

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 10TH OCTOBER 2017

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 14-11-17]

Public Forum – a member of the public commented on a planning issue [item 6] and there were comments on the proliferation of signs at the A12 turning to the village. Clerk asked to check with SCDC Planning.

10-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Chris Poupard, Michael Simons, Keith Rolfe, Jasmine Backhouse, Simon Manning, Ernie Hare and Jean Loveridge. Apologies were accepted from John Butler, Richard Smith [SC councillor] and Raymond Catchpole [SCD councillor]. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.

10-2 – **Declarations** of interest and any dispensations allowed – none.

10-3 – **Minutes** of previous meeting [12-09-17] were approved and signed as a true record.

10-4 – **Matters arising** – Cllr. Simons asked to go on a SALC course – clerk to book. Hodmedod Farm – to come before the SCDC planning meeting in Nov.

10-5 – **Finances** – balance at 29-09-15 - £112,227.28. The clerk pointed out that this included the second instalment of the precept and VAT repayment. Cheques were approved as follows – no.765 to C. Cardwell for 153.85 [net sal Oct]; no. 766 to George Jackson for 60.00 [mowing orchard]. Financial regulations – the clerk asked to formulate a clause to cover councillor expenditure on behalf of PC and include changes re contracts.

10-6 – **Planning** –

- DC/17/3288 Isle House, Brussels Green: driveway reinstatement and new annex – this was extensively discussed by councillors. Councillors are opposed to this application for the following reasons – annex siting is inappropriate as it overlooks a neighbouring property; the size of the annex is excessive for the intended use and councillors felt that an annex should be attached to a house. There was no objection to the driveway alteration.
- SCDC Issues and Options – Local Plan discussion – wider issues were discussed by councillors [comments had already been made on suggested sites] –
 - housing distribution options : no. 5 was preferable, no. 6 [ribbon development up A12 was quite unsuitable.
 - Community facilities and health provision: considered completely inadequate at present and with proposed housing plans, there would be a need for more medical infrastructure in future.
 - Heritage and Landscape – councillors felt that too much development in rural areas could destroy the character of villages and damage the integrity of the countryside.

The clerk asked to submit all these comments to SCDC.

- Cllr. Manning suggested that the PC should develop a planning policy and the clerk was asked to find out if it was possible to extend a Conservation Area, with the intention of including Brussels Green

10-7 – **Asset Register** – this was reviewed and the values were agreed to be correct for audit purposes.

10-8 – **Orchard** and allotments – Cllr. Backhouse gave a report on the orchards and thanked Derek Reeve for publishing watering dates; a table and bench had been offered by a resident.

- **Allotments** – Cllr. Poupard gave a detailed report on updated rules, and councillors agreed to adopt them. Councillors agreed to raise the rent from this October to £25 per half plot, bringing charges in line with allotments provided by other authorities. The clerk to send out letters to all plot holders with the new rules and invoice for the coming year. An SAE to be included. Councillors agreed to approve expenditure of approx. £900 for new fencing; Cllr. Poupard to get 2 more quotes for Nov.

10-9 – **Reports** from Parish Councillors –

- Michael Simons mentioned an article in The Telegraph on Hinckley Point and Bradwell power stations.
- Keith Rolfe – the developers of the land by the village hall have a good local reputation and detailed plans for 20 houses would be soon going before the SCDC Planners
- Jean Loveridge reported on FP1 which had been partly cleared; it was hoped that Richard Butler could trim back the overhanging hedges.

10-10 – **Correspondence** received and noted

10-11 – **Any other business** – the chair asked for another councillor to take over the Emergency Officer role as Cllr. Poupard was very occupied with the allotments – Michael Simons was suggested.

10-12 - **The next meeting** – 14th November 2017

The meeting closed at 8.50pm