

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

9-1 - The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Keith Rolfe, Ernie Hare, Michael Simons, John Butler, Jasmine Backhouse, Jean Loveridge, Chris Poupard and Simon Manning. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were received from SCD councillor Raymond Catchpole; Suffolk County councillor, Richard Smith, was also present. There were several members of the public.

9-2 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – Cllrs. Leggate, Backhouse and Manning declared a prejudicial financial interest in item **9-9 – [Planning]** and requested dispensations to allow them to take part in discussions. After discussion councillors agreed to allow discussion, but not voting with regard to Site 692, but to allow full participation in the rest of the sites proposed for possible future development.

9-3 – Minutes of previous meeting [11-07-17] were approved and signed as a true record.

9-4 – Matters arising not on agenda - none

With councillors' permission, the chairman took item 9- 6 - Allotments first.

9-6 – Allotments – Cllr. Poupard presented a report covering the situation on the allotments. As far as security was concerned it was agreed to do nothing at present, but to keep any possible security concerns under review. An increase of rent to £25 per half plot was agreed to bring into line with other authorities' sites. The rules need to be reviewed and updated. The parish council agreed to put outside fencing on the field. The clerk will send out letters to plot holders in October, after the Oct. meeting. The clerk and chairman should inspect the plots in May and October. Cllr. Poupard was asked to get 3 quotes for the rabbit proof fence for Oct meeting, at which a decision will be made on whether to go ahead with the project. If possible, further quotes would be sought for a new pump for the borehole. But it was understood that there may only be one supplier. Cllr. Richard Smith kindly offered £400 from his locality budget for the fencing. Cllr. Poupard left the meeting at this point.

The meeting was opened to public participation at 8pm

Roger Coates-Smith raised the issue of weeds on neighbouring allotment plots and the need for regular inspections of the allotments and termination of leases if the allotments were found to be uncared for. There had been no queries re the donkeys at Hodmedod Farm. Richard Smith [SC councillor] gave a report on County affairs, Sizewell C, and the new CEO to be appointed. The cabinet still had to find savings and there might possibly have to be a reluctant increase in council tax. The chair thanked Richard Smith for his report and attendance.

The meeting closed to the public at 8.20pm.

9-5 – Finances–

- Balance at 30 June 2017 - £10,073.88
- Cheques for approval
 - 759 to C. Cardwell for 153.65 [net sal July]
 - 760 to C. Cardwell for 307.70 [net sal for Aug/Sept]
 - 761 to HMRC for 115.40 [tax to Oct 5th]
 - 762 to BDO LLP for 36.00 [audit]
 - 763 to CAS business services for 227.96 [insurance]
 - Total cheques – £840.71
- External Audit report from BDO was received and comments noted on updating the financial regulations
- The Financial Regs. - to be updated in Oct;
- Insurance for year ending Sept. 2018 – 2 quotes received and discussed; councillors agreed to insure with CAS Business Services for a 3 year period.
- Asset register – deferred to October.

9-6– Orchards – Cllr. Backhouse had purchased deer netting for the trees at a cost of £40; councillors agreed to reimburse her and a cheque was approved.

9-7 - Planning – SCDC local Plan Issues and Options – Cllrs. Manning, Leggate and Butler made various comments, the maps were considered inaccurate. The chairman to draft a report to SCDC. {Attached}

9-8- Data Protection Regulations – councillors agreed that the clerk should attend training at SALC in Oct.

9–9 SCDC Public Space Protection Orders [dog control] – councillors discussed these proposals and felt that to insist on dogs on a lead on allotments was very unrealistic and they do not support this part of the proposals.

9-10 - Cllr. Simons expressed a desire to go on a SALC training course. This was agreed.

9–11 - Reports from parish councillors –

- Cllr. Loveridge reported on the footpaths and noted that “Alan” had cleaned up all the cycle track on the A12; the chair to express the council’s thanks.
- Cllr. Simons reported on Sizewell C plans
- Cllr. Rolfe gave an update on the progress of the housing development behind the village hall, 20 houses now, not 24 as had been suggested at a previous meeting. Nothing had been found by the archaeologists.

9–12 Correspondence received and discussed; Any other business – councillors noted that there were now specific plans and funding in place for by-passing the Four Villages [Marlesford, Glemham, Stratford St. Andrew and Farnham] on the A12

9-13– Next meeting – 10th October 2017

The meeting ended at 9pm.