

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 18th March 2024 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

Members of the public present: 1

Others present:

Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom
NFDC Cllr Janet Richards
HCC Cllr Edward Heron

Public participation: The elector present asked if there were plans to commemorate D-Day in June. The Chair advised that will be discussed under item 13 of the agenda.

1. **Apologies and declaration of quorum:** Cllr Doherty 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:** The Clerk apologised for the mistake in Cllr Doherty's name in the Minutes of 19th February. All voted in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of 15th January and 19th February 2023 as being true records of the meetings. The Chair signed both sets of Minutes.
4. **To receive Officer Reports: Footpath Officer:** Cllr Bellows advised that *bridleway 28* off Bouldsbury Lane Will be visited by HCC Countryside Services to see what improvements can be made as both horses and riders were injured on it last year. The Countryside department have replaced some finger posts, including the one on the High Street. A tree has uprooted along *footpath 21*, damaging two styles and blocking access. Landowners would need to replace, but funding may be obtained through the Countryside Access Parish Delivery Plan from April. Work on the *footpaths at Manor Farm* are ongoing. A funding application of £250,000 had been made by HCC for improvements to *bridleway 46*, linking Damerham and Sandleheath, but there is not yet confirmation this has been accepted. A problem had been reported on *footpath 5* at the back of the church, as the post had been continually removed to allow a pushchair through, resulting in a very loose post and wire. It would be at the discretion of the church to put in a replacement or wider gate.
Dark Skies officer: The next Star Gazing evening is on 3rd April and all tickets are believed to have been sold.
5. **To receive report from Hampshire County Councillor:** Cllr Edward stated that the HCC budget consultation was open until the end of March, and comments were welcomed. The concern over the possible closure of Somerley household waste site had been noted. Funding for all councils was a concern. The Highways department were dealing well with the pothole situation, despite the difficulty in lack of equipment and contractor prices increasing. However it would take until later in the year for improvements in routine maintenance to be seen. Cllr Heron encouraged residents to keep reporting potholes. Cllr Tandy asked about the reported problems in Damerham, with regards to drainage issues and village signs. Highways are in discussion with the headteacher of the school regarding the drainage issue. It will not be an easy fix and will be done in conjunction with other reported issues in the area. As repair and replacement of village signs is not a safety critical issue, they will not be prioritised. The parish council thanked Cllr Heron for his time and he left at 8.15pm.
6. **To consider planning applications:**
 - 6.1 **To receive and comment on applications received:** None received
 - 6.2 **To review decisions by NFDC Planning Authority:** The decision to grant permission for Application 24/10168 was noted by the council.

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

8. Parish Council Matters:

8.1 The Clerk appraisal was held in February with the Chair and Vice Chair. The Clerk had advised that the council work could be done in 20 hours a month, instead of 25. All voted in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to grant a pay increase of £1 an hour from 1st March in line with other local clerks, and to award a bonus of £200 to recognise the Clerk's achievement and hard work over the year. The Clerk thanked the council for their kindness.

8.2 The Clerk advised the council that the audit was booked for Tuesday 18th June

8.3 The Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7pm instead of the usual 7.30pm

8.4 The council will consider the Standing Orders, Asset Register and Financial Regulations before voting in the next meeting.

9. Finance: Financial Position:

9.1 Current balances and financial position: Current account: £121.72 / Instant Access: £19801.97

Item	Budgeted 2023-2024	Expenditure to date 13.3.24
Clerk's salary	£3,360.00	£3,191.60
Clerk taxes	£840.00	£925.40
Meeting room hire	£250.00	£164.00
Fees/Subscriptions/ICO		£275.05
Insurance	£600.00	£599.10
Audit Fees/Elections	£400.00	£265.00
Travel, Expenses, Admin	£300.00	£144.34
IT	£300.00	£257.40
Asset Purchases		£0.00
Chairmans Allowance		£0.00
Training	£250.00	£0.00
s137	£1,500.00	£925.00
NFDC groundworks		£1,106.00
NFDC bins	£0.00	£0.00
Village costs	£1,500.00	£186.35
Parish Lengthsman		£0.00
Tree-works		£100.00
Capital Projects		£0.00
Speed-watch		£0.00
Play Trail/Meadow	£1,500.00	£102.60
Parish Pump	£432.00	£420.00
Miscellaneous	£150.00	£61.80
Anticipated expenses before 31.3.24		£2,418.00
TOTALS	£11,382.00	£11,141.64

9.2 Expenditure

1.3.24	L Malcom	Clerk wages February	280.00
1.3.24	L Malcom	Clerk email expenses	7.20
13.3.24	Time2Display	Parish Pump - March	36.00
13.3.24	L Malcom	Clerk email expenses	61.20

10. Community matters:

10.1. Quotes have been received for the repair of the basket swing, with a delivery time of 8-10 weeks for parts. Two-thirds of the cost has been kindly donated by a resident, and approximately £600 can be paid by the Parish Council from reserves. All voted in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Jack Parker of £84 to fit the new parts when they arrive.

10.2 An email had been received from a concerned resident about traffic along Lower Daggons Road. It was noted that, apart from a short period of increased traffic due to deliveries to Manor Farm, no other increase in traffic had been observed. Damage to the edge of the carriageway was discussed and it was believed to be caused by bad weather and large tractors and would be ameliorated if the landowners were able to dig a ditch either side to drain water away from the road.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to respond to resident – as soon as possible

11. Environmental matters:

11.1 All voted in favour and it was therefore RESOLVED to accept and sign the new contract with the Lengthsman for 2024-2026. The Chairman signed the contract.

11.2 On 1st March the Lengthsman worked in the Meadow and dug ditches in Lower Daggons Road, which unfortunately filled with rain water again as pipe it too small. The unallocated day of 12th April has been booked for the Lengthsman to put gravel on footpath 49 and on the footpath between the Common and Mill End, weather permitting. The next scheduled day is 3rd May and residents are encouraged to make any requests for lengthsman's jobs to Cllr Crane or to the Parish Clerk.

12. Correspondence: Forwarded to the council in advance.

13. To receive reports from members who have attended meetings of outside bodies: Cllr Crane advised that the village hall committee were considering different ways of commemorating D-Day, including flags and lighting the beacon. The committee were also considering putting in a maximum of two EV charging points in the car park.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm – Annual Parish Meeting - Damerham Village Hall
Monday 15th April 2024 (if needed for planning applications)**

These are draft minutes until approved at the next meeting

Lindsey Malcom – Damerham Parish Council Clerk clerk@damerham.net 07493 390965