

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 16th March 2026 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present: Chairman P Tandy, Vice Chairman D Crane, Cllrs G Ruth, P Stephens, R Major, A Pardoe, P Doherty

Members of the public present: None
--

Others present: Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom

Public participation: None

25.10.1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Cllrs Bellows and Anderson, and NFDC Cllr Richards sent their apologies. Quorem was declared.

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

25.10.3 TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th JANUARY AND 16th FEBRUARY 2026: Councillors agreed that they were a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman signed both sets. The Clerk apologised for incorrect numbering on March's agenda.

25.10.4 TO RECEIVE OFFICER REPORTS: Cllr Bellows had sent her reports prior to the meeting: Footpath 21 at the moment has a permissive path. Cllr Bellows, and the HCC Countryside Department have worked with the landowner to rectify this. Last Autumn 3 kissing gates were delivered to the landowner, but unfortunately he has been unable to install them due to injury, However, he should be able to complete this task soon, once the lambing is over. Also on footpath 21 where the big tree came down last year destroying two styles, Cllr Bellows had spoken to both landowners and HCC Countryside department, regarding putting a kissing gate there. The Countryside Dept have one and will shortly deliver it to Manor Farm.

Bridleway 46 is on track to be finished by the end of April at the Damerham end and is showing great improvement.

Next bridleway to be improved is 28 behind the pig farm. It is so much more accessible now since a new system regarding the slurry was installed after extensive pressure from the HCC Countryside Department. The HCC Path Warden is keeping an eye on it. HCC Countryside Department will bid again for CIL funding to bring this even more up to standard which will open up a route to Martin Down for horse riders, walkers, and cyclists.

Lopshill has been an area of contention for some years but this year HCC Countryside department are hoping to make significant headway. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bellows for her hard work on the footpaths.

Cllr Bellows had also advised that she'd been in touch with Environment Agency regarding a grant for the river/water meadows and they have advised contacting Wessex Water which she will do. She has also emailed Linda Nunn from Cranborne National Landscapes but to date has not had a reply .

25.10.5 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:

25/11081 SPRINGFIELD, MILL END, DAMERHAM SP6 3HU - Granted Subject to Conditions.

The councillors noted the decision.

5.3 Other planning matters: None

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

25.10.7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

7.1 To review audit report for 2024-2025: The report was reviewed and it was agreed that advisories had been actioned.

25.10.8 FINANCE:

8.1 To review current balances and year-end financial situation: The Clerk circulated the current bank account statements and reconciliation to all councillors. The councillors were happy with the end of year figures.

8.2 To approve payments:

Jack Parker play trail repairs £660: Cllr Major proposed, Cllr Pardoe seconded, all voted in favour of approving
NFDC bin collection 2026/2027 £1305.88 ex VAT: Cllr Stephens proposed, Cllr Doherty seconded, all voted in favour of approving.

Payments made since last ordinary parish council meeting:

27.1.26	WGC tree services	inv 2234	780.00
30.1.26	L Malcom	Clerk wages January	240.00
30.1.26	HMRC	Clerk taxes January	60.00
31.1.26	Unity Bank	bank charges	6.00
13.2.26	Time2Display	inv 705304	96.00
27.2.26	L Malcom	Clerk wages February	240.00
27.2.26	HMRC	Clerk taxes February	60.00
28.2.26	Unity Bank	bank charges	6.00

25.10.9 COMMUNITY MATTERS:

9.1 To discuss unauthorised removal of signs on Church Lane and other road issues: The Chairman advised he has been replacing the signs as they are constantly being removed by drivers using the road, which is an offence. Notice has been given to school by the Chairman and Cllr Anderson to inform parents not to use the road and remove signs, as the road is dangerous. Cllr Crane has also put a notice in the Parish Pump. Both Cllr Tandy and Cllr Crane will try to arrange for a large log to be placed on the road to deter drivers.

Other roadworks: Concerns were raised at the amount of closed roads in the area, that aren't closed but signs left up. Cllr Crane complained about contractors arriving on Wednesday and doing only 2 days work on Court Hill, and most of the work that needs to be done has not been done. However, what has been done has been done well. He requested the parish council complain directly to the Highways department. Cllr Tandy agreed to contact them to complain and stated his belief that some parishes get more attention than others, with Damerham being largely ignored.

9.2 To discuss replacement roof on bus stop: The Clerk advised the council that a grant of £9751 had been awarded by HCC to remove and dispose of asbestos sheets, replace roof and redecorate the shelter. Cllr Major proposed that the cheaper quote be accepted plus guttering, and extra finance be returned to HCC. The Clerk stated that the grant was awarded based on the higher quote submitted. However, Cllr Crane seconded and all voted in favour of Cllr Major's proposal.

25.10.10 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman: to agree on and sign contract for 2026/2027: All voted in favour of accepting the new contract for 2026-2028 and Cllr Tandy signed the contract.

Cllr Tandy advised that last year's grass cutting company are keen to continue services and they cost less than NFDC used previously. He agreed to ask if they would also do strimming etc

25.10.11 CORRESPONDENCE: The councillors were appreciative of the efforts of HCC Councillor Nick Adams-King, who had sent out a report. An answer from the government regarding the local government organisation is expected this month.

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

Cllr Crane had met with the editor of the Parish Pump regarding a request from the Pump printers to include a separate advertising leaflet. Cllr Doherty proposed one free month's printing as payment and all voted in favour. Local companies are welcome to also advertise.

Cllr Doherty advised that plans for the village hall Duck Race were going well and that money raised will go towards the refurbishment of the hall. He asked the council if the flow of the river could be temporarily slowed for the race. The councillors were in agreement. Cllr Crane advised that Cllr Bellows was keen to contact experts to help manage the river. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

**25.10.13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.00pm – Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 20th April 2026 (if needed for planning applications)**