

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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:

Spinney Adlam (Parish Watercourse Officer), Mrs Ros Jones (Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk)

Public participation

Court Hill roadside verges

Mr John Godber asked if there was any progress on the cutting of the verges on Court Hill. This was still unresolved and it was believed that verges might not be cut next year due to financial constraints and to conservation concerns.(But see Item 13i below). There was discussion of the ongoing concern over road safety and the lack of visibility.

Stakes to prevent parking.

Mr Godber also noted that some householders had inserted stakes along roadsides to deter motorists from parking and asked whose responsibility these were. PT replied that if householders planted these deterrents then the safety of them was their own responsibility.

Lengthsman

Mr Spinney Adlam asked how the Lengthsman's tasks were arranged and checked. The Chairman explained this again and reassured Mr Adlam that the new system would work more efficiently than the old. (See also at Item 11 below).

1. **Apologies:** were accepted from Glyn Perrens
2. **Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:**
No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2015

With a slight alteration to Item 15vi where BV had asked if there could be a fingerpost sign; these were now agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

Several other signs were now requested

Action: PT to follow up on this with HCC according to his list.

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5. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer

Mrs. Jones delivered her report:

“ The nettle and bramble season is in full swing, so please dress appropriately for the less frequented paths – I suggest a suite of armour. However it is also the season for butterflies and other insects which live and feed on nettles and brambles, and many can be seen on the paths.

“It was reported to me that a fallen tree in the corner of Cornpits Lane had been dragged out of the way but that its rootball had demolished a stile and blocked the gap on Footpath 31. I telephoned Mrs Yarrow and within a day or so the rootball had been cut off and shifted. My thanks to her and all concerned.

“I was informed by a reputable source that two new stiles had been constructed by a master craftsman on Footpath 48 between Bouldsbury Farm and Boveridge. I should like to thank him very much. I would also like to ask him if he would be willing to take a strimmer to the path just inside the field where it skirts Bouldsbury Farm itself.”

As the footpath above Bouldsbury Farm was overgrown she would ask Rob Shepherd, as the land-owner, if John Godber could take the time to cut back from the stile along the footpath. DC also asked if she would check the loose panel below Spring Meadow.

The footpath from The Marsh by the Fish Lakes was still under discussion

Action: SM to contact Cllr Heron again to arrange a time to inspect this path.

6. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer

Spinney Adlam discussed the ditches opposite Court Hill Farm which still needed clearing. This had been a particular problem during the Friday night downpour. Councillors were agreed that there was still work that needed to be done, but that many improvements had been made over the year.

7. Report from Transport Representative

BV said that he had little to report. Parishioners had commented to him on the danger from school traffic to dog walkers in Church Lane. There was an ongoing problem with traffic in Church Lane.

BG reported that a car parked outside the Church had been broken into during the recent circus performance.

8. Correspondence

- The Chairman had received a letter from St George’s Church thanking the PC for the donation of £400.
- A letter from Robert Heron confirmed that he had been unsuccessful in his bid for the renewal of the Lengthsman contract (attached). He would be happy to submit an estimate for any job which might fall outside the remit of the new Lengthsman. BV commented that he would be reluctant to employ him.
- Notification of the electoral review for Hampshire had been received by the clerk..

Action: Chairman to respond

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9. Finance and payments

9.1 Bank reconciliation: 2nd April – 13th July 2015

The clerk distributed copies of this document which was accepted by the meeting.

9.2 Budget update

Councillors received copies of the budget update (attached) They asked that all PlayTrail inspections be under the same heading.

9.3 Payments for July

Payments listed on the budget update were agreed and the cheques signed.

Councillors noted the sudden death of Jo Quinnell the previous week and sent their sympathy to his widow and family. The clerk would send a card with the current payment. Discussion of the need to appoint somebody to carry out the weekly inspections of the PlayTrail was deferred.

Clerk's note:

I am willing to carry out these inspections at least until another person is found.

10. Planning Applications

15/10769 Stocks Cottage, High Street – use of garage as ancillary living accomodation; dormer and fenestration alterations; relocation of fence and gates.

This item was deferred as the full details had not been available on-line and councillors were therefore unable to comment. PT had pointed out to NFDC that a postponement of the date for this application would have to be made. Several parishioners had asked for notification of the new date for this meeting.

Action: Clerk to inform parishioners when new date was decided.

11. Update on Parish Lengthsman Scheme

A new form had been provided with time and date. The Lengthsman would enter the time the job took and a comparison could then be made. Fordingbridge would be responsible for sending out a member of staff to monitor tasks completed.

It was noted that the new Lengthsman could not use power tools (eg. a digger) on the road.

Action: Councillors to e-mail PT with other tasks to be added to the list for the Lengthsman before the end of August; ready for his next visit on 14th September.

It was noted that the sign for Bouldsbury Farm on the Cranborne Road had been knocked.

Action: Clerk to contact to NFDC

12. Reports from Councillors attending other Meetings

12i Planning applications: DC had attended a training course on planning which had been of limited use as it did not primarily focus on the role of parish councils. He said that the national Planning Portal was worth reading for information on the planning process. Some pointers had been given on material considerations to be taken into account by parish councillors for each application. He gave the example of the difference between “loss of

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view” as opposed to “overlooking” for a neighbouring property. It was agreed that it was important for the PC to follow by attending the Committee if they had recommended that the application go to Committee in the case of disagreement.

13. Other matters considered urgent by the Chairman

13i A Trial had been set up to measure the effectiveness of a scheme whereby when a landowner did not respond to a request from the PC then a specialist team would be sent in to cut grass and hedges. Damerham and Totton had been invited to join this trial.

13ii Phone boxes: PT had met the Assistant Area Manager for Hampshire Phone Boxes who had said that he would prefer to remove the boxes in Damerham; but undertook to contact PT with information on permission to paint them ourselves.

Action: *PT to put on Lengthsman’s list if and when permission was received.*

14. Other matters raised by councillors

BV had been asked by neighbours to raise the question of the caravan at Greenbank Farm. If no further application was put in then the caravan would be removed, but enforcement could take several months.

Action: *Clerk to e-mail NFDC Planning Dept pointing out that the permission for usage of the caravan as a dwelling had expired and that parishioners were asking for its removal.*

15. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 14th September 2015 at 7.30pm

Meeting ended at 9.00pm