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**DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MEETING – 10TH NOVEMBER 2015**

**MINUTES *[approved by councillors on 12th January 2016]***

***Public Forum*** *– comments were made by members of the public on the revised Physical Limits Boundary [PLB] for the village, and also on inconsistencies in council decisions – the chair said that the council had to respond to new policies as they occur in directives from both national and local government.*

11-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Jasmine Backhouse, Keith Rolfe, Chris Poupard, Simon Manning, Jean Loveridge, Sue Bloomfield and Ernie Hare. John Butler was absent. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Also present - Michael Gower [SC councillor] and Raymond Catchpole [SCD councillor]. There were several members of the public.

11-2 – **Declarations of interest** – both Cllr. Sue Bloomfield and Cllr. Jasmine Backhouse declared an interest in items in Planning [11-7].

11-3 – **Minutes of previous meeting** [13-10-15] were approved and signed as a true record.

11-4 – **Matters arising** –Cllr. Chris Poupard reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency about The Wash flooding, and clearance is scheduled for their winter programme. Millfields houses will be responsible for keeping the filled ditches clear, and Hopkins Homes have a tree/hedge re-planting programme. After enquiries, S. 106 money cannot be used to replace the seat. Cllr. Manning has the spare key to the Coronation Square noticeboard.

11-5 – **Finances** –

* Balances at 30-10-15 were as follows: c/acct £5050.62; sav/acct £4599.32; total £9649.94.
* Cheques were approved as follows – no. 687 to C. Cardwell for £288.00 [net sal. Oct/Nov]; no. 689 to HMRC for £108.00 [tax to 5 Jan]; no. 690 to Heelis & Lodge for £66.00 [audit]; no. 691 to Darsham PCC for £330 [churchyard maintenance] – total - £792.00.

11-6 – **Budget and Precept for year April 2016 to March 2017** – councillors discussed forthcoming expenditure and likely needs for the village. They agreed a provisional figure for expenditure of £5208, with a projected income of £5260. Therefore councillors suggested that the precept requirement should increase to £5000. The chair pointed out that with the new building in the village and expected increase in house numbers, increasing the precept would result in little or no rise in precept expenditure per household. This will be reviewed in Jan 2016 and then submitted to SCDC.

11-7 – **Planning** –

* DC/15/4005 – *[Cllr. Backhouse left the room]* Harley Cottage, councillors discussed the application and had no objection to the proposed plans. *[Cllr. Backhouse returned]*
* Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies – consultation: these were discussed with reference to the Physical Limits Boundary [PLB] for the village. The chairman reported from the Dennington meeting with SCDC planners.

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* For the South side of The Street concerns were raised about the possibility of a developer not agreeing to a village hall as part of the scheme, altho’ this was in the outline planning permission granted by SCDC. However Raymond Catchpole [SCD councillor] pointed out that a special policy for the site could be allocated by SCDC planners when detailed permission was sought and being within the PLB did not preclude this.
* North side of The Street – *[Sue Bloomfield left the room]* - it was felt that the obvious place for future building in this area would be between the new Hopkins Home development and the former council houses and councillors agreed that it was a practical option to include this area in the PLB. *[Sue Bloomfield returned]*
* Councillors approved the Physical Limits Boundary for Darsham ( 5 in favour, 2 against) as delineated in the Development Plan Document but with the specific proviso that a special policy should include the new village hall.

11-8 – **Allotments and orchard** – Cllr. Poupard reported 1 possible new holder; Cllr. Backhouse had no news about the Scattered Orchards project.

11-9 – **Fairfields** – a quote had been received from Vernon Pearl and another was being sought.

11-10 – **2016 meetings** – agreed to be held on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall, except for August and December.

11-11 - **Correspondence** – 2 applications for donations had been received and would be considered in March.

11- 12 – **Reports**

* Cllr. Rolfe – possible need for more archaeological investigation re village hall site. He had received complaints about mud on the road from the building sites on The Street.
* Cllr. Hare – SPLG had asked for comments but it was felt that the council would like to wait for specific issues.
* Cllr. Loveridge – FP 9 from The Street to A12 has dangerous bridge and steps; clerk to contact Suffolk footpaths officer.
* Cllr. Catchpole [SCDC] had nothing further to add.
* Cllr. Gower [SCC] – gave an upbeat report on the improving standards of education in the county; SCC has continuing struggles with the budget and will have to close fire stations. Housing plans are committed to 70,000 new homes by 2031 and he made various comments on the demographic results of this programme.
* The chair thanked Cllrs. Catchpole and Gower for coming after an already very long day.

11-13 – **Any other business** – There will be a coffee morning to raise funds for Royal British Legion. The council would make a donation for the Remembrance Day wreath next meeting.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th January 2016.