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**DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

MEETING – 14TH JULY 2015

There was no public session

07-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors John Butler, Jasmine Backhouse, Chris Poupard, Keith Rolfe, Sue Bloomfield, Ernie Hare, Simon Manning and Jean Loveridge. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Raymond Catchpole [SCD councillor].

07-2 – **Declarations of interest** – none

07-3 – **Minutes of the previous meeting** [09-06-15] were approved and signed as a true record.

07-4 – **Matters arising** – ongoing problems with The Street and Priory Lane site traffic, the chair to contact site foreman if any further problems; traffic lights in operation.

07-5 – **Finances** – balances [30-06-15] as follows: c/acct - £3,841.42; sav/acct - £4,598.75; cheque no. 681 to SPLG for £30.00 [sub] approved.

07-6 – **Planning** – DC/15/2512/FUL: 1, Chapel Cottages, The Street – councillors had no objection to the proposed extension , but asked the clerk, in response, to comment on the closeness to the plot boundary and the need for a permeable parking area. CIL [Community Infrastructure Levy] was briefly commented on and clerk asked to check if it is only for new complete builds or does it include extensions?

07-7 – **Allotments** – the pump is still only working fitfully, in spite of repeated visits from the contractor and councillors felt that it might help to get a professional opinion if there were any further problems. There was a suggestion for a sub-committee for the allotments, but it was decided that the present management structures worked well. The maintenance of the orchard trees was considered and councillors agreed that the PC, not donors, should maintain the trees. Cllr. John Butler was thanked for cutting thistles, which are a problem. Concerns were raised over the security of the field and the clerk was asked to determine the status of the field – private or public. Rents are to remain the same - £20 for a year for a whole plot and 10 for a half plot, due in October each year. Clerk asked to write to all holders and ask for cheques not cash and send a copy of the rules, with a sae.

07-8 – **Correspondence** – received and discussed

07-9 – **Reports from councillors** –

* Cllr.Jean Loveridge reported that footpaths are all in a satisfactory state;
* Cllr. Jasmine Backhouse reported on TPOs and the need to have another complete survey of all trees in the parish – further discussion in Sept. She also commented on the amount of rubbish in the A12 laybys.
* Cllr. Keith Rolfe gave an update on the village hall, and the advice of the Fire Officer as to record keeping. There is some reluctance on the part of developers to work with the present proposals as to affordable homes on the site as they feel it is presently not economically viable. A reduction in

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the number of affordable homes has been suggested and the PC supports the idea of reducing the number of affordable homes in the planning permission process. Cllr. R. Leggate to contact Cllrs. Raymond Catchpole and Michael Gower.

* Cllr. R. Leggate gave a report on the recent SALC area meeting; it was noted that the conservation officer encourages a review of non-heritage assets in villages, but councillors felt this was not necessary for Darsham yet. 15% of CIL comes to villages. Cllr. Leggate also reported on the village tour with the District and County councillors which had been a useful exercise. Cllr. Catchpole suggested that a rail on the steps in Fairfields could be provided with some locality money.

07-10 – **Future of the Village** – the discussion began with a review of the Village Plan [2011] by Cllr. Leggate, and a list of possible issues for further consideration.

*The meeting was closed at 8.40pm with the arrival of Michael Gower [Suffolk County councillor] to give a brief report and update on SCC affairs; the Waste Project at Gt. Blakenham was working well and generating useful power; the Fire and Rescue Service money saving proposals were out to consultation; Sizewell C project still awaiting government decisions on Hinckley Point. Cllr. Gower was asked about travellers and agreed it was a very difficult problem and the question of the ratio of affordable homes in developments was also raised.*

07-11 – Any other business – Further discussion of Village Plan update to be considered in Sept – items considered were a new seat for the village sign; a footpath from Bramfield Rd to Darsham Hamper; Cllr. Gower suggested that landscaping of the EDF park and ride at the Station could be asked for. Cllr. Butler asked if the layby by the station could be cut back. Coronation Square needs improving; Cllr C. Poupard thanked for his tidying up there.

The meeting ended at 9pm.