

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 14TH NOVEMBER 2017

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

Public Forum – no questions or comments

11-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Chris Poupard, John Butler, Michael Simons, Keith Rolfe, Jean Loveridge, Ernie Hare, Simon Manning and Jasmine Backhouse. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Raymond Catchpole [SCDC councillor]. Also attending – Richard Smith [Suffolk County councillor].

11-2 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none

11-3 – Minutes of previous meeting [10-10-17] were approved, with an amendment re finances [typographical error], and signed as a true record.

11-4 – Matters arising not on agenda – clerk asked to contact SCDC conservation officer with reference to Brussels Green; FP 1 hedge needs cutting - John Butler to ask landowner; A12 signs continuing to be unwanted; FP 8 still closed with no further information.

11-5 – Finances –

- Community Acct. balance - £11,670.07
- Cheques for approval were approved as follows: 767 to Nice Touch for 80.00 [allotments]; 768 to C. Cardwell for 153.65 [net sal Nov]; 769 to HMRC for 115.40 [tax to Jan 5 2018]; 770 to CAS for 60.00 [website hosting]; Total cheques - £409.05

The meeting closed at 7.45pm to allow Cllr. R. Smith to give a report on Suffolk County Council financial plans for the year 2018/9. These include a small increase in council tax [1.99%]. He highlighted continuing problems with service provision and priority areas are young people at risk, the elderly and those with special needs. Highways have moved their depot from Saxmundham to Halesworth. The chair thanked Richard Smith for attending. The meeting opened at 7.50pm.

- Financial Regulations were updated to include information on contracts and authority to spend – all councillors agreed to the changes.

11-6 – Clerk's contract – councillor agreed to the NALC increase for SCP 15 until April 2018 and then to increase the clerk's salary to SCP 16.

11.7 – Budget Apr. 2018 to Mar. 2019 - councillors discussed future needs of the parish and the clerk noted the estimated figures. These are to be confirmed for SCDC in January.

11-8 – Planning

- DC/17/4359/FUL: 1 Chapel Cottages – application for new vehicular access. Councillors supported this application, as they felt off-road parking was much safer than parking blocking the visibility into Fox Lane.

- Planning policy – this was prepared by Cllr. Manning and adopted by the council. The chair thanked Cllr. Manning for these guidelines which would be of use in future.

11-9 – Councillors' responsibilities – these were confirmed as follows. Robin Leggate – chairman, SALC representative and press officer ; Simon Manning – vice-chairman, planning; Jasmine Backhouse, – tree warden and orchard; John Butler ; Ernie Hare ;, Jean Loveridge – footpaths ; Chris Poupard – allotments and emergency officer ; Keith Rolfe– village hall ; Michael Simons – Sizewell Forum and Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group

11-10 – Allotments and orchard – Jasmine Backhouse had nothing to report from the orchard; Chris Poupard reported that most plot holders had returned their fee and agreement, but he was having difficulties getting fencing estimates.

11-12 – Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors – Cllr. Simons gave a brief comment on SPLG and possible forthcoming EDF responses to the consultation. Cllr. Rolfe showed councillors the plans associated with the new development and said the actual planning application would be forthcoming shortly. There would be funds available under S. 106 regulations. Questions were raised about the need to remove oak trees on The Street; councillors felt that they needed replacing as they are old and not very healthy; Cllr. Butler offered to replace those felled. The chair thanked Cllr. Butler for his offer

11-12 – Correspondence – received and discussed

11-13 – Any other business – the parish council will hold coffee mornings in March [for the allotments] and October [charity to be decided]. Two 30mph signs missing on Fox Lane and The Street. Clerk asked to contact Highways

11-14 – 2018 meetings agreed for 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm in the village hall. Next meeting 9th January 2018.