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DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 10TH MARCH 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

The vice-chairman, Derek Reeve, welcomed councillors Ernie Hare, Anne Tooze, Cora Smith, John Butler, Keith Alexander, Roger Coates-Smith and Jean Loveridge. Apologies were received from Robin Leggate [abroad]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. There were three members of the public present, also Michael Gower [SC councillor] and Barry Slater [SCD councillor].

*Have Your Say [Public Forum] – none*

03-01 – Declarations of interest – Anne Tooze declared an interest item 06.

03-02 – Minutes of previous meeting [10-02-15] were amended [item 01-10: allotments] and agreed and signed.

03-03 – Matters arising – the hedge at Fox Corner has been cut back.

03-04 – Standing Orders – these had been reviewed and brought up to date; councillors had received their own copies beforehand and these STOs were adopted and signed.

03-05 – Finances

* Balances at 27-02-15 – c/acct: £2,798.66; sav/acct: £4,597.60
* Cheques were approved as follows – no. 668 to C. Cardwell for 288.00 [net sal. Feb/Mar]; no. 669 to HMRC for £72.00 [tax to 5 Apr 15]; no. 670 to Disability Advice service for £30.00 [S. 137]; no. 671 to Headway for £30.00 [S. 137]; no. 672 to St. Elizabeth Hospice for £30.00 [S. 137]; no.673 to Halesworth Volunteer Centre for £30.00 [S. 137]; no. 674 to Leiston citizens Advice Bureau for £30.00 [S. 137].
* Financial Regulations were amended and adopted – all councillors agreed.

03-06 – Planning – Mill Farm alterations to original application: [*Anne Tooze left the room]* councillors had no objection. Parking outside the Old Chapel, Fox Lane and the new field access off The Street are all being dealt with by SDC planning office. Comments were raised re Forge Cottage access.

03-07 – Allotments – Cora Smith gave the clerk £13.75 cash from rents. Water supply – a replacement pump was offered by the supplier at a cost of £152 +VAT + £15 +VAT delivery – the clerk emphasised that a written quote for this is needed and will contact Pumps and Filtration Ltd, Ipswich.

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03-08 – Suffolk Police – forthcoming cuts briefly discussed; the vice-chair will give an update after the SALC area meeting 16th March.

03-09 – Clean Up Your village litter pick – this is arranged for 26th April; clerk to arrange for equipment etc to be delivered to Keith Alexander’s house.

*03-10 – The meeting was closed for reports from SCD Counillor Barry Slater and SC Councillor Michael Gower. The vice-chair welcomed both, and Barry Slater started by commenting on the Sizewell Engagement event at Hinton, and briefly discussed the district council budget. Council tax is pegged at the same level and savings had been made by amalgamating staff costs with Waveney District council. As well a saving had been made on leased vehicles due to shift reorganisation but in spite of this there were challenging times for the future. Michael Gower also painted a similar picture of challenging finances for the County Council; Broadband initiatives were forthcoming in the private sector. The vice-chair thanked both councillors for attending. There were no councillors’ reports.*

03-11 – Correspondence – was received and discussed.

03-12 – Any other business there were complaints over one untidy plot and the clerk was asked to write to the owner. Dog fouling was extensively discussed as it is becoming a real problem in the village; the bin in the allotments needs to be moved; the clerk to ask SCDC. The clerk supplied information on the forthcoming elections [7th May] and handed out nomination papers. Ernie Hare offered to take completed papers to Council offices. Councillors were reminded that the next meeting [14t April] was the Annual village meeting and the parish council meeting would follow this.

The meeting closed at 9pm.