

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting to be held in Damerham Village Hall on

Monday 28th November 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present:

David Crane (Chairman), Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major, Glyn Ruth, Phil Stephens, Barry Vincent.

Parishioners present:

Mrs Midge Connell, Mr John Godber.

Others present:

Spinney Adlam (Watercourses Officer), Cllr Ken Andrews (Sandleheath Parish Council), Cllr Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Ros Jones (Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk)

Public Participation

Mrs Connell made two representations. One concerned speeding traffic past Wath Cottage, where there was the added danger of emerging parents and children from the footpath leading to Mill End and the school (councillors see attached e-mail).

Action: Clerk to put advice in Parish Pump and speak to the school asking for a plea for all those driving through the village to drive slowly through the village.

The other issue concerned litter, which was believed to be on the increase. It was agreed that the litter issue was one of public awareness and that those dropping the litter were often passing motorists, who would not see notices in the Parish Pump. Cllr Heron explained that it was an offence to throw litter; but almost impossible to catch passing traffic.

Action: DC to organise an additional litter pick in the Spring.

Mr Godber asked why, when the verges were cut in September, cutting stopped short of the hedges. There was also a rumour reported by a member of the public that, on the road opposite Wath Cottage and alongside the boundary of Greenbanks, there was tarmac under the grass at the edge of the road. This could mean that the current "verge" was, in fact, a part of the highway.

Action: Cllr Heron to investigate both these issues.

Mr Godber also asked if the recycling bins in the layby towards Sandleheath were being permanently removed. It was believed that they were.

A complaint had been received concerning the wearing away of the white lines through the village. Cllr Edward Heron gave it as his opinion that white lines down the middle of narrow roads were best left to wear away as they tended to give confidence to motorists and lead to speeding.

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Glyn Perrens and Mrs Sue Musker. Pete Doherty was not present.

2. Business Interests

None were declared

3. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5th September and 31st October

The minutes of the additional meeting in October should be resent.

The September minutes were approved as a true record of events.

4. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda. None.

5. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

Mrs Ros Jones reported as follows:

“State of the paths: at the moment the footpaths and bridleways are beautiful with autumn berries, old man’s beard and garlands of bryony berries. In sunny patches you may see pale, fawn coloured winter gnats rising and falling.

In some places the tracks are somewhat sloshy after recent rain – stout footwear recommended!

A big improvement has been made to Path 6 (from Mill End out to South End, opposite Cornpits Lane). It has been cleared, flattened and a new fence erected. My thanks to Mrs Humphries and to Richard Nicklen, who did the donkey work.

I received a complaint last month about an electric fence across Path 32, in the steep field up Ashridge by the Daggons road. Sheep were grazing in the field but no arrangement had been made for walkers on the path to cross the fence safely. However, by the time I went to check it, the field was empty of sheep and the fence dismantled.

A reminder for those who like walking the local footpaths: the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpaths Society runs guided walks throughout the year.”

6. Report from the Parish Watercourses Officer

Spinney Adlam said that there were no problems currently, although he expected that there would be; once the winter rains started. Cllr Heron said that it was a good time to remind householders to dig out drains outside their properties.

Action Clerk to get this reminder in the Parish Pump.

7. Report from the Parish Transport Representative

BV made his report as follows:

“Road Report November 2016: In October there was a very bad water leak in the High Street, I contacted Bournemouth Water, who said that it was nothing to do with them and they passed it to NFDC Housing as the leak was on their side of the pipe. I phoned NFDC and was told that they knew of the leak and were going to send someone to inspect it soon. I pointed out that there was no time for this, as it was a danger to people walking on the road, as they had no option but to walk near the middle of the road due to the amount of water. After a long chat, they agreed to send a team to fix it.

I have also reported fly tipping on Lower Daggons Road, just past South End Farm. I reported it on Friday and it was removed by Tuesday. The numbers to phone if any councillor wishes to report tipping are:

NFDC area – 023 8028 5000 option 4
East Dorset area - 01305 221 040

In general the roads around the village seem to be in a reasonable condition and it is good to see that all the grips out towards Martin have been cleared.

The only other problem is that there has been some flooding across the road at Cheaters Gate. The small bridge at the side that pedestrians might wish to use is quite overgrown with brambles at the moment. This is a job for the Lengthsman”.

Spinney Adlam said the small bridge is actually in Dorset and he offered to clear the brambles which he said were minimal. The council thanked him for this offer.

The Chairman said that the authorities were hopeful of being able to bring a prosecution against the culprit of the recent fly tipping in Lower Daggons Lane.

The council was reminded that there is a new NFDC app for all local residents to log their comments on work that should be done.

Action: Clerk to ask Maria Langdown to put this link in the Parish Pump.

The Steels Lane and Green Close hedges should be monitored and action taken if they are not cut in January

Action: Item for January agenda

8. Correspondence

8i The Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute

On 11th day of the eleventh month in 2018 - the centenary of the final day of the First World War will be commemorated by the lighting of beacons across the county. The meeting unanimously agreed that Damerham should join the national celebration by lighting the beacon on this evening.

Action: Clerk to complete form citing DC as the person to be contacted by the national organisers.

8ii Road markings at the bottom of Court Hill

Cllr Heron confirmed that he had contacted Richard Bascow about the lack of a response to the clerk's two e-mails to him concerning the need for better signage at the end of the straight stretch into the village before the sharp bend at East End. He would also take up the issue of markings the road where it passed the end of the Green Lane footpath leading to the school. (See speeding *Public Participation* above.)

Action: Cllr Heron to pursue these issues.

9. Finance

9i Bank reconciliation 6th September – 28th November 2016 (Attached)

This was unanimously accepted. At the request of the Clerk; and as recommended in the Standing Orders, PS agreed to be responsible for confirming these figures against the bank statements when they were presented.

9ii Payments for October / November / December

These were unanimously agreed.

Action: January agenda item - estimates for grass cutting on the PlayTrail

The Clerk suggested that councillors should walk the PlayTrail with her in order to assess what might need to be done over the next few years., when she felt that there might be a need for some more extensive management to be carried out.

Action: Clerk to arrange an "Away Day" for councillors to walk the Playtrail.

9iii Permissions to pay salaries and p.a.y.e when due

Motion: that the Clerk should be delegated to pay moneys related to salaries when these were due, without a further meeting of the PC. This would include salaries; p..a.y.e. and payroll administration. It would not affect the need to seek two signatories to the cheques.

Proposed: David Crane Seconded: Richard Major

Voting: Unanimous

9iv Budget update November 2016

The Clerk took the councillors through this breakdown (attached), which would inform the drawing up of the proposed budget for the coming year 2017 - 2018.

9v Income in November: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant of £2,294.16p had been triggered by the new build to the land behind the Compasses (Ellie's Barn). This grant could be

used on infrastructure which benefitted the village and there was discussion of whether this should be used for the footpath behind the Trout Lakes for kept for future equipment on the PlayTrail.

£1,050.00 from Fun Quest for use on the PlayTrail had been paid into the PC account. There was discussion on the best use of this money, which the Clerk confirmed that she had checked could be used either for maintenance or replacement of anything which formed a part of the PlayTrail (ie. not only the actual play equipment).

9v 2016 – 2017 first draft budget for consideration

The clerk's recommendations had printed incorrectly and would be circulated again for discussion by e-mail. The decision would be made at the January meeting as usual.

Action: Clerk to correct document and circulate.

9vi Omission from 2015 – 2016 budget: It was noted that the £133.25 fee for election expenses had been paid to NFDC in the 2014 – 2015 financial year.

10. Planning applications

10i 16/11403. Courtwood Farm, Court Hill. Use as 2 bungalows. Single-storey extension. Councillors asked where the access would be for these bungalows and how this might be impacted by the entrance to the Recycling Centre. Councillors had no problems, however, with the actual planning application which was creating 2 small residencies out of one larger one.

Motion: 1. The Council was in favour of the application and would accept the decision of the Planning Office.

Proposed: Richard Major Seconded: Phil Stephens

Voting: Unanimous in favour of the motion.

10ii 16/11544 Ringwood & Fordingbridge Skip Hire, Courtwood Farm, Court Hill.

Mr Andrews was invited to give the views of the Sandleheath Parish Council, which he summarised under three headings: noise / increased traffic / emissions.

The Chairman reminded councillors of the conclusion they had reached previously, when they had not objected to the proposed increase in the lorries, at that time, but had written that they would object if there was further expansion to the site. There were a number of unknowns: what were the wastes that would be used in the biomass boiler – whether or not additional traffic was proposed. It was agreed that this was a concern for people living near the site. It was not believed that there was immediate intention to increase the traffic in the current application.

The Parish Council had many concerns about the expansion of the site. They sought information on the impact on local residents with regard to noise, emissions from the burning and the drying process and on the possible increase in traffic to and from the site, which might follow in the future. There were also queries on the monitoring and control of the process and how this would be carried out. There were other concerns regarding the safety of the site particularly when it was shut down; as it was believed that this could be a slow process given the size of the plant.

Motion: 5. the Council made no recommendation; but sought further clarification (as above).

Proposed: Barry Vincent Seconded: Cathy Godber

Voting: 5 in favour of the motion with 1 abstention

10iii October House: application for Lawful Development Certificate

The Lawful Certificate had been granted.

11. Standing orders, Risk Register and Assets Register

Councillors agreed the content of the Standing Orders as forwarded by the Clerk in advance.

Proposed: Richard Major
Voting: Unanimous

Seconded: Phil Stephens

12. School Car Park update

The Chairman updated councillors on this issue. He had contacted Tylney Investments to ask if they were prepared to consider the use of a small pocket of their land for this purpose. In reply Tylney had raised the question of Parish support with planning permission for development of the land between Greenbanks and Greenbanks Farmhouse. DC had made it clear to Tylney that it was not for the PC to decide on planning applications. At the same time DC had approached the school, who did not have any funding to support a project to build a car park.

After considerable discussion between councillors and Cllr Heron it was unanimously agreed that further discussions needed to be held by the Council with the School and with local landowners, to discuss possibilities with regard to the car parking issue in Mill End caused by school traffic; to the need for social or affordable housing; and to Tylney's proposal.

Action: Cllr Heron and the Chairman to compose a letter for the Clerk to issue.

13. Footpath behind the Trout Lakes

SM had obtained two estimates for £1,800 and £2,600 for carrying out the necessary work.

Action: DC to apply for a grant from the Small Grants Scheme

Action: Clerk to contact Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpaths Society to see if they had any recommendations concerning grants.

14. Parish Lengthsman: tasks completed and for next visit

It was agreed that keeping the grips throughout the Parish cleared and well dug was the top priority

15. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings. None.

16. Other matters considered urgent by the Chairman

16i Planning Service Review

The Chairman asked if there were any comments on this. It was agreed that the Council was unimpressed by the planning information they had received recently on applications and the form was completed.

16ii Community Assets

DC reported that he was continuing to investigate The Compasses Inn as a community asset, but that he believed that neither the Village Hall nor the Playing Field could be registered as such.

17. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 23rd January 2016

The meeting ended at 9.40pm