

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Tuesday 19th November 2024 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present: P. Tandy (Chairman), D. Crane (Vice-Chairman), C. Godber, A. Bellows, P. Stephens, R. Major, K. Anderson, P. Doherty
Members of the public present: 1
Others present: Parish Clerk

Public participation: The council were advised that 5 stiles in the village had been repaired. Chairman Tandy thanked those involved, on behalf of the council.

A request for flood warning signs by the layby on Court Hill was made, however Chairman Tandy advised that HCC had been approached regarding this, but had declined the request. Work undertaken at the layby by HCC had not ameliorated the problem. The elector advised the council that his previous comments regarding flood signs had not been included in the relevant Minutes

24.2.1. Apologies and declaration of quorum: Cllr G. Ruth sent his apologies. Quorum was declared.

24.2.2. Declaration of interest by any councillor on any Agenda item: There were no declarations.

24.2.3. To approve minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting: All voted in favour and it was RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of 17th September 2024 as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes and the Minutes of 16th July which were previously approved.

24.2.4. To receive Officer Reports:

Footpaths: Cllr Bellows reported that she was pleased with the new stiles. The Countryside Department have repaired or replaced footpaths signs, although have not indicated which ones.

Dark Skies: Stargazing Night is booked for 26th February. More details will follow, booking can be made through the usual Eventbrite website in due course, and advertised on the village Facebook page.

24.2.5. To consider planning applications:

5.1 No applications had been received.

5.2 23/10559 South Allenford farm: Granted Subject to Conditions

24/10796 Western Downland Primary School: Granted Subject to Conditions

24.2.6. Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items: The Chairman advised the council that he had received 2 complaints about the untidiness of the village, in particular the silt that washes down the hill, past the drain and collects outside the Compasses Inn. The Chairman had spoken to the residents of the Compasses Inn and they kindly agreed to clear it, although it is a Hampshire Highways issue.

24.2.7. Parish Council Matters:

7.1 After discussion, all agreed to update the 2007 Village Plan to a Village Design Code. The council had received 4 applications from residents to join the working party, and all agreed to increase the team from 2 councillors and 2 residents to 3 councillors and 4 residents. Cllr Crane will modify the Terms of Reference before circulating to all councillors for ratifying at the next meeting.

24.2.8. Finance: Financial Position:

8.1 To review current balances and financial position. The current balances and draft budget were circulated to all councillors

Current account: £214.09 Instant Access account: £21254.69

8.2 It was agreed to wait to see Sandleheath's decision before agreeing to pay 50% of SLCC annual membership.

8.3 After discussion, and with some minor adjustments, all voted in favour and it was RESOLVED to accept the 2025/2026 budget with an increase to the precept of 9.1%.

Expenditure:

27.9.24	Time2Display	Invoice 701108 October Parish Pump	36.00
27.9.24	Sandleheath PC	50% refund ink Apr-Aug ex VAT	24.98

27.9.24	L Malcom	Clerk wages September	240.00
27.9.24	HMRC	Clerk taxes Jul - Sep	180.00
27.9.25	Sandleheath PC	50% phone Apr - Sep	22.35
30.9.24	Unity Bank	Bank charges	18.00
30.10.24	L Malcom	Clerk wages October	240.00
30.10.24	L Malcom	Refund for wreath	24.49
30.10.24	L Malcom	Refund website/emails September/October	68.40
30.10.24	HMRC	Clerk taxes October	60.00
30.10.24	Time2Display	Invoice 701443 November Parish Pump	36.00
31.10.24	Unity Bank	Bank charges	5.40

24.2.9. Community matters:

9.1. Cllr Crane advised that the EV charging company had withdrawn from the project, due to Land Registry status. Cllr Crane will be stepping down from the Village Hall Committee as the time felt appropriate. Cllr Doherty volunteered to be parish council representative on the committee. All voted in favour and it was RESOLVED to accept Cllr Doherty in this role.

9.2. The Chairman had received 2 complaints about the excessive speeding in the village, and a Speed Indicator device had been requested. Costs can be in excess of £4000 and would need to have a volunteer group to manage it. No decision or agreement was made.

9.3. Cllr Bellows discussed the possibility of having an outdoor gym, either on the sports field or in the Meadow. Cllr Stephens agreed to speak to the sports committee re placement there, and Cllr Bellows will seek CIL funding from NFDC.

24.2.10. Environmental matters:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman: Washing road signs and the phone box will be regular tasks for the Lengthsman on each visit. His next visit will be in January. Residents are advised they can forward requested tasks to the parish clerk clerk@damerham.net

24.2.11. Correspondence: An email had been received from a resident requesting that the council cleared the ditch by the village hall. Although the PC had done it previously, it is a village hall responsibility. There are insufficient funds for the PC to clear it again. It was agreed to add to lengthsman's tasks in January, if he is able to take away debris.

24.2.12. To receive reports from members who have attended meetings of outside bodies: Cllr Bellows attended the online New Forest Association of Local Councils meeting. The government want to increase culture in the New Forest area and there is a NF advisory group. She noted that proposed cycle and walkways ended at Sandleheath, and it was advised that local water pollution is bad and under discussion with Environment Agency.

Cllr Doherty advised that that an impasse had been reached with the electricity company regarding electrical supply to the phone box. He will speak to the village hall committee regarding a supply via a lead from the hall, which the parish council will pay for,

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21st January 2025

Tuesday 17th December 2024 if needed for planning

These are draft minutes until approved at the next meeting

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

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