

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

Councillors present: Phil Tandy (Chairman), David Crane (Vice-Chairman), Cathy Godber, Ann Bellows, Phil Stephens
Members of the public present: 4
Others present: Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom NFDC Cllr: Janet Richards
Public participation: The matter of a missing sign by the Channel Hill footpath was raised by an elector. Cllr bellows stated it had been noted and that it was being dealt with.

1. Apologies and declaration of quorum

Cllrs Anderson and Major sent their 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 18th September and 16th October as being true records of the meetings. The Chair signed the Minutes.

4. To receive Officer Reports:

Footpath Officer: Cllr Bellows has arranged for the HCC Footpath Officer to come out 22nd November to look at what is needed in terms of kissing gates and fencing. Footpath 49 is blocked by tree and Cllr Bellows had written to landowners, but no reply yet received. The possibility of requesting the Lengthsman to deal with it was discussed. There is a bad bridleway at the end of Stoney Lane. Ms East has a team of people to do the work but HCC is needed to evaluate what is needed.

Dark Skies officer: Star Gazing evenings in the village are booked for 4th January and 3rd April, the latter being part of Dark Skies Week. Cllr Bellows reported that the bright night light at the school had been turned off.

Action: Parish Clerk to see if Lengthsman can cut up tree on unallocated day – as soon as possible

Action: Cllr Bellows to arrange meeting with HCC re bridleway – as soon as possible

5. To consider planning applications:

5.1 Application 23/11132 THE BRAMBLES, WEST PARK LANE, DAMERHAM SP6 3HB

Single storey pitched roof extension, fenestration alterations

The parish council voted all in favour of recommending PAR3 approval as the extension was needed for a growing family, the extension would be unobtrusive and within planning policy and there had been no objections from the neighbours.

5.2 To review decisions by NFDC Planning Authority:

Application 23/10973 YAFFLEWOOD, COURT HILL, DAMERHAM SP6 3HL

The council noted the decision and that the pump was larger than legislation required.

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

7. Parish Council Matters:

7.1 To discuss possibility of CIL grant application

It was decided that no applications could be made this year as no new projects planned.

7.2 To discuss and vote on supporting the Climate & Ecology Bill

After discussion, all voted in favour of not supporting the Climate & Ecology Bill due to beliefs that it was undeliverable, science should not be politicised and that it could lead to controls being put in place

7.3 To agree dates for parish council meetings in 2024

It was agreed to continue to hold parish council meetings every other month, starting January, on the third Monday of the month. If necessary, planning meetings would be held in the intervening months.

8. Finance: Financial Position:

8.1 To review current balances and financial position

Current account: £7100.04

Instant Access account: £14,694.84

£400 is a grant for gravel for footpath 49

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

8.2 To review and discuss proposed budget for 2024/2025

The clerk was thanked for producing the budget, and all voted in favour of accepting the budget.

A discussion was held regarding delaying replacing the swing, and Cllr Crane reported that he had placed a notice in the next Parish Pump regarding supporting the costs of the swing. Changes to the precept will be discussed in the January meeting.

8.3 To discuss correspondence received re s137:

As allowed by the standing orders, the Chairman moved this item to earlier in the meeting due to Rev. Player being present. Rev Player had sent correspondence regarding the s137 submitted by the church, of which only 50% had been received from the parish council. After some discussion, the parish council thanked Rev. Player for the clarification regarding his request and the need for the church to raise funds. The councillors stated that due to increased expenditure forecasted, all s137 requests had been denied in full this year, although this would be revised if funds allowed. Cllr Stephens declared an interest in the sports hall request, Cllr Godber declared an interest in the church request and Cllr Crane declared an interest in the village hall request. It was therefore declared that a quorum to decide on increased funding was not met, and would be discussed at the next ordinary meeting in January.

9. Community matters:

9.1. To discuss community/grant funding for the Meadow

The council had received a generous offer of donation towards the repair of the play trail but would need to be matched by other donations, as requested in the Parish Pump. Repairs would need to be done by May 2024.

9.2. To discuss sponsorship of waste bins

The council do not want to remove any bins to save costs, therefore a request for sponsorship will be in the next edition of the Parish Pump.

9.3. To discuss possible action on Church Lane bridge

As both sides of the bridge have been hit, the possibility of making it one way or closed to vehicular traffic through a Traffic Regulation Order was discussed. However, DPC will have a limited input to the final decision by HCC.

9.4. To receive an update and discuss next steps regarding the phone box

Cllr Tandy had spoken to Men's Shed who have all the materials and will still carry out the refurbishment. It was noted that Cllr Doherty had also spoken to them recently.

Action: Cllr Tandy to contact HCC regarding making Church Lane one way – no date agreed

10. Environmental matters:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman: Due to the inclement weather, the Lengthsman could not lay the gravel on footpath 49 but will do so on his next visit on 12th January.

It was noted that the pipe had been cleared at the layby on Court Hill by the Highways department. Cllr Bellows advised that she had received complaints regarding a large bonfire held by an elector the previous week, that resulted in an asthma attack. Cllr Bellows will advise electors to keep a log of incidences.

11. Correspondence:

No additional correspondence had been received.

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

Cllr Tandy had had a productive Zoom meeting with Brice Stratford, the new Chairman of the New Forest Association of Local Councils. The new chairman is keen for the NFALC to work more closely with the smaller parishes and to give them more of a voice. Another Zoom meeting will be held for all councillors in December.

Cllr Crane advised that Wessex Internet have had difficulties and will not be able to connect Damerham until April 2024.

Cllr Crane also advised that the new village hall committee was working well but there were still difficulties to overcome.

Action: Cllr Tandy to circulate NFALC documentation to councillors – as soon as possible

Date of next meeting:

Monday 18th December 2023 at 7.30pm – if planning applications received

Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm

These are draft minutes until approved at the next meeting

Lindsey Malcom – Damerham Parish Council Clerk

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