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**DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

ANNUAL MEETING – 12TH MAY 2020 [Virtual meeting by SKYPE]

Draft minutes [not yet approved by councillors]

5-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Keith Rolfe, Michael Simons, Simon Manning, Diane Taylor, Heather Ballantine, David Stanley and Jasmine Backhouse. Apologies were accepted from John Butler and Richard Smith [Suffolk County councillor]. Also present Norman Brooks [East Suffolk councillor] and the clerk, Caroline Cardwell.

5-2 – Election of chairman for coming year – Robin Leggate was unanimously chosen.

5-3 – Election of vice-chairman for coming year – Simon Manning was unanimously elected.

5-4 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none

5-5 – Minutes of pervious meeting [10-03-20] were approved as a true record – it was agreed that the clerk should sign as proper officer of the council

5-5a – District Councillor Norman Brooks gave a report [copy to councillors] about new parking regulations as the East Suffolk council is now responsible for enforcement. The present situation with Covid 19 had caused a large financial hit to the council. NB was asked to monitor the forthcoming development of 26 houses in The Street and support the parish council’s concerns over sewage capacity in the village and parking and materials storage during construction. The chair thanked NB for attending.

5-6 – Finances –

* **Balance** at Barclays Bank [30-04-2020] - £9,822.43 [ incl. precept 1st instalment – 2,830]
* **Cheques** were approved as follows:-878 – C. Cardwell – 366.44 [net salary Apr/May];879 – SALC – 144.75 [sub for 20/21]; 880 – Van Dijk Accountants – 108.00 [payroll services]; 881 – ICO – 40.00 [GDPR]; 882 – K. Rolfe – 45.00 [flyer]; 883 – J. backhouse – 12.00; 884 – G. Jackson – 60 [mowing]; 885 – TEAGS Ltd – 50.00 [donation to Stop Sizewell C] - **Total cheques - £826.19; [** *The clerk to post cheques to the chair for signatures***.]**
* **Receipts and Payments** [end of year accounts] for the year April 2019 to March 2020] were received and approved. The clerk was asked questions about the amounts of grants and VAT reclaim on allotment water expenditure and informed councillors that after adding in grants and VAT the actual cost to the council of the new allotment water supply would be just over £4000. Councillors expressed their thanks for the grants, donations etc that had made this important resource possible.

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* They also thanked County Councillor, Richard Smith, for his Enabling Communities Budget contributions.

5-7 – Priory Lane – concerns over condition and use; the clerk had already notified Suffolk Highways and individuals were also encouraged to add comments on their website. It was noted that recent repairs to Fox Lane were already starting to degrade.

5-8 – Planning – Simon Manning reported that there were no new applications at present. Councillors noted that the application at 3 Ivy Cottages had been refused.

5-9 – Reports from councillors – these were submitted prior to the meeting and are on file.

* Robin Leggate – previous year has been busy with many concerns over planning issues. Thanks were given to Derek Reeve on his retirement as webmaster and Tracy Norman was welcomed as she took his place. Concerns over speeding in the village had not resulted in enough volunteers to monitor traffic.
* Jasmine Backhouse – orchard report – 59 trees in total, new labels. Thanks to team of local helpers.
* Simon Manning – further comments on proposed development on The Street and problems of understanding the planning policy meetings.
* David Stanley – allotments report covered discussions with Essex and Suffolk Water re timetable for laying on supply. Rabbits are a continuing problem and the fence needs repair in various places.
* Michael Simons – comments on proposed Sizewll C, felling of Coronation Wood and effect of Scottish Power network plans
* [These reports are filed with minutes]

5-10 – Future meetings – it was agreed that unless there was a major concern or issue that the next meeting should be on 9th July 2020. Hopefulyl it might be possible to resume normal meetings.

The chairman thanked all those who took part in the virtual meeting.