

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Councillors present:

David Crane (Chairman) (DC)	Cathy Godber (CG)
Suzanne Musker (SM)	Glyn Ruth (GR)
Phil Stephens (PS)	Barry Vincent (BV)

Members of the public present: 6

Others present:

Natasha Mackenzie (Clerk) (NM)	Cllr Edward Heron
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Public participation:

Parish Lengthsman - it was confirmed the last visit to the parish was during the week of 28th August.

Footpaths - concerns were raised regarding the state of local footpaths - complaints have been made by tourists staying in holiday let properties in the village, and from residents using the paths for running. Footpaths Officer Ros Jones asked all issues to be reported to her, so she can attend to them. **Action: clerk to review the RFFS report on the parish's paths.**

Hedgehogs - a sign was requested to raise awareness of the hedgehog population, which cross the road in East End. **Action: clerk to contact Bob Brown – folding sign attached to an existing one?**

Hedge cutting – once a year in May is insufficient; it needs to be later to reduce growth. Cllr Heron to feed this back. **Action: clerk to ask Bob Brown to write to a resident at Hill Farm to ask them to attend to their boundary hedge.**

Fly tipping – reported in Church Lane, but may be waste from the churchyard. John Godber kindly offered to remove if still there after this week's collection.

1. Apologies and declaration of quorum

17/09/09

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Major and Doherty. Spinney Adlam (Parish Watercourse Office) was not present.

The meeting was noted as quorate.

2. Declaration of business and pecuniary interests: none declared

3. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 24th July and 4th September 2017

17/09/10

It was agreed the minutes of both these meetings could be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. All in favour (6). **Action: clerk to update the website.**

4. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

17/09/11

24/07/17 meeting

- 9.iii. DC has submitted a new request to improve the safety aspect of Court Hill.

- 10.iii. GR is in the process of being added as a signatory to the Lloyds Bank accounts.

04/09/17 meeting

Both committee meetings for Home Bakery Cottage and Ringwood & Fordingbridge Skip Hire were deferred by NFDC & HCC respectively for further consultation.

5. Updates on projects in hand

17/09/12

- i. Management of verges throughout the village. BV reported no progress, especially by the school. Cllr Heron advised it is not possible to widen the surface due to the funding cuts (£140m this year), however potentially some work can be carried out using crushed granite if DPC agree to contribute financially under a Parish Partnership. The pre-school nursery class is increasing pressure on this layby and the Village Hall car park. **Action: clerk to write to Cllr Heron.**
- ii. Lengthsman visits update. Next date is 13 November; outgoing clerk has requested an additional day just for the playtrail – awaiting date.

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

- iii. SpeedWatch: progress on training for volunteers. DC had no progress to report.
- iv. Footpath 49: Following receipt of the detailed specification from Hampshire Countryside Services, DC is still trying to obtain three quotes; one has been received for almost £12000.
- v. Repainting of bus shelter. Enormous thanks were extended to Mike Jerrard, who sourced the paint and has cleaned and painted the shelter. Mike has also agreed to work his magic on the war memorial.
- vi. Updating and maintenance of website. The clerk advised she has had a training session with Phil Tandy, and anticipates an initial 3 hour session to bring the website up to date. It was agreed to pay for these hours in addition to her current 5 hours a week.

6. Report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

17/09/13

Ros Jones presented her report, as follows:

The recent muggy weather has caused considerable growth of vegetation along our footpaths, but also an excellent crop of blackberries.

The nettles along bridleway 28 are flourishing, and, today I wrote to Mr Shepherd to ask if they could be pruned a bit.

Two days after the last full meeting of the Parish Council, the Chairman and I met with Natalie Hands from Hampshire Countryside Service to look at FP49. She measures and photographed the sections to be repaired or replaced, and saw several walkers using the path in spite of the steady rain.

In August the Countryside Service sent to the Chairman its recommendations and specifications, which include the replacement of boardwalks and the laying of hoggins where necessary; also the replacement of a bridge which HCC will undertake.

I know the Chairman has asked two companies to quote for the work excluding the bridge.

I have seen that encroaching branches and other vegetation have since been cut back by the Lengthsman. I should like to thank the Chairman for all his work on improving FP49, and for keeping me informed.

7. Report from the Parish Watercourses Officer – officer not present

8. Report from the Parish Transport Representative

17/09/14

BV mentioned potholes which have been outstanding for some time; Cllr Heron advised to report again if they are dangerous. The missing road sign at Pound Lane is awaiting replacement with a cast iron finger post; Cllr Heron advised patience is required as these take a long time. BV to send the clerk details of signs which need cleaning for the Lengthsman's task sheet. BV to chase Bob Brown for the missing 30mph sign.

9. Finance and Payments

17/09/15

- i. Approval of payments for September and October (as circulated).

701	Time2Display	Aug & Sep Parish Pump	£48.00
702	Supported Computing	Laptop engineering	£36.00
703	1&1Internet	Website fee	£35.96
704	D Crane	Expenses	£30.00
705	E Robbins	Repairs-Playtrail	£23.37
706	M Jerrard	Repairs-Bus shelter	£63.90
707	N Mackenzie	Clerk-Sep salary & expenses	£311.61
708	Post Office Ltd	HMRC-Jun to Sep deductions	£156.60

The clerk read out the payments for approval; payment was approved. All in favour (8).

17/09/16

- ii. Approval of bank reconciliation for August and September. This was not actioned as the bank accounts have not yet been changed to the new clerk's address. **Action: clerk to produce asap.**

17/09/17

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

- iii. Update on pension provision for clerk. The clerk advised she is under the threshold for the council to be obliged to provide a scheme, however the clerk has a right to ask in the future. At present, the clerk is not requesting a scheme; no further action required.

10. Planning applications and any decisions received:

17/09/18

The following applications were noted for information only:-

NFNPA CONS/17/0817 Nutshell Cottage – prune 1x False Acacia tree

NFNPA CONS/17/0806 Woodmans Yard, High Street - Fell 2 x Thuja trees

NFNPA CONS/17/0850 Parsons Meadow, High Street - Prune 1 x Oak tree; Prune 1 x Beech tree; Prune 1 x Acacia tree; Prune 1 x Handkerchief tree; Prune 1 x Magnolia tree; Prune 1 x Group of mixed tree species

NFNPA CONS/17/0800 – fell 1x Robinia tree; fell 1x Elm tree; prune 1x Beech tree

17/09/19

NFDC 17/11095 Daves Shed, South Allenford – Use of barn as wedding venue.

The following was established and discussed:-

- Concerns were raised due to the lack of any information regarding any acoustic assessments/surveys being carried out, as this is a very peaceful rural location.
- Events for up to 50 days per year would be excessive and intrusive.
- The highway system is highly unsuitable for such events in this location.

It was proposed to recommend refusal to NFDC under option 2 with the following comments:-

- **The Parish Council request an acoustic assessment is carried out.**
- **Access to the site on narrow rural tracks is highly unsuitable, and up to 50 events per year is excessive and intrusive.**

Seconded, 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

11. PlayTrail management

17/09/20

- i. Report from Working Group.

- The Working Group was agreed as SM, PD, Paul Toynton, Mandy Robbins, Robin Robbins (when available), Sue Ruth, DC to oversee it.
- A walkaround the Playtrail on 10 September highlighted areas for maintenance and repair.
- Grateful thanks to Eddie Robbins for carrying out speedy maintenance to some of the structures.
- A survey of some of the children regularly using the facilities will be considered by the Working Group.
- The wider opinion of residents will be sought via a questionnaire in the Parish Pump.
- The Himalayan Balsam will be pulled, and the sign has been updated.
- Grass clippings are being left on the playtrail; the clerk has agreed the contractor (NFDC) will provide green bags and will remove and recycle the clippings.
- Residents are to be reminded of their riparian responsibilities for the bank of the river; their ownership is to the middle of the stream regardless of any fence line.

Action: clerk to circulate both meeting notes from 4/9/17 and 10/9/17 to all, organise delivery of green bags, write to residents regarding riparian ownership (leaflets to cllrs).

Action: DC to organise questionnaire.

17/09/21

- ii. Receipt of regular inspections.

SM has kindly agreed to continue her regular inspections of the Playtrail.

12. Neighbourhood Watch: update on success of project.

17/09/22

DC has reached out to the coordinators and received one response to date. Feedback is for the scheme to continue running as it is, meetings are not held with all the coordinators. **Action: clerk to list coordinators in the Parish Pump.**

Chairman

16 October 2017

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Damerham Village Hall on
Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

13. Notice of councillor vacancy for co-option

17/09/23

No willing volunteers have been put forward. **Action: clerk to feature on notice boards, website and in Parish Pump.**

14. Reports from Councillors attending other meetings: none attended

15. Other matters considered urgent by the Chairman or raised with him by councillors in advance

17/09/24

The clerk has requested to attend the HALC Officer's Update course on 18 October; the £40 course cost and claim for fuel can be shared with Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council. All in favour.

17/09/25

A resident showed a photo of where cars are mounting the kerb, crossing one grass verge and a footpath to park on a grass verge outside their properties in West Park Lane. It is highly dangerous to pedestrians. It has been reported. **Action: clerk to follow up with the NFDC Housing Association.**

17/09/26

The clerk had been copied in on a complaint regarding flooding at the Rockbourne end of West Park Lane to Richard Bastow, HCC Highways. **Action: clerk to ensure the Lengthsman clears this ditch.**

16. Correspondence – none

17. Date and time of next meetings:

Tuesday 10th October 2017 – Playtrail Working Group meeting: The Compasses @ 7.30pm

Monday 16th October 2017 (if required for planning applications): Damerham Village Hall @ 7.30pm

Monday 27th November 2017: Damerham Village Hall @ 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.10pm