

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 14TH MARCH 2017

There was no public forum – 2 members of public were present with no comments.

3-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Jean Loveridge, Ernie Hare, Simon Manning, Jasmine Backhouse, John Butler, Michael Simons and Keith Rolfe. Apologies were received from Chris Poupart and Raymond Catchpole [Suffolk Coastal District councillor]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Also present – Michael Gower [Suffolk County councillor].

3-2 – **Declarations of interest** and any dispensations allowed – none

3-3 – **Minutes of previous meeting** [14-02-17] were approved and signed as a true record.

3-4 – **Matters arising** on the minutes not on agenda – the litter pick is taking place on 19th; the coffee morning raised £192.10 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance – the chairman expressed the thanks of everyone for the splendid efforts of all those who helped and made cakes.

3-5 – **Finances** –

- Balances
 - c/acct: [28-02-17] – 4,879.66
 - sav/acct [30-12-16] – 4,602.17
 - total assets – 9,481.83
- Cheques were approved as follows -
 - 739 – C. Cardwell for 302.34 [net sal feb/mar 17]
 - 740 – HMRC for 113.20 [tax to apr 5 17]746
 - 741 – St. Elisabeth Hospice for 40.00 [S. 137]
 - 742 – Leiston CAB for 40.00 [S. 137]
 - 743 – Halesworth Volunteer Centre for 40.00 [S. 137]
 - 744 – EACH for 40.00 [S. 137]
 - 745 – Darsham PCC for 330 [churchyard maint.]
 - 746 – The Wardens Trust for 40.00
 - 747 – C. Cardwell for 53.55 [expenses oct 16 to mar 17]

- Financial risk assessment was checked and approved; councillors were satisfied that the financial procedures of the council were correct.

3-6 – Orchard and allotments – Cllr. Jasmine Backhouse gave a report on the latest tree planting [attached]; there are now 41 trees. She recorded her thanks to all the “planters” who worked so hard putting in the latest consignment and thanked Darsham Nurseries and Botanica for their support for the project. It was felt that another bench would be a good addition to the orchard. Cllr. Chris Poupard’s report [attached] was read by the chair – it is suggested that only the worst side of the fencing should be replaced. Quotes are to be sought.

3-7 – Planning – councillors noted Suffolk Coastal have granted permission for DC/17/5441 – Priory Farm, Darsham: conversion of agricultural building to residential. They also noted that Suffolk Coastal had formally adopted two local plan documents – Site Allocations etc and Felixstowe Peninsula.

3-8 – Parish assets – the list of assets was confirmed, condition assessed and any repairs noted.

3-9 – Annual Village Meeting – date changed to 16th May. To be organised in a similar way to last year with refreshments etc. The chair to leaflet the new houses.

3-10 – Reports from County, District and Parish councillors – Cllr. Rolfe gave an update on the sale of land and plans for the new hall; Cllr. Loveridge reported a broken post on FP 10 and FP 1 is very overgrown – clerk to report to Suffolk RoW. Cllr. reported that several large trees on the south side of the street between the Village Hall and Fox Lane need cutting back; the owner is believed to be Alan Fairs. Cllr. Butler suggested it would be better to remove them and replant with oaks and a new hedge. [To be discussed in April].

Michael Gower [Suffolk County councillor] commented on the demographics of new houses in the area. There will be elections in May and he has indicated that he will not be standing and said how much he had liked working with Darsham PC – the chairman expressed the appreciation of all councillors for his help and assistance over past years.

3-11 – Any other business - concerns were again raised over the redundant Hopkins Homes Signs on the A12 and the clerk was asked to see if SCC Highways could have them removed.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm