

**DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held**  
**on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 in Damerham Village Hall**

**Councillors present:** Chairman P Tandy, Vice Chairman D Crane, G Roth, R Major, A Bellows, P Stephens. P Doherty and K Anderson arrived after the meeting started.

**NFDC Cllr J Richards**

**Members of the public present: 3**

**Others present:** Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom

**Public participation:** A member of the public had noticed the repeater signs in the village were skewed and dirty.

**25.3.1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:** No apologies. Quorum was declared.

**25.3.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY ANY COUNCILLOR ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:** None

**25.3.3 TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY & 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE:**

All voted in favour and it was RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> May as a true reflection of the meeting. The Chairman proposed an amendment to 16<sup>th</sup> June, to delete 'who were largely unsupportive' on item 2.3.3. One councillor abstained but 6 voted in favour and it was RESOLVED to amend the Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> June.

**25.3.4 TO RECEIVE OFFICER REPORTS:** Cllr Bellows reported that Footpath 20 on the outskirts of the village was totally impassable. She had contacted Radnor Estates manager who would investigate and arrange clearance.

Cllr Bellows has also been in contact with the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society who have offered to clear any paths.

With regards to Dark Skies, Cllr bellows advised that Jubilee Camping had contacted Steve Tonkin to try for Dark Skies accreditation. Cllr Bellows has also put a campsite in Rockbourne with Steve Tonkin.

**25.3.5 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**5.1 To receive and comment on applications received:**

**[25/10539](#) VICARAGE MOOR COTTAGE, THE COMMON, SOUTH END, DAMERHAM SP6 3HR  
Extension of existing driveway and retaining wall (Retrospective)**

The applicant, who was in attendance, gave the council the history of the application. After discussion, Cllr Bellows proposed PAR1, Cllr Ruth seconded and five voted in favour, with two abstentions. Thereby it was RESOLVED to recommend PAR1 permission as the drainage concerns had been met, no objections had been received and it would alleviate parking on the footpath.

**5.2 To review decisions received from the NFDC Planning Authority:**

**25/10281 HILL FARM, MILL END, DAMERHAM SP6 3HU – Granted Subject to Conditions**

The parish council noted the decision.

**5.3 Other planning matters:** The Chairman advised the council that, although the industrial area at Courtwood Farm had been ordered to remove the fuel tanks by the Inspectorate, they had refused to comply. On inspection, the NFDC legal department found that because the enforcement documents had not been drawn up sufficiently, the tanks had a legal right to stay. The council expressed their dismay at this ruling.

**25.3.6 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT APPEARING AS AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### 25.3.7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS:

**7.1 To consider applications, if any, for parish councillor vacancy:** The Chairman had been in conversation with one interested party, who had previously been a councillor. It was agreed to invite her to September's meeting.

**7.2 To consider parish council response to LGR consultation:** Cllr Crane gave a report on the online meeting held by HCC. The preferred option of HCC is to have fewer unitary councils driven by finance, rather than shared interests. This will mean the New Forest joining with Eastleigh and Southampton. NFDC have declared that the better option is to join with Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire who have shared rural interests. The public are encouraged to respond to the consultation via the NFDC website by midnight Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Crane proposed that the parish council object to joining with Eastleigh and Southampton, citing concerns with Eastleigh's debt and likely urban prioritization, and join with Test Valley and other rural areas with shared interests. Cllr Stephens seconded and all voted in favour. The Clerk agreed to submit comments on the consultation.

**7.3 To consider parish council response, if any, to Sandleheath Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Crane praised the Neighbourhood Plan and design code. The council congratulated Sandleheath Parish Council on this body of work and agreed that no formal comment was necessary.

### 25.3.8 FINANCE: FINANCIAL POSITION:

**8.1 To review current balances and end of Q1 accounts:** It was not possible to log onto the bank in real time, but the council voted in favour of accepting the bank reconciliation and end of Q1 accounts.

Payments made since last meeting:

26.6.25	Time2Display	Parish Pump	£36.00
26.6.25	Mark Simpson	grass cutting invoices 29 & 26	£320.00
30.6.25	L Malcom	Clerk wages June	£240.00
30.6.25	Unity Bank	bank charges	£6.00
1.7.25	L Malcom	Refund website/email charges	£78.00

**8.2 To consider any other s137 grant applications:** The village hall had applied for £500. Cllr Tandy proposed, Cllr Stephens seconded and it was RESOLVED to pay the village hall £400, the same as other applicants. Cllr Doherty abstained from the vote.

**8.2 To consider costs for installation of Speed Indicator Device:** The Clerk advised the set-up costs and it was agreed that it is too high for the parish council to fund. A voluntary group would need to arrange and apply for funding. It was agreed not to discuss further unless someone comes forward.

### 25.3.9 COMMUNITY MATTERS:

**9.1 To review RoSPA report on the Meadow and to agree any repairs:** There is timber decay in a few places and ground mats need to be replaced. It was agreed that the Chairman would send report to Jack Parker to see what can be done and at what cost and discuss further at September's meeting.

### 25.3.10 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

**10.1 Parish Lengthsman – Suggestions for task sheet for next visit to the village on 29<sup>th</sup> September:** Hopscotch to be cleared/ tree down across river and overhanging branches/ riverbank needs trimming. Cllrs Crane and Major agreed to cut the hedges around the war memorial.

**25.3.11 CORRESPONDENCE:** Has been forwarded to councillors in advance. NO COMMENTS

### 25.3.12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES:

Cllr Bellows made councillors aware that one of HCC cutbacks is school transport. HCC have stopped bus pass for transport to Rockbourne school. Councillors advised those affected to

contact the school headteacher.

Cllr Doherty updated the council regarding the phone box. Three artists have been chosen and three art projects will be installed for autumn, winter and spring. All costs are borne by the arts funding and no costs to the village. The council thanked Cllr Doherty for his work in this project.

**25.3.13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm – Damerham Village Hall**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (if needed for planning applications)**

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

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

*Lindsey Malcom – Damerham Parish Council Clerk [clerk@damerham.net](mailto:clerk@damerham.net)*