

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 19th January 2026 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present: Chairman P Tandy, Vice Chairman D Crane, A Bellows, P Stephens, R Major, P Doherty
Members of the public present: None
Others present: Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom NFDC Cllr J Richards

Public participation: None

25.6.1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Cllrs Ruth and Anderson sent their apologies. Cllr Pardoe was absent. Quorem was declared.

25.6.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY ANY COUNCILLOR ON ANY AGENDA ITEM: None

25.6.3 TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER AND 15TH DECEMBER 2025: The Chairman raised an issue with the November Minutes. Quotes were approved for the play trail but not the full quote. £525 originally approved but should be another £90 for RoSPA items that needed doing, plus £140 to put play boat with original posts. Cllr Crane proposed, Cllr Bellows seconded and all voted in favour of approving the extra £230. The Chairman signed both Minutes

25.6.4 TO RECEIVE OFFICER REPORTS: Dark Skies: Cllr Bellows reported that due to a very successful star gazing session previously, the Dark Skies representative wants to hold another 2 sessions this season at the Jubilee Camping site.

Footpaths - Cllr Bellows has continuously worked on the project of *bridleway 49* for the last few years, having started it when she was a District Councillor and this hard work is now coming to fruition. Cllr Bellows is grateful for the superb support from HCC Countryside Department and local landowners Rob Cobb and David Bryant. This project met the criteria for encouraging cycling/walking between villages and does enable safe cycling/walking from Damerham to Fordingbridge. Due to meeting this criteria, the Countryside Department were able to successfully bid for CIL funding to finish this project. The resurfacing and drainage on 'Muddy Lane', from the Sandleheath end, has now been completed. The remaining actions relate to the fencing and gate requested by Mr and Mrs Gould; the sleeper posts have been reinstated, and Cllr Bellows is awaiting their response following further consultation. She will also seek to replant some of the lost hedge in early February. The central section has also been resurfaced, and substantial drainage improvements have been installed. Although not all of this is visible, it will significantly improve the long-term condition of the bridleway and support any agricultural machinery that uses it.

Cllr Bellows also advised, regarding *bridleway 49*, that the Countryside Department are still awaiting approval of the Ordinary Watercourse Consent for the installation of the culverts and stone topping, which will remove the need for the unsuitable single-plank bridges. Subject to weather, they hope the contractors will complete this by the end of March. Additional funding has been secured to address the persistent water pooling at the Damerham end. Following a site meeting with the contractor yesterday, temporary drainage works will begin next week, with a permanent solution to be installed alongside the culvert works. This should provide a fully usable, year-round bridleway by the end of April

NFDC Cllr Richards advised that a consultation for the new NFDC local plan will run from 5th Feb - 20th March. An event (date to be advised) will be held in Fordingbridge to present more information. Residents are encouraged to get involved. The Local Plan will go ahead, even if there are changes in local government structure.

25.6.5 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

5.1 To receive and comment on applications received: None

5.2 To review decisions received from the NFDC Planning Authority:

25/10998 Yafflewood, Court Hill SP6 3HL - Oak conservatory at rear

Decision: Granted Subject to Conditions - councillors noted the decision

5.3 Other planning matters: none

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

25.6.7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS: None

25.6.8 FINANCE:

8.1 To review current balances and financial situation: The clerk distributed the current accounts and Q1-Q3 review to all councillors'. *Current account: £339.61 Deposit account: £20,360.44.*

Payments made since last ordinary meeting:

21.11.25	ICO	GDPR subscription	47.00
28.11.25	L Malcom	Clerk wages November	240.00
30.11.25	Unity Bank	bank charges	6.00
1.12.25	HMRC	Clerk taxes November	60.00
1.12.25	Mark Simpson	Grass cutting inv 48	160.00
19.12.25	Time2Display	Inv 704980	96.00
31.12.25	L Malcom	Clerk wages December	240.00
31.12.25	HMRC	Clerk taxes	60.00
31.12.25	L Malcom	Refund website/email charges Oct-Dec	86.40
31.12.25	Unity Bank	Bank charges	6.00

8.2 To finalise budget for 2026-2027 and to set precept: Cllr Major proposed, Cllr Doherty seconded and all voted in favour of ringfencing £5000 of the reserves for future playtrail repairs and replacement due to expected deterioration. It was also resolved to return to original budget with precept increase of 5%, bringing it to £12,613. All voted in favour of the Clerk's suggestion to be paid less on non-meeting months and to log her hours as needed.

8.3 To approve payments: None

25.6.9 COMMUNITY MATTERS:

9.1 To receive a report regarding the local branch of the Royal British Legion: The Chairman welcomed Mr Richardson, Chairman of the local branch of the RBL, and brought this item forward after approving previous Minutes. Mr Richardson wished to inform the councillors of the scope and breadth of the RBL and its importance to the Armed Forces community. The local Damerham and Western Downland branch contains some 133 members from the local villages, including Damerham and everyone, whether ex-service or not, is very welcome to join. To find out more, visit www.britishlegion.org.uk.

9.2 To discuss the latest on Local Government Reorganisation: The Chair and Vice Chair had attended an online NFDC meeting earlier in the month and advised nothing had changed. The parish council are in line with NFDC proposal. Cllr Crane advised that councillors of new councils will have a larger geographical area to cover.

9.3 To agree bus roof quotes for grant submission: The roofing quote obtained so far was considered high. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain two other quotes and the Chairman would contact NFDC to see if planning permission was needed to change the type of roof.

9.4 To discuss phone box: Cllr Bellows suggested 'Wind phones' for bereaved people once the current art installation had finished and is stored for reuse. The last installation will be images of various people in the village. Cllr Crane advised it had been a good use of Woodgreen phonebox with a village history display. Cllr Doherty and Cllr Bellows agreed to talk further regarding this.

25.6.10 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman – There will be only five visits this year, the first one being Monday 26th January. The second will be 1st May. The possible need to employ other people to do jobs in meantime was discussed.

25.6.11 CORRESPONDENCE: Had been forwarded to councillors in advance.

25.6.12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES: Cllr Crane will be in an online meeting 11th February regarding the NFDC approach to design codes.

**25.6.13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30pm – Damerham Village Hall
Monday 16th February 2026 (if needed for planning applications)**