

DAMERHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 21st September 2026 in Damerham Village Hall

Councillors present: Chairman P Tandy, Vice Chairman D Crane, Cllrs A Bellows and G Ruth
Members of the public present: 2
Others present: Parish Clerk: Lindsey Malcom, NFDC Cllr J Richards, HCC Cllr Millar

Public participation: A member of the public congratulated HCC for the resurfacing at the top of Court Hill, pointing out that further down could have been done at the same time. Also wanted to discuss the phone box with a suggestion of a future use, see Item 26.6.9.1.

26.6.1 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM: Councillors K Anderson, P Doherty, R Major, A Pardoe and P Stephens sent their apologies. The Chairman declared quorum.

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

26.6.3 TO APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: **PROPOSED** by Cllr Bellows and **SECONDED** by Cllr Ruth, ALL agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of 20th July & 17th August as true records of the Meetings.

26.6.4 TO RECEIVE OFFICER REPORTS: Cllr Bellows (AB) advised that there was nothing further to report on footpaths. The Dark Skies Starfest with Martin will now be in 2028, so we will join them in that. Also waiting for dates to have a night this Winter. Cllr Crane (DC) said that looking at footpath 49, the boards there are rotting quite badly now. Across bridge on board walk several places looking rotten. AB added that it was still passable and better than some others. DC added that they had been there around four years with AB saying that they probably will not tackle them yet. DC asked if we could cut out some of the worst areas and replace? Can we get thoughts from the Countryside Service? AB pointed out that some has been submerged and Cllr Ruth noted that the wire on top of it will need lifting. [Update after Meeting - after further inspection it has been concluded that work will not be required at this time]. District Cllr Richards (JR) had sent a report which will be circulated. On Local Government Reorganisation, the decision for Hampshire has been withdrawn. Process paused. NFDC to continue for another two years, until 2029. Elections for District Councillors to be held in 2027. Hopefully more information soon. Secondly, new Local Plan for NFDC also on hold, for technical reasons. This means that we can work with other local authorities on a strategic plan for new housing. No decisions made to date. Perhaps put new houses where employment opportunities exist. Also on planning, NFDC has gone ahead with new changes to decision process. Most will be decided by Officers. Parish Councils will still be statutory consultees. They do take comments seriously. Effective from 31st October. DC asked that as we as a Parish do not have a Local Plan, will that be a disadvantage in the future? The reply was, at the moment, no. Damerham is considered to be open countryside in current Local Plan. So, no real advantage. County Cllr Millar (DM) has also sent a report for circulation and added that further to the reorganisation, Mayoral election may be brought forward, possibly to 2027. Money for Mayor will not come into place until appointed. DM also highlighted his grant of £5,000 per year for good causes. Minimum of £100, maximum of £1,000 per cause. Any new projects, please make me aware. Now on Cranborne Chase National Landscape Board. I am dismayed with the HCC interaction with Parish Councils, as they are only really seen as individual residents. Looking to change status of Parish Councils. Whilst you have direct dealings with Officers in other organisations, this is not the case with HCC. Cllr Tandy (PT) pointed out that he does have direct contact with the person in charge of bridges, but that is the exception. Everything else is through the portal. AB pointed out that our 'helpful soul' was the District Councillor and DM replied, absolutely, do come to me. DC said that the big issue is inevitably roads. There used to be a person responsible for Damerham and we knew who that was. PT agreed, one meeting per year with them and looked at roads locally. DC Highlighted that we did not know about Court Hill. DM said that it was possible to log on to <https://one.network/> in order to receive updates on planned works. [Account now created].

26.6.5 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: None

5.3 Other planning matters: None

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

26.6.7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS:

PT raised the email received about Annual Community Safety Consultation and asked if we should comment? DC felt that we should respond. PT said that we need a list of things going well, as well as concerns we may have. I am not aware of any large amount of crime, just the odd theft from sheds. Cameras everywhere has put a stop to a lot of problems. DC added that there is a certain amount of anti-social behaviour but all agreed that this was just kids. AB asked about whether any conversations with local farmers about crime had been held? PT talks to most farmers and they occasionally have issues. Member of the Public said that mostly poaching is a problem, especially hare coursing. PT went on to say things going well with low level of crime, not due to police presence as they are not. DC added that it comes back to the Neighbourhood Watch situation. Had a discussion about the Western Downlands FaceBook with the Co-Ordinator and she may be willing to help. AB thought that it was about making people aware. DC agreed that it is a lot quicker through FaceBook. AB added that one reason is that we are a dark skies area, so lights coming on alerts people. Plus burglars do not like complete darkness. PT said that there are more cameras in the village now than even two years ago. DC agreed that people are more aware and are taking action to protect themselves. DM asked whether speeding is an issue? PT replied that it has been, not so much now. SpeedWatch does help, but there are only two places where vehicles can really speed. The record remains at 62mph.

26.6.8 FINANCE:

8.1 To review current balances and the financial situation: On the 17th August, we received the money back from Hampshire County Council for the repair and refurbishment of the bus stop. Account balances are £4,437.43 and £14,662.65 as at 31st August 2026. P45 for previous Clerk has been completed.

8.2 To approve payments: Chair and Vice-Chair approved payment of all invoices presented.

26.6.9 COMMUNITY MATTERS:

9.1 To discuss phone box display: A Member of the Public had seen something that we could try. An A-Z of history. For example, A for Adlams, local farmers, B for bomber, R for railway etc., so information on history of village. Every letter either an event or item. AB asked how this would be displayed? The answer was on the inside of the glass, so you can see from outside. PT said that some of ours have been more sophisticated. We can re-use and re-visit previous displays. It has been refurbished, so we need to do something. AB liked the idea. Needs someone arty to put it together. Needs to look attractive. PT suggested talking to Cllr Doherty (PD) as he has some contacts. DC suggested that perhaps we can have four or five letters for two to three months and then change letters. AB agreed that would make a bigger display. DC added that there is lots of stuff in the Domesday Book. PT reiterated that we need to have a discussion with PD and see if we can find an artist to help us. DC said that we need to set a budget. AB thought that we might be able to get villagers involved with suggestions.

26.6.10 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

10.1 Parish Lengthsman – Suggestions for task sheet for next visit to the village on 16th November: Remove the fallen branch over the boat on the play trail. Prune the overhanging tress above the Notice Board and phone box. **ACTION:** Clerk to check on contract for 2027. [Update after Meeting, Lengthsman will be available next year]. Any other suggestions to be forwarded the the Clerk.

AB also raised the steps at the end of footpath 14. They need some wood in them. Could Jack do that?

ACTION: DC to check. **ACTION:** PT to report that the ditches and grips at the side of Court Hill need digging out, as DC had noticed that some had been done in some places. DM said that he could add a note to the ticket once reported. Cllr Ruth reported a fallen branch on walk from Church to Mill End. [Since dealt with].

10.2 Proposed Tree Works - The Cottage, Lower Daggons Lane, South End, Damerham, SP6 3HW - Felling of two trees and works on five others. No comments from Councillors.

26.6.11 CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence has been forwarded. The question of Pub noise is a matter for the resident to raise with NFDC. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond accordingly with link to NFDC relevant information. PT reminded Councillors that we had assured Royal British Legion of presence at Memorial, so assistance would be welcome.

26.6.12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE BODIES: None

26.6.13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 16th November 2026 at 7.30pm – Village Hall
Monday 19th October 2026 (if needed for planning applications)