

**DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

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**Councillors present:**

David Crane, Pete Doherty, Bob Gilbey, Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major,  
Mrs Suzanne Musker, Phil Tandy (Chairman), Barry Vincent

**Parishioners present:**

Mr. John Godber

**Others present:**

Councillor Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk)

**Public participation**

Defibrillator: John Godber asked about the defibrillator. Chris Saltric had sent an e-mail to explain that the working group was still hoping to obtain a grant, but as yet had no news of this.

The Church Lane causeway bridge; this had been hit again. JG suggested a notice warning lorry drivers that the lane was unsuitable for large vehicles. Cllr Heron explained that it was unlikely that the council would erect a length of vehicle sign. The CC were working with an organisation that updated sat. nav. data and possibly this might make a difference to drivers believing that Church Lane was a short cut.

***Action:** Cllr Heron to would ask Bob Brown to inspect the signs to see if the existing ones could be improved upon.*

1. **Apologies:** were accepted from Glyn Perrens and Mrs Ros Jones. Spinney Adlam was not present.
2. **Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:** No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

A couple of mis-spelt names were corrected and in Item 8 "weight" restriction was corrected to "length" restriction. The minutes were then signed as a true record of the meeting.

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

None.

**5. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer**

The footpaths were wet and muddy. There was no further report.

**6. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer**

There was no report to receive.

**7. Report from Transport Representative**

7i Barry Vincent delivered his report as follows:

"Since the last meeting I have reported various pot holes around the village all of which I am pleased to say have now been filled.

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I have spoken to Bob Brown about the grips between Ohio and Knoll Farm and have asked to have these cleared. He has informed me that unfortunately he is unable to do this until the next financial year as there is no money left in the pot. Maybe we could ask the lengthsman to do this job.

I have also spoken to Bob Brown about the pipes under the road at Mill End, 2 of these he has on his list of "to do jobs" and has now added 1 more, but again this must wait until the next financial year. He was unable to give me a date as to when he would be able to complete the work at this time."

**Action:** PT to ask Robert (the lengthsman) to get a digger to clear these ditches.

**7ii Other works**

BV also commented on the pipe in Mill End, which needed mending or replacing, and the under-road pipe and the railings in South End. This work needed completing and he understood this would be done in the new financial year.

**7iii Busses**

It was understood from Cllr. Heron that there were no plans to reduce this service and EH said that he believed the commitment was not to leave any village without transport.

**8. Correspondence**

None that had not already been forwarded to councillors by the clerk.

**9. Finance and payments**

**9i The 2015 – 2016 budget**

9ia The Chairman took the councillors through the proposed budget (attached). He proposed increasing the precept by about 2% so that when capping was introduced the precept would already be at a reasonable level. There were no objections to his proposals.

**Motion:** to accept the proposed budget and precept increase for 2015 - 2016

**Proposed:** Pete Doherty. Seconded: David Crane

**Voting:** Unanimous

9i b New legislation:

PT also explained the new Transparency Code for small councils. Accounts would no longer need to be externally audited but would be subject to greater public scrutiny through the use of the web site. He also explained that VAT would no longer be paid by smaller councils with claims of less than £500. The clerk confirmed that it was unlikely that there would be spending in the current financial year with this amount of VAT and it was suggested that it might be possible to arrange to take spending over the £500 limit in alternate years in order to reclaim VAT.

9i c Asset value

It was explained that the value of assets was generally indicated by the value of insurance.

9i d Bank reconciliation

The clerk presented the attached reconciliation. She explained how she recorded the budget throughout the year (copy attached) and agreed to bring a copy of both these documents for each councillor to subsequent meetings. There were no questions.

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9iii Payments to be approved

The following payments had been made:

530	Autela	Payroll services	£30.00
531	Sue Sykes	Clerk's November salary	£175.06
532	Sue Sykes	Clerk's December salary	£174.86
533	HMRC	p.a.y.e.	£131.20
<b>To be paid</b>			
534	Phil Tandy	I & I Internet	£35.96
535	NFDC	Playtrail maintenance	£1,267.20
536	Bob Gilbey	Expenses (Pump)	£35.30
537	Sue Sykes	Expenses (clerk)	£20.93
	James Bryne		
538	Printing	Pump	£20.00
539	Jo Quinnell	Playtrail weekly inspections	£40.00
540	Autela	Payroll services	£30.00
			<b><u>£1,960.51</u></b>

**10. Update on planning applications**

The clerk reported the following:

- 14/11334 Old Channel Hill Farm – granted subject to legal agreements
- 14/11011 Hyde View, Cranborne Road – appeal ongoing
- 14/11030 Lopshill Farm – granted subject to legal agreements
- 14/11111 Land to rear of Compasses – granted subject to legal agreements

***Action:*** The Chairman would resubmit the Council's original objection to Hyde View.

Treeworks applications were granted for Wath Cottage and Woodmans Yard. Councillors were aware that they could have no say in the granting of applications for tree works.

**11. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings**

There were none – however there was discussion of some aspects of police news. The Community Police Officer, Corine, was moving on to join a New Forest-wide Country Watch team with responsibility for issues in the wider countryside and the local police presence would be reduced from three PCs to two as from April.

There had been a number of robberies in the parish, which the police had attended; notably at the Nurseries in South End. The security at the Trout Lakes had also been broken. The police had had to attend from Lymington when called out and this had taken half an hour.

**12. Other matters brought forward by the Chairman**

12i Maintenance of phone boxes

The clerk reminded councillors that Cllr Heron had queried the PC desire to adopt the two public phone boxes in the village. This adoption was not expensive, but continuing maintenance and safety of the boxes might well prove costly.

***Action:*** Cllr Heron to investigate whether BT would continue their maintenance of the two village boxes.

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12ii Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Heron said that there were two police patrol cars covering the NFDC area at night. There was discussion of the possibility of reviving a NW scheme for the village, particularly in the light of recent incidents in the village and the reduction of numbers of available officers to attend when needed.

***Action:*** *PT to investigate the revival of a village Neighbourhood Watch scheme*

12iii Hedges

The hedge along the length of West Park Lane from the point at which the houses ended to the junction was the responsibility of Tilney Estates and was overgrown.

***Action:*** *The clerk to add this to the official letter (supplied by Cllr Heron) to Tilney concerning the hedges in Green Close.*

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

13i Fun Quest

PT reported that Fun Quest were updating their child protection policies

13ii Litter pick

To be arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March. PT had already ordered the equipment necessary.

13iii Housing Survey

***Action:*** *Clerk to check progress on Housing Survey.*

13iv Lengthsman budget

This would not be cut. However councillors were not entirely happy with the service received and through discussion with Cllr Heron it was identified that dissatisfaction was largely due to administrative difficulties resulting in work not moving up the list of priorities. Worksheets were sent by the Chairman to Debbie Vine (Clerk at Fordingbridge TC and Project Manager for the Lengthsman scheme). But these were not received back and it was difficult to check progress of works and the way in which priorities were being tackled.

***Action:*** *Clerk to visit TC offices and clarify procedures with Debbie Vine*

13v Web site

There was some discussion of the way in which this was kept updated and Richard Major offered to consider if he could take on responsibility for this from PT, who was currently the web master.

***Action:*** *RM and PT to meet and discuss this.*

13vi The next Parish Pump

This would cover February and March

13vii Broadband meeting

A meeting to update on faster broadband progress would be attended by BG and PT.

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

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*The meeting ended at 9.10pm*

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