 – Crossways High St – Detached Carport with storage

It was believed that, though the Planning Officer was content, the Conservation Department had an objection.

PAR3 was agreed unanimously.

Proposed: Barry Vincent. Seconded: Bob Gilbey

11. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings

The Chairman regretted that he had had to miss the NALC meeting as his plane was late.

12. Other matters brought forward by the Chairman

12.1 Vacancy for one Council Member

The Chairman introduced Mrs Christine Owen (present at the meeting) who would be willing to stand as a councillor if she was not moving from the Parish. She should know this within the next couple of months.

12.2 West Park Meadow

Fun Quest had been putting money aside, which they were willing to use on maintenance and improvement of the Play Trail. It was agreed unanimously that their offer to install two benches should be accepted with thanks.

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Proposed: Bob Gilbey. Seconded: David Crane.

Cllr Mrs Godber pointed out that the sign needed cleaning and that the steering wheel for the boat was still missing.

Action: *The Chairman suggested that Cllr Pete Dogerty be asked to take on responsibility for overseeing matters relating to the Play Trail and that, if he agreed, the wheel was the first of the issues to be looked at.*

Action: *Clerk to put election of Play Trail Rep on agenda in July*

Action: *Cllr Tandy to check information boards for removal of Brian Mair's name and contact details.*

Action: *Cllr Tandy to fix replacement wheel for boat.*

12.3 Start date for Parish Clerk

Although Mrs Sue Sykes was taking the minutes her start date as Clerk was not until 1/06/14

12.4 Additional information on planning application

10/453 The Firs, Lower Dagon Lane – retrospective retention of single story extension.

This application had now been passed at committee

12.5 The Parish Lengthsman

Robert was out of hospital and hoped to return to work. There was discussion of the outstanding work and also of the possibility of withdrawing from the scheme.

Action: *Cllr Tandy to speak to the NFDC to discuss the backlog of work to be done.*

Following this the Parish could withdraw from the scheme so that the money could be used to employ a lengthsman outside the scheme.

Action: *Clerk to put on agenda for July meeting.*

13. Other matters (of a minor nature) brought forward by councillors

13.1 Future Parish Council meetings

Cllr Barry Vincent suggested that meetings should be held monthly rather than bi-monthly as this would facilitate the discussion of planning applications and as additional meetings had had to be called recently for this purpose. The meeting was not averse to this proposal, which was carried by 4 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

13.2 The Jubilee Bench

This was being retained by the Chairman until such a time as it could be permanently fitted in the Playing Field.

Action: *Cllr Tandy to investigate safe fitting*

13.3 Forward planning

Cllr Crane suggested that this should form an agenda item

Action: *Clerk to make this an agenda item for July or September meeting in preparation for budget meeting in November.*

13.4 Beacon Basket

This had been modified and was at the Bryants' farm. It should be easier to light in future and would be returned shortly. Mr Bryant would also replace the fence around the cricket field and possibly move the gate.

Action: *Cllr Tandy to ask Mr Bryant to dig out ditch under "the Causeway".*

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13.5 Speedwatch

Cllr Gilbey asked if others could be trained so that the Watch could be carried out more frequently. The Chairman said that trainees in the other villages would contribute to the Watch in Damerham.

14. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 14th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

An interim June meeting to consider Planning Applications.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm