

**DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

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**Councillors present:**

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

**Parishioners present:** Mr. John Godber. Mrs Penny Relph, Mr Richard Major

**Others present:**

Spinney Adlam (Parish Watercourse Office), Councillor Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Ros Jones (Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk)

**Public participation**

Mrs Relph asked if it were possible to restore the phone box at South End. The Chairman explained that it had been agreed with BT that the phone boxes could remain in situ but that BT would not maintain them. As the PC could not maintain BT property there was currently a stalemate. It was believed that the Council could buy the box and use it for other purposes.

**Action:** *It was agreed that the clerk would write to BT and ask if the Council could adopt the village phone boxes.*

Mr Major asked what progress there was on his application to extend his property, Yew Tree Farm. His resubmission for permission would come to the next PC meeting if all the paperwork was completed.

Mr Godber complimented the Council on the improved state of the roadside verges. He asked if the sign by the beacon could be refurbished or cleaned up.

**Action:** *Chairman to take a look with a view to improvement*

He further asked if there would be gritting bins provided before the winter.

**Action:** *PT to ask Councillor Heron . At Spinney Adlam's request he would also ask for a grit bin in Lower Daggons.*

**1. Apologies:**

Stewart Langdown had resigned. All other councillors were present.

**2. Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Some changes were made to the numbering of later items in the July minutes and these were then agreed and signed. No questions were raised.

**4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda**

**4.1 Grass cutting regime**

Details had been sent to Hampshire CC

**Action:** *Chairman to follow this up by phoning the CC.*

The autumn cut would be done sometime this month.

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4.2 The Play Trail

The agreement would expire on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

4.3 The ditch bounding the village hall.

On enquiry the Hall Committee had given it as their opinion that this was the responsibility of the PC. Councillor Heron believed that the CC was not responsible and that it could well be the Hall Committee. The pipe under the road was the responsibility of the CC.

**Action:** *Councillor Heron to brief PT on what action should be taken and with whom.*

**5. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer**

Mrs. Jones delivered her report:

“State of the paths: In August many paths were muddy because of the incessant rain and vegetation grew fast and floppy. As a result, though, it is a wonderful year for blackberries – remember not to pick them after Michaelmas because the devil spits on them then. Most paths have now dried.

At the last Parish Council meeting I reported that I had asked Mrs. Willis to see if the many fallen trees across Footpath 17 could be shifted: They have all been cleared and it must have been an awful job because several were large and overgrown with ivy and space is very limited. My thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Willis and everyone else involved.”

**6. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer**

Spinney Adlam asked about progress on repairs after the flood. The Chairman said that he had asked for reinstatement of the verge leading to South End; but this had not been done. Councillor Heron expressed his extreme disappointment that this had not been done. He said that the tarmac-ing at the side of the lane constituted a widening of the road, which would then result in speeding vehicles.

**Action:** *BV to e-mail picture to Councillor Heron who would then pursue the matter further.*

SA also asked that action could be speeded up in digging out ditches. Councillor Heron said that priority had to be given to flooded houses and that ditches would be dealt with as soon as possible. He reminded the council that householders should take responsibility for ditches around their property.

**Action:** *BG to put this request in the Parish Pump again.*

**7. Report from Transport Representative**

7.1 BV spoke to his report

“I was hoping after our meeting with Richard Bastow that I would be able to report that all the jobs we discussed on our walk around the village had been carried out, but unfortunately it seems that this is not the case:

We had asked for the verge to be replaced and gullies reinstated in the area between Greenbanks and Steels Lane to help slow the traffic down and to allow the surface water to drain from the road. We also asked for a passing place at the entrance to the field. However all that has been done is that some tarmac has been laid making the road wider than ever and allowing the traffic to go even faster and there is not a gully in sight. Furthermore: at the school, where the most work has to be carried, out it seems all that has been done is a trimming of the grass verge.

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Let's hope that by the end of September all the work that was promised to be done will be done - and that when we walked around the village with Mr Bastow we were not wasting our time.

I will be sending a copy of this report to Councillor Heron who can hopefully make sure that the work is carried out in time scale agreed."  
*(Please see also above at Item 6)*

7.2 The bridge at the church end of the causeway

This had been destroyed by a large vehicle and Highways had been informed. It was agreed that this was dangerous and must be dealt with.

**8. Correspondence**

The Clerk had received a letter of thanks from Victim Support for the grant of £50.00. The Newsletter "Clerks and Councils Direct" was available for any councillor who wished to read it.

**9. Finance and payments**

9.1 To approve payments to be made in September 2014

The following payments were unanimously agreed and the cheques signed:

- Mr N F Quinnell £25 for Play Trail weekly inspections to latest invoice 16<sup>th</sup> August
- James Bryne Printing Ltd £40 for July and August editions Parish Pump
- Phil Tandy £35.96 reimbursement for payment to 1&1 Internet Ltd

9.2 To approve bank reconciliation for August 2014

There had been some confusion over reconciliation processes as it had proved difficult to get the dates of the bank statements brought forward and to arrange on-line examination of the account. The Clerk therefore presented a budget update (attached) and reported that all cheques presented for signing at the July meeting had gone through the bank with the sole exception of that for St Georges Church PCC, which, she said, would probably appear on the August statement. She trusted that she would be able to resolve these difficulties before the next Council meeting and would then present a correct bank reconciliation to cover the entire period from June - September.

*(After the meeting duplicate forms were signed to Lloyds bank Ltd. Also to Douglas Tonks for payments to the clerk.)*

**10. Planning Applications**

10i Lopshill Farm. App no: 14/11030

Councillors would remember that a single story dwelling had already been converted into a two-storey building at this address. The owners now sought permission to add 2 holiday lets. There being absolutely no reason to object to this; it was agreed that the council would support the application.

***Motion:*** *The Parish Council were happy for this application to be accepted*

***Proposed:*** *Glyn Perrens*      ***Seconded:*** *Bob Gilbey*

***Voting:*** *Unanimous.*

10ii Land at rear of Compasses (i.e. Ellie's Barn) App no: 14/1111

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The proposed development had been modified and the owners no longer sought to develop the additional buildings for holiday lets.

**Motion:** *The Parish Council were happy for this application to be accepted*

**Proposed:** *Barry Vincent*    **Seconded:** *David Crane*

**Voting:** *Unanimous*

10iii Tree works at 2 Eleanor Cottages. Case ref: CONS/14/0943  
Councillors understood that tree could not be influenced by the PC

### **11. Housing Needs Survey**

Additional questions proposed by PT were discussed and it was agreed that the survey was long already; and that more questions would not be appropriate. DC's suggestion to move Question 24 was agreed.

**Action:** *Clerk to inform Catherine Kirkham.*

GP asked if the CC would buy land in the village. Councillor Heron replied that if a small site could be found in Damerham – even sufficient for 5 homes – then he would be able to put a strong case to the CC. He himself fully supported rural housing.

### **12. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings**

None.

### **13. Other matters brought forward by the Chairman**

#### The Parish Lengthsman

A visit was pencilled in for next Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September and the Lengthsman would do as much on the list as possible. There was discussion of the quantity of work outstanding.

**Action:** *Chairman to contact CC and point out that there was work outstanding from last year and that the Lengthsman had not been in the parish since March. He would ask for two men to attend.*

### **14. Other matters brought forward by councillors**

#### 14.1 Road signs at the end of the High Street

DC asked again if it were possible for this junction to be better marked, as this was a danger point for road users. It was agreed that lack of visibility was the main problem.

#### 14.2 Hedges still uncut in this part of the village

The pathway to the school was still overgrown.

**Action:** *Councillor Heron to send official letter format to Clerk*

**Action:** *Clerk to write again to Tilney Estates using the official format.*

#### 14.3 Concern raised by parishioner

PD said that it was believed that a “granny flat” had been created in a storage shed at a house in High Street. There could be an issue for neighbours who were overlooked by a new window. Councillors were concerned that this was, or could be in the future, a breach of planning regulations.

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**Action:** *Chairman to write to the NFDC requesting investigation following a complaint from a parishioner.*

**14.4 Repainting the bridge**

BV asked if anything further was known about when this would be done.

**Action:** *Chairman to pursue*

**14.5 War Memorial Refurbishment Grant**

The Chairman had chased this and was awaiting a reply. He also awaited a reply from the Memorial Trust to his question as to whether the grant could be paid as the work had been carried out

**14.6 The Jubilee bench**

This was still in PT's warehouse and would be fixed in the agreed place as soon as practicable.

**14. Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30pm

**Meeting ended at 9.10pm.**