

**DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held  
on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Damerham Village Hall

<b>Councillors present:</b> Phil Tandy (Chairman), David Crane (Vice-Chairman), Cathy Godber, Ann Bellows, Glyn Ruth, Pete Doherty, Kirsty Anderson
<b>Members of the public present: 1</b>
<b>Others present:</b> Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom NFDC Cllr: Janet Richards
<b>Public participation:</b> No matters were raised.

**1. Apologies and declaration of quorum**

Cllr Stephens sent his apologies. Quorum was declared.

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

There were no declarations of interest

**3. To approve minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting:**

There were no comments, all voted in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> August as being true records of the meeting. The Chair signed the Minutes. It was agreed to sign the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> July at the next meeting.

**4. To receive Officer Reports:**

**Footpath Officer** - Footpath 49 has had vegetation strimmed by unknown persons, and branches are hanging low across the path.

**Dark Skies officer:** Cllr Bellows has spoken to the person with the security lights, who has agreed to fix the problem switch. There will be Dark Sky events later in the year, and a date in November will be confirmed. 2-4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 is International Dark Sky Week and events will also be planned.

*Action: Cllr Bellows to liaise with Cllr Stephens regarding use of sports field for dark sky events*

*Action: Cllr Bellows to chase Hampshire County Council regarding items previously reported that need attention*

**5. To consider planning applications:**

**5.1 None received**

**5.2 To review decisions by NFDC Planning Authority:** none received

**5.3 Item not on Agenda as late application:** none

**6. Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items:** None

**7. Parish Council Matters:** None

**8. Finance: Financial Position:**

**8.1 To review current balances and financial position**

Current account: £7965.84

Instant Access account: £9389.28

£400 is a grant for gravel for footpath 49

£1500 is ring-fenced for the refurbishment of the phone box

**8.2 Expenditure**

£137 payment to St George's Church £250

Parish Pump £36

Website and email charges £82.80

From April 2024, the currently free general/dog waste bin collection will increase to £1225 ex VAT. Additional costs next year will also include the refurbishment of the Playtrail. After discussion, all voted in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to not pay further s137 grants this year but to look at it again in next year's budget.

## 9. Community matters:

- 9.1. To discuss purchase and installation of gravel for footpath 49:** There are two patches that need doing soon near the Fisheries.
- 9.2. To discuss current position regarding clearance of grips:** HCC believed there was not a problem so Chairman Tandy had written to HCC Cllr Edward Heron to push for action.
- 9.3. Report from Chairman on initial Speed-watch deployments:** There have been 8 sessions so far and 35% of vehicles are speeding. Highest speed recorded has been 55mph coming out of the High Street into North End. High speeds have also been recorded near the bridge. All data collected has been sent to the police for action.
- 9.4. To discuss missing village sign and condition of posts of other signs:** The village sign on Rockbourne Road has been stolen. It was removed from its' mountings as the posts were quite rotten. It has been noted that posts by the bus stop and end of Little Mill are also rotting.
- 9.5. To discuss ideas for D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> commemoration 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** Lighting of the beacon and showing a relevant film in the hall was discussed. Suggestions are welcome and to be discussed further at the next meeting.

*Action: Cllr Crane to ask the Fisheries if DPC may use their gravel and replace it, as it is nearer to the path*

*Action: Cllr Bellows to contact landowner regarding low hanging trees on path*

*Action: Chairman to contact HCC regarding missing and rotten signs*

*Action: Parish Clerk to contact leader of the local Royal British Legion*

## 10. Environmental matters:

- 10.1 Parish Lengthsman:** Cllr Crane gave a report of the recent visits by the Lengthsman. 1<sup>st</sup> September was the usual day but the 15<sup>th</sup> was also reserved to clear Himalayan Balsam from West Park Meadow. The Lengthsman did a satisfactory job and suggested he could prune trees on the river side of the Meadow on his next visit on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. There is also Himalayan Balsam at the end of West Park Lane, and although the responsibility of HCC, could also be done by the Lengthsman.

*Action: Parish Clerk to add jobs to Lengthsman worksheet in November*

*Action: Cllr Bellows to chase the Housing Association re cutting the hedge*

## 11. Correspondence:

All correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors prior to meeting. Cllr Crane has submitted the December 2022 edition of the Parish Pump to a competition to find the best newsletter. All persons who give their time and energy towards the creation and delivery of the Parish Pump were acknowledged and thanked by the Parish Council.

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

The Parish Clerk had attended a multi-parish meeting with the Lengthsman in Fordingbridge. Many jobs that were being given to the Lengthsman should be dealt with by Hampshire County Council and there was concern amongst the parishes that HCC were not taking responsibility. Due to insurance constraints, the Lengthsman is not allowed to work on highways without pavements.

*Action: Chairman to contact HCC regarding changes to Lengthsman from 2024*

## Date of next meeting:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm – to discuss planning applications only

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm

*These are draft minutes until approved at the next meeting*

*Lindsey Malcom – Damerham Parish Council Clerk*

[clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net) 07493 390965