

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 20th March 2023 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present:

David Crane (Chairman), Phil Tandy (Vice-Chairman), Richard Major, Kirsty Anderson, Cathy Godber, Phil Stephens, Ann Bellows, Peter Doherty, Glyn Ruth

Members of the public present: 4

Others present:

Lindsey Malcom (Clerk)

Public participation:

The Following matters were raised: No matters were raised by the attending members of public.

1. Apologies and declaration of quorum

There were no apologies and quorum was declared.

2. Declaration of interest by any councillor on any Agenda item:

Cllr A Bellows and Cllr K Anderson declared an interest in the planning matters.

3. To approve minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting:

There were no comments and all voted in favour of signing both sets of Minutes as being true records of the meeting.

4. To receive Officer Reports:

Cllr Bellows advised that the stile on footpath 19 (Cornpits Lane-Brown Lane) needs replacing, most likely by a kissing gate. She will investigate the availability of a spare kissing gate that was not used previously.

The condition of footpath 49 was discussed, due to the very muddy patches in two areas. It was decided to wait until later in the spring to discuss using gravel to fill in.

5. To consider planning applications:

5.1 Application 23/10255 Crossways, High Street, Damerham SP6 3EU Full planning permission for single-storey rear extension

The applicants attended the meeting and gave a background and further detail to the proposal. Recent measurements had been taken, and approved by NFDC verbally. All voted in favour, and it was RESOLVED to recommend PAR3 subject to agreement with NFDC that the development is within DM20 as advised by the applicants. Approval was recommended for the following reasons:
The addition is appropriate in design, scale and appearance and in keeping with local character. It is also dark skies compliant.

Action: Parish Clerk to upload comments to planning portal – as soon as possible

Tree-works application CONS/22/0543 The Old Vicarage, Mill End, Damerham, SP6 3HU

The application was discussed and the councillors were broadly in favour of the work.

5.2 To review decisions by NFDC Planning Authority:

Construction of a farm track at Manor Farm, Cornpits Lane – Granted Subject to Conditions:

New Conservatory at Court Vale House, Court Hill – Granted Subject to Conditions:

The decisions were noted.

5.3 Item not on Agenda as late application:

Tree-works application CONS/23/0132 The Rectory, Mill End, Damerham SP6 3HU

There was considerable concern amongst the councillors regarding the number of trees that were going to be felled, a total of 5. There was no report of disease, and it was assumed the trees are healthy.

Action: Parish Clerk to raise concerns with the tree officer – as soon as possible

6. Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items:

There were no matters to discuss

7. Parish Council Matters:

- To discuss any update on Lloyds and make decision on changing bank

Due to the bank problems not having been solved by Lloyds, all voted in favour of changing the bank account to Unity Bank

- To discuss arrangements for the May elections

The majority of councillors had decided to re-apply, with one undecided. Cllr D Crane would be resigning as Chairman and this would be his last meeting as Chair. Notices regarding the elections have been put on the noticeboard and website, and people who express an interest in becoming a councillor are encouraged to apply

- To discuss arrangements for annual parish meeting on 15th May

This is a meeting to declare Chairman and review the past year and it was decided not to add a special subject to the meeting.

- To discuss dog waste bin at the Sports Field

The new dog/general waste bin on the sports field has been paid for by the village fair profits, and installed by Men's Shed. It's managed by the Sports Committee. The new bin will incur a charge of £25 per visit for emptying which is a new charge and has not been budgeted for. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to not enter a contract with NFDC but rely on sports committee members to empty for the time being, at least until the budget has been reviewed. The Sports Committee will review the situation.

8. Finance: Financial Position:

8.1 To review current balances and financial position

Due to ongoing bank access issues, there was no update on the account balances

8.2 Expenditure – To approve cheque and bank transfer payments

Invoices for the Parish Pump and website were approved, together with part payment for clerk training which is shared with Sandleheath Parish Council.

9. Community matters:

- Update on entry on AONB website

A new entry for Damerham has been forwarded to the AONB website for uploading

- Review of the telephone box situation

Cllr P Tandy stated that the electrics have been made safe and the paint ordered. Men's Shed will refurbish the box in the coming weeks and Cllr P Doherty will film them. Once amount of power for new display known, it is likely that solar power will be installed.

- Update on the Community Right to Bid for the Compasses

Application was submitted in January and currently awaiting any letters of objection.

- Update on the digitisation of the Book of Condolence

Cllr P Doherty was thanked for digitalising the messages and making them available for the website.

- Plans for the forthcoming Coronation

At 9.30pm on 6th May the beacon will be lit. On Sunday 7th May the land by the river will be open for anyone who wants to have a picnic. Tea/coffee will be served by the village hall, which will also be open if the weather is wet. There is uncertainty regarding church bells ringing due to the shortage of bell ringers.

Action: Parish Clerk to upload Book of Condolence to website – as soon as possible

10. Environmental matters:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman – Should anyone have a suggestion for the next visit to the village on 5th May, please contact the parish clerk clerk@damerham.net 07493 390965

11. Correspondence:

All correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors prior to meeting.

12. To receive reports from members who have attended meetings of outside bodies.

Cllr A Bellows has attended a first aid course with AONB which highlighted tree injuries. She will also be checking the footpath routes. Swift boxes and recorders will be installed in the sports pavilion and village school on Friday 24th March

13. AOB not on Agenda:

Cllr P Stephens raised the issue of an ancient hedge which has been removed from the boundary of the Baptist Chapel and adjacent pastureland, seemingly without notification to Manor Farm.

Action: Parish Clerk to raise issue with tree officer as soon as possible

Date of next meeting:

Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm at Damerham Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm (if needed for planning applications)

These are draft minutes until approved at the next meeting

Lindsey Malcom – Damerham Parish Council Clerk

clerk@damerham.net