

**DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held**  
**on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 in Damerham Village Hall**

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| <b>Councillors present:</b> Chairman P Tandy, Vice Chairman D Crane, Cllrs R Major, A Bellows, G Ruth and P Stephens |
| <b>Members of the public present:</b> 3                                                                              |
| <b>Others present:</b> Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom<br>NFDC Cllr J Richards                                          |

**Public participation:** A member of the public wanted to discuss the phonebox with a suggestion of a future use. The Chairman apologised for not forwarding his email to the council and advised it will be discussed at September's meeting.

**26.4.1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:** Councillors P Doherty, K Anderson and A Pardoe sent their apologies. The Chairman declared quorum.

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

**26.4.3 TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** All agreed and it was RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> May & 15<sup>th</sup> June as true records of the meeting.

**26.4.4 TO RECEIVE OFFICER REPORTS:** Cllr Bellows advised that there was nothing further to report on Dark Skies. With regards to footpaths, landowners had been doing lots of work. Cllr Bellows stated she was pleased with the work of the lengthsman at his last visit..

**26.4.5 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:** None

**5.3 Other planning matters:** Cllr Crane advised the councillors that central government have stated that from 31.10.26, individual householders' planning applications will no longer be considered by district council planning committees but by planning officers. Therefore Parish councils will no longer be able to present their case where there is disagreement by planning officers to the district council planning committee members. NFDC Cllr Richards commented that parish councils will still be asked for their opinion. The councillors were dismayed by this development.

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

**26.4.7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS:**

**7.1 To receive the resignation of the parish clerk and introduction to new parish clerk:** The parish council thanked the current clerk for all her hard work over the last 3 and a half years. The Clerk advised her last working day would be 14<sup>th</sup> August and thanked the councillors for their kind gift. The Chairman welcomed Mark Baulch, the new clerk who is also the Clerk of Rockbourne and Sandleheath.

**7.2 To consider the Parish Council stance on the Ashley Copse woodland clearance:** Cllr Crane gave some information regarding the clearing of trees. Councillors agreed that the council could not have a stance at this stage as the full details were not known yet.

**7.3 To consider any response to the RoSPA report on the Meadow:** The Chairman noted that nothing significant was in the report but that the recommended items should be repaired within the next six months. Major repairs were needed to seating on Meadow due to recent vandalism. Cllr Stephens suggested putting this on social media but there was doubt if this would be effective. Cllr Crane has asked the local contractor to have a look at the seating to see what needs to be done.

**26.4.8 FINANCE:**

**8.1 To review current balances, Q1 review, and the financial situation:** The Clerk had circulated the accounts to all councillors ahead of the meeting Cllr Major proposed accepting the Q1 accounts. Cllr Crane seconded and all voted in favour.

**8.2 To approve payments:** Cllr Stephens proposed, Cllr Ruth seconded all voted in favour of approving refund of IT expenses to the Clerk.

#### **26.4.9 COMMUNITY MATTERS:**

**9.1 To discuss the outcome of local parishes LGR discussion:** The Chairman advised the council of the outcome of the recent meeting of the parishes. They have agreed to meet again in early October when there may be more information. It was generally a positive meeting and all attendees felt the councils should work together. NFDC Cllr Richards was supportive.

**9.2 To discuss outdoor gym funding:** Cllr Bellows advised she had submitted an application to NFDC for CIL funding and the outcome will be known in December.

**9.3 To discuss phone box display:** This will be discussed in September's meeting as agreed earlier in the meeting.

**9.4 To discuss and decide on a new Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** The current co-ordinator has to step down due to other commitments. Cllr Stephens suggested that the new coordinator advise what needs to be done to enlarge the neighbourhood watch in terms of communications. As the NW scheme was not well known in the village, if no one responds to a call on social media or Parish Pump, the NW scheme will finish. Cllr Crane agreed to write a short piece for the next Parish Pump.

**9.5 To discuss setting up a Village Volunteer Working Group to do work on verges and communal areas:** Cllr Crane advised that the council cannot rely on the lengthsman to do all the work, especially as he only comes 6 times a year. Therefore, a working group of volunteers in the village is needed to clear paths etc. Cllr Bellows will contact the Environment Agency regarding the river. The new clerk will forward to the councillors the results of Rockbourne's work with the environment group. Cllr Crane agreed to put an item in the Parish Pump.

**9.6 To recognise the maintenance work by Mike Jerrard around the War Memorial and centre of the Village:** The Chairman wanted to extend the thanks of the parish council to Mike Jerrard for his continuous hard work around the village. All agreed that the centre of the village looked very good and it is much appreciated.

#### **26.4.10 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:**

**10.1 Parish Lengthsman – Suggestions for task sheet for next visit to the village on 4<sup>th</sup> September:** In addition to the standard work of washing the phonebox and clearing road signs, it was requested to cut the rotten bits off the log on the Meadow. If the lengthsman decides that the log cannot be saved, the councillors agreed to allow him to cut it all up. A harsh cutback alongside the river will also be needed and any other trees that need pruning. Any other suggestions to be forwarded the the Clerk.

**26.4.11 CORRESPONDENCE:** Little correspondence has been received.

**26.4.12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES:** Cllr Stephens advised that the recent Sports Field committee meeting thanked the parish council for the s137 grant which will be used to repair the decking.

**26.4.13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026 at 7.30pm – Village Hall**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026 (if needed for planning applications)**

Meeting closed at 20:50

Clerk: Lindsey Malcom

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