

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 14th September 2015 at 7.30pm

Councillors present

David Crane, Pete Doherty, Bob Gilbey, Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major, Mrs Suzanne Musker,

Parishioners present: Mr and Mrs Glyn Ruth, Mr Rupert Musker and Mr John Godber

Others present:

Cllr Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Sue Sykes (Parish Clerk)

Public participation:

The Chairman (DC) welcomed the Ruths as new residents to the village.

Mr Godber pointed out that the Baptist Chapel was due to be closed in early December and wondered if the plot of land owned by them might be suitable for community housing. Cllr. Heron explained that the PC could register an interest and request further information from the owners if and when they had plans to sell off their property. It was understood that this would confer no obligation on the part of the PC.

Action: Clerk to write to the Baptist Church expressing the Parish Council's interest and requesting information when this was available.

1. Apologies and confirmation of quorum

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Phil Tandy, Cllr Barry Vincent and Mrs Ros Jones. Mr Spinney Adlam was not present. The meeting was quorate.

2. Declaration of interests

SM declared an interest in Item 10: planning application 15/10796, as she was joint householder.

3. Minutes of the previous meetings on 13th July and 3rd August

These were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

4.1 Parish Council minutes

It was agreed that the draft minutes of all meetings should be published on the web site once all councillors had had the opportunity to comment on the content. The clerk would make this procedure clear in an e-mail and notify RM when the draft minutes were ready to be posted.

4.2 Footpath and bridge beside trout lakes

SM reported that she and Cllr Heron had inspected the footpath beside the trout lakes and found this to be in a bad state. HCC had undertaken to do some repair work.

Action: Cllr Heron to enquire when this work might be undertaken

4.3 Road sign by Bouldsbury Farm lane

The clerk had mentioned this in her e-mail to HCC and had, as yet, had no reply.

Action: Clerk to write again and copy to Bob Brown

4.4 PlayTrail inspections

The clerk was currently making the weekly inspections of the Play Trail and asked if it was necessary to complete a detailed checklist each week. She also asked if a councillor would

volunteer to carry out the checks when she was away. PD agreed to be “backstop” and, should he also be unavailable, then SM would carry out the necessary inspection. After discussion the following action was also agreed:

Action: Clerk to enquire of the insurance company exactly what their requirements were with regard to regular inspections. If appropriate she would draw up a less complicated checklist for weekly use; retaining the existing list for less regular inspections.

4.5 Church Lane signage

The clerk had spoken at length to the officer in charge of signage at NFDC (Mandy Ware) and had followed this up with an e-mail. Cllr Heron said that he believed that it had been decided that signs on the scale that the PC would prefer would probably not be possible, but that he would raise this matter again with HCC.

Action: Clerk to forward e-mail to Cllr Heron so that he could pursue the matter.

Action: Clerk to write again to Mandy Ware.

5. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

Mrs Ros Jones had rung the clerk to say that she had nothing outstanding to report but that she had followed up the matter of the Bousbury Farm footpath (see July minutes).

6. Report from the Parish Watercourses Officer

In the absence of Spinney Adlam there was nothing to report.

7. Report from the Parish Transport Representative

BV had sent his report to PT (*Clerk's note: it is added here after the meeting*).

“Traffic Report September 2015

I have spoken to Bob Brown about the road surface from the end of West Park Lane towards the Damerham sign on Rockbourne Lane and he had marked this up to be done but since speaking to him again he now tells me they are going to jet patch the whole of Rockbourne Lane. This is the same method that they used on the other side of Rockbourne, hopefully this will be better.

There seems to be a problem with the road flooding between Hyde Farm and the corner towards Damerham. I have spoken to Bob Brown about this to see what can be done but unfortunately he seems to think that there is not much they are able to do at the present time.

Hopefully when all the grips are cleared around the village by the lengthsman it will stop flooding on the other roads around the village.

I noticed the Cranborne Road sign opposite the turning to Bousbury has not been fixed yet and would like to remind the Clerk about this job! (see 4.3).

8. Correspondence

The clerk had received the following in addition to those items forwarded by e-mail and had dealt with them suitably:

- Notification of the Cranborne Chase Woodfair in Breamore on 3rd and 4th October
- HARA report
- HALC annual review
- assurance from NFDC that contact would be made with the owners of Greenbank Farm on the matter of the caravan
- press statement from Dorset DC on the Spur Road rebuild
- information from Fordingbridge and Community Association on the availability of a mini-bus for hire
- voter registration information from NFDC

- Request from Autela for permission to act on the PC's behalf on employee pension matters (not currently applicable but required for possible future use)

9. Finance and payments

9.1 Bank reconciliation 14th July – 14th September

The clerk distributed copies of this report (attached), which was approved.

9.2 Budget update

The clerk took councillors through the record of monthly expenditure against income (attached), a copy of which was available should councillors wish to examine it in more detail. She said that the budget was well on track at the half year and particularly commented on the following:

- a VAT refund of £211 had been received and this was greater than originally anticipated.
- there would be no future weekly claims against the budget line for PlayTrail inspections
- the PC had agreed an overspend of £200 for the S137 grant payments
- both the final grant payment and the internal audit payment had now cleared the bank
- payment of clerk's p.a.y.e. had not yet fallen due this financial year
- an invoice for election costs had not yet been received

9.3 Payments for September

Payments were agreed as itemised on the bank reconciliation report received by all councillors:

573 Autela payroll Services	£30.00
574 James Byrne printing	£40.00
575 1&1 Internet Services (to P.Tandy)	£35.00
576 Clerk's salary for September	£175.06

In addition the following were agreed for future date:

577 Clerk's salary for October (probably	£194.86)
578 HMRC p.a.y.e (probably	£131.20)

10. Planning applications

15/10961 Willow Cottage, High Street – retention of fence

There had been some negative comments from the conservation and planning officers and on the website. SM had sent an e-mail to councillors giving some background information and Mr Musker explained the history of a boundary dispute with neighbours, which had now been resolved. A fence had been erected with their agreement and the planning application was retrospective. It was Mr Musker's intention to plant a yew hedge and to remove the fence when the yew was sufficiently grown to take its place. The meeting understood that the conservation officer would most probably take the view that the fence was inappropriate in a rural setting and that the best course was to make the application for a temporary fence.

Motion 1: The PC recommends permission be granted for retention of the fence on a temporary basis for a period of 5 years. (Part 3 – approval. The application to go to Committee should the Planning Officer disagree.)

*Proposed: Richard Major Seconded: Bob Gilbey
Voting: In favour – 3 Against – 0 Abstentions – 2*

Motion 2: The PC made no recommendation and would accept the decision of the planning officer (Part 5)

As motion 1 was carried, Cllr Heron advised that it was unnecessary to take a vote on Motion 2. RM said that he would attend the planning committee meeting should it be necessary.

11. Proposed 90th birthday celebrations for Her Majesty

A small group had met (Cathy and John Godber, Gilly Chance and Sue Sykes) and it had been agreed that there would be a Family Party in the traditional Damerham style in the sports field on

Saturday 11th June 2016 followed by “Damerham’s Got Talent” in the Village Hall in the evening and the lighting of the Beacon to round off the day. This small group would meet to assess help needed and to draw up a budget and then meet again with volunteers who, it was hoped, would take responsibility for the individual activities. The broad outline would appear in the Parish Pump and if no volunteers were forthcoming they would be actively sought. *Clerk’s note: This meeting is on Sunday 25th October. Place & time to be decided with volunteers.*

The PC agreed to support this day of activities and asked for the item to remain on future agendas. They would consider providing funding when a draft budget was available to them at the November meeting. Cllr Heron added that he would be able to arrange a grant, as had been done for the Diamond Jubilee.

12. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings

12.1 Police Liaison Committee meeting on 16th July

GP had attended this and reported that some useful practical matters had been discussed including the use of Parish Halls in the case of flooding. However, although crime rates were down, funding for all police services was a major concern. Work on issues relating to the presence of travellers was still ongoing.

It was noted that there was an on-line survey of reactions to reductions in funding for local policing and that it would be good if councillors would respond to this (see e-mail from clerk).

The proposed Neighbourhood Watch Scheme still lacked a co-ordinator.

Action: *BG to put appeal for organiser for Neighbourhood Watch in the Pump.*

13. Matters brought forward by the Chairman

Scheme for enforcing maintenance of privately owned hedges and ditches

DC asked if this was still to be implemented and Cllr Heron replied that it was and briefly explained how the scheme might work. The clerk said that she was attending a meeting in Winchester the following week and would report back.

Action: *item for November PC agenda*

14. Other matters raised by councillors

14.1 FunQuest

PD reported that this had been a good summer and that he expected to hear detail of the events which took place, at the meeting the following evening.

14.2 Parish Pump

BG said that the copy deadline for the October issue was the end of the week.

14.3 Parish defibrillator

Mrs CG enquired if any councillor knew of progress in obtaining this. She felt that the PC had a duty of care to escalate its purchase. It was agreed that this matter should be speedily resolved if at all possible.

Action: *Clerk to write to Harvey Cracknell asking if there was any way in which councillors could assist him in obtaining the defibrillator for the parish.*

14.4 NFDC Chief Executive

Cllr Heron said that the new Chief Exec had been appointed and it was expected that the staff team would be finalised in the near future.

15. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 8.55pm