

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 27th March 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present:

David Crane (Chairman), Pete Doherty, Mrs Cathy Godber, Richard Major, Mrs Suzanne Musker, Glyn Ruth, Phil Stephens, Barry Vincent

Parishioners present: Mr Godber, Mr Phil Tandy.

Others present:

Councillor Edward Heron (NFDC), Mrs Ros Jones (Footpaths Officer), Mrs Sue Sykes (Clerk)

Public participation

Mr Godber commented that following the litter pick over the weekend there was now a lot of litter around the village again. However, the Chairman warmly thanked those villagers who had participated in the event.

1. **Apologies:** None were received.
2. **Declaration of business and pecuniary interests:** No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January

Were agreed and signed.

Councillors said that they had not received the minutes and the clerk requested that should this occur again that they should let her know. In the normal course of events minutes should arrive within 2 weeks following a Parish Council meeting.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

Public participation ii Fly-tipping in Church Lane

The camera which had recently been purchased for the “Church triangle” was now in place. It was hoped that this would either deter fly-tippers or would, at least, record their activities. The Chairman commented that there would be a need to purchase new batteries periodically and that arrangements would need to be made to check the batteries and replace them.

Action: DC to check the batteries in a week’s time and decide what measures Needed to be put in place.

Cllr Heron asked if the ownership of the land where the camera was sited had been established. If it turned out that this was on public land there could be a legal issue (Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act). However, it was agreed that, as the camera was actually fitted on Church land, there was probably no issue.

Action: Clerk to check with HALC that the fitting of this camera was legal.

5:12 Possible school car park

Cllr Heron had not yet had opportunity to take further action on this issue. He also said that, although writing a Neighbourhood Plan for only one issue would be a lengthy piece of work; he advised not ruling out writing a Plan should there be any further issues arising which could be addressed at the same time – for example the need for affordable housing.

Action: Item for next PC meeting agenda.

Public participation i: failure of faster broadband to reach some properties

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Mr Tandy reported that Morian was visiting Damerham to carry out a survey. However, he believed that their connection would not benefit those homes which could not currently connect to BT Infinity. Cllr Heron suggested contacting BT to ask for a community privately run scheme.

Action: Cllr Heron to e-mail contact at BT to the clerk, who should forward it to RM.

Action: Chair and Cllrs to let RM know of any other areas with poor connection

Action: DC to send list of areas without connection to Cllr Heron.

5: Item 13: Footpath 39

The repairs were on hold until the better weather. The Chairman would get Malcolm Parker to visit again and submit a revised quote for the work which was considered necessary.

Action: Clerk to contact Natalie Hands again

5. Report from Parish Footpaths Officer

Ros Jones presented her report as follows:

“State of the paths: there is copious mud in places but there are also many primroses, violets and celandines. Celandines are often the launch pad of baby violet oil beetles waiting to hop on to solitary bees and be taken back to their nest burrows, where they will eat the bee larvae and the stored pollen and spend the following winter underground. Violet oil beetles are large and flightless with a wonderful purple sheen. They have overlapping wing cases but no wings.

Problems: I rang Mr Tylney again about the tree trunk across Footpath 14 opposite Damerham Garage and he promised to do his best to get it removed soon.”

6. Report from Parish Watercourses Officer

In the absence of Spinney Adlam there was no report.

7. Report from Transport Representative

BV presented his report as follows:

“Since the last meeting, I have met with Bob Brown and we have looked at the flooding issue towards Lower Daggons. There are at least two places where the water should flow under the road through a pipe and these were blocked. Bob also pointed to the state of some of the ditches belonging to local farmers; and said that he would contact them and ask for the ditches to be cleared. We also looked at various potholes in this area and Bob said that all this work would have to wait until the beginning of the new financial year. Hopefully we will see some action soon.

I went with Bob to look at the verge in the High Street between Old Smithy Cottage and the top of Little Mill Lane, which I spoke about at the last PC meeting. I asked Bob if anything could be done to repair the verge and to stop people driving on it; but he seemed to think that this was something that Hampshire Highways was not prepared to pay for. So, if we want to do anything here, we will have to pay for it ourselves.

David also asked me to contact Bob Brown about the flooding on the road between North and South Allenford Farm. I telephoned Bob about this and he said that he would look into it.”

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There was discussion on the work that the Lengthsman could be asked to do. Possibly the Parish and the County might be able to take on a project for verge restoration.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that applications for S137 funding were starting to come in. These were normally considered at the Council's meeting and the final date for submission was given on the web site as 4th May 2017.

A request for confirmation of residency had been received with respect to the vacant property in West Park Lane. Cllr Heron had some knowledge of the applicant and gave his permission for the Clerk to put the Housing Association in touch with him.

9. Finance and payments

9i Income and Expenditure update

The Clerk gave verbal information to the Council saying that; had it not been for necessary and unforeseen work on the PlayTrail the budget would have been on track. As it was, it would be overspent this year. It was agreed by councillors that this was no bad thing as the funds had been building up year on year for some time. She would prepare a full statement in writing for the May PC meeting.

9ii Payments for March / April

9iii Bank reconciliation 23rd January – 27th March 2017

The clerk took councillors through this information (attached) which were approved unanimously. It was noted that a Transparency Fund Grant of £2,170 had been received. This was for purchase of a council owned laptop and any training in its use to meet the statutory requirements of the Transparency legislation that might be required.

The Clerk requested an additional meeting in early May to approve the end of year accounts. This was because the changing of meetings dates to the end of each month made the closing of the end of year accounts more complicated and she would have insufficient time to contact the external auditors before the period for the exercise of public rights began on 5th June. The late date in March also meant that a number of cheques would remain uncleared at the end of the financial year and, although these could be entered on the accounts as uncleared cheques, anyone taking over the 2017 – 2018 accounts would need to be alerted to this discrepancy.

9iv Donation from FunQuest

The Trustees of FunQuest had regretfully had to announce the closure of their activities and of their accounts, as no new trustees had been found to take over the organisation. They had offered a donation to the Parish Council to be set aside for repair and replacement of the PlayTrail and had asked for a formal acceptance of this by 4th April, Councillors regretted the closure and complimented the FunQuest organisers on the valuable work that they had done for children in the area. They gratefully accepted the donation and said that, as it was anticipated that the PlayTrail would incur heavy costs in the years to come; and because FunQuest had initiated and promoted its construction, they would be grateful for any monies that the Trustees saw fit to make over to the council for its maintenance and/or replacement.

Motion: The Council accepted monies from the FunQuest Trustees and would set these aside for repairs and/or maintenance or replacement of the facilities for children in the PlayTrail area

Proposed: David Crane

Seconded: Pete Doherty

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Voting: Unanimous

10. Planning Applications

17/10234 Shiralee, High Street. Relocate vehicular access; extend hardstanding.

Some councillors felt that the property owner should not have to do this at their own expense. There were issues between the owners and a neighbour over right of way. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Council had no objection to the planning being granted.

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

Proposed: Phil Stephens Seconded: Pete Doherty

Voting: Unanimous

17/10273 Courtwood Farm, Court Hill:

Use as 2 bungalows; single storey extension; alterations.

This application had been submitted previously and the PC had agreed to permission being granted with a 1.

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

Proposed: Richard Major Seconded: Glyn Ruth

Voting: Unanimous

11. Necessary work in the Parish

11i Bus shelter:

There had been graffiti sprayed on the bus shelter and BV had suggested that it be repainted with specialist paint that was believed to be comparatively inexpensive and which would cover the damage and protect against future defacement. It was agreed that this could be undertaken by councillors themselves.

Action: CG to co-ordinate this effort and DC to source the paint.

11ii Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had an extra day available on 6th April and asked if there was work that councillors would like to see carried out. It was agreed that the gulley by BV's house and by Royal Cottage needed clearing and digging out and that the Chairman could meet the Lengthsman to show him the exact location of these. On the PlayTrail there was some tidying up to be done. Twigs left by the Electricity Board's work on willows could be bagged up and taken to RM for disposal on his land.

11iii Verge cutting:

It was agreed that there was little chance of a Spring cut to the verges as requested by Mr Godber.

12. Public Meeting Report

The Chairman had been disappointed that only twelve members of the public attended the meeting. He reported on views offered as follows:

Several areas of the village were identified as of highest priority:

Court Hill (5 people prioritising this)

Steels Lane and the school (3 people prioritised this)

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High Street (3 people prioritised this)

Some solutions were suggested:

20 mile per hour speed limit. Possible cost £2,000 - £4,000

Road narrowing markings between Court Hill & East End

Better road markings on Court Hill and in East End

Electronic speed limits. (4 people suggested this. Cost could be about £5,000)

Purchase of a S.I.D. shared with Martin/Sandleheath/Rockborne (suggested by 4 people)

Road verges were eroded and needed to be built up (by Lengthsman?)

Community SpeedWatch. (Only additional volunteer was John Godber.)

Cllr Heron would welcome the opportunity to discuss the use of a SID as he had experience of these in use elsewhere.

RM asked if the Council could put cones on eroded verges. It was agreed that any actions of this nature would be best dealt with by a working party of councillors with Cllr Heron.

Action: DC and BV to walk the village to identify the eroded verges and photograph them; trying to determine the reason for the erosion.

Action: date to be set for Cllr Heron, DC and BV to meet to consider possible measures.

Community Speedwatch was discussed and it was believed that it might soon be possible for volunteers to recommence this.

There had been an accident on the High Street but it was believed that this was not relevant to the issue. Various other areas of the village were discussed in this respect.

13. Neighbourhood Watch update

In the absence of GP there was nothing to report.

Action: Item for next agenda.

14. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings: There were none.

15. Other matters considered urgent by the Chairman or raised with him in advance by councillors: No additional matters.

16. Date and time of next meetings:

There was considerable discussion of the pros and cons of moving the dates of the Council meetings and it was decided that for May only the date would revert to the second Monday. This would need to be advised in the Parish Pump and on the web site as well as by paper notices as usual.

Monday 8th May 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 8th May Parish Council meeting.