

# DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 16-10-18]

*Public Forum – comments were made re unauthorised signs on the verges at the junction of the A12 and The Street, Darsham. A local resident raised concerns over the possible damage to wildlife and the environment if the meadow next to Millfields were to be allocated for future housing*

9-1 – The chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Jean Loveridge, Ernie Hare, Simon Manning, Keith Rolfe, Michael Simon and John Butler. Apologies were received from Chris Poupard and Jasmine Backhouse. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Suffolk County councillor, Richard Smith, arrived at 7.50pm

9-2 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – none

9-3 – Model Standing Orders [2018] – the clerk explained the latest alterations, which took into account new regulations on Public Participation, Contracts and GDPR. Councillors all agreed that these should be adopted and signed, to support the work of the parish council.

9-4 – Minutes of previous meeting [10-07-18] were approved and signed as a true record.

9-5 – Matters arising not on agenda – the missing 30mph sign was discussed - [*councillors have subsequently heard it will be replaced*]. It was noted the School House hedge had been cut; this is done annually in August.

*7.50pm - meeting opened to public – Richard Smith [Suffolk County councillor] arrived and gave his report, covering road sign replacement, forthcoming consultation on Sizewell C and it is felt fairly optimistic that the project will go ahead, although the site has problems with possible flooding and including an area of outstanding natural beauty. He also spoke of the financial difficulties of Suffolk County council in fulfilling their statutory obligations in social care and the need to prioritise and support other services. He asked that the parish council's response to the SCDC Local Plan could be sent to him. The chairman thanked Richard Smith for attending the meeting. [8pm – meeting closed to public]*

9-6 - Finances - balance with Barclays Bank at 31-07-18 - £10,641.06. The council's insurance cover was reviewed and found to be suitable. Cheques approved as follows: 803 – Darsham Village Hall Committee – 165.00 [hire of hall]; 804 – C. Cardwell – 329.98 [net sal aug/sept]; 805 – HMRC – 123.80 [tax to 5 oct]; 806 – Business Services at CAS – 228.16 [insurance]; 807 – NSALG – 67.00 [sub]. Total cheques – 913.94.

9-7 – Planning –

**Suffolk Coastal Local Plan** – the council's response is as follows. “The 2012 register of electors shows that Darsham had 282 electors, living in 132 houses. Since then, along with about 6 infill developments, we have had an estate of 19 new houses and are in the process of having a further 20 built. In numbers of houses, that is an increase of exactly one third. SCDC is now proposing two further developments of 25 and 120 houses. Together with recent development, this would

increase the village by 136%. Changing the nature of the village totally and impairing the social integration within a village with a strong community spirit.

#### **SCLP12.44**

This is described as being part of the A12 corridor (sounds good). This used to be called Ribbon Development (sounds bad). A further 120 houses in such a small village, albeit set apart from the main village itself, is far too many houses. It would also lead to problems with access to the Westleton Rd and its junction with the A12. Any future widening of the A12, which is already in need of improvements, would also become more difficult, **especially with the present proposals for Sizewell C transport**. It would lead to further parking problems at the station, already underserved with parking availability. Though as the journey to Ipswich or Lowestoft is so slow and only hourly, any new residents may well travel by car. It would also make worse the present problems with National Health infrastructure locally (Saxmundham, Yoxford and Halesworth), especially as much of the new housing locally is taken by retirees.

#### **SCLP 12.45**

This is a natural infill within the village and would be quite acceptable, but with a changed time frame and a lower density of houses. The village has lived with a major building site within the village for the last three years and is still coping with one for the next couple of years. It is strongly felt within Darsham that we need a break from development and so the **Parish Council strongly believes that this particular development should not start till 2030 and with a maximum of 15 houses**.

#### SUMMARY

**SCLP12.44** is too large and too isolated from both Darsham village and Yoxford to become a sustainable development. The train service is not good enough in times or capacity to merit development around it. It would put undue pressure on local medical facilities and on the A12, already threatened by the proposed building of Sizewell C. This development would most definitely not “support or sustain existing communities” (Policy SCLP3.2). **The Parish Council therefore strongly objects. The council would also strongly object to any development on the A12 to the north and west of the Station.**

**SCLP 12.45** is a natural infill within the village. But Darsham has had far too much development over the past three years and it is still ongoing. **The Parish Council strongly believes that the Delivery Timescale should be put back to 2030-2035 with a lower density of houses.**

Under the “Settlement Hierarchy SCLP3.3, Darsham is shown to contribute 1.5% of the new housing. (The figure of 10 completions (1/4/2016—31/3/2018) is wrong—it should be at least 20). But even accepting these figures, our contribution is more than 3 times any other small village with the exception of Benhall, whose actual contribution (65 houses) is nevertheless only about one third of Darsham’s (177). **Darsham is being asked to contribute far more than its fair share of new housing. Darsham PC also strongly opposes SCLP 12.26 (The building of 800 houses in a new**

**“Garden Neighbourhood”) on the grounds that it would make a new road for Sizewell C impossible, thus blighting all villages along the B 1122.”**

9-7 – Planning cont. –

- DC/18/3117/FUL: Ash Spring Wood – application for change of use to increase game rearing area – Cllr. Manning gave a comprehensive report and a neighbour’s letter of protest was read; councillors agreed to support only if the whole of the enterprise were to be moved to the area outlined red on the map ie to the NE of the wood.
- New development – the spelling Cheney or Cheyney was discussed and councillors agreed to leave it to the village hall committee

9-8 – Allotments and orchards - the current pump is definitely unfit for purpose and councillors briefly discussed alternatives.

9-9 – A12 signs – the council agreed that an authorised person should remove all non Darsham signs on the verge and fences on the A12/The Street junction. The owners of the signs to be notified, so that they may collect them

9-10 – Reports from councillors

- Michael Simons - reported on the TEAG visit to Hinckley and noted that it was felt that what was suitable for Hinckley would not be appropriate for Sizewell C.
- Keith Rolfe – work is progressing slowly on the new hall
- Jean Loveridge – drew councillor’s attention to the forthcoming coffee morning on 13<sup>th</sup> October and asked for any help.

9-11 – Any other business – clerk asked to check CIL monies to see if they could go towards extending the footpath from the Halesworth turn-off to the Two Magpies [formerly Darsham Hamper]

9-12 – Next meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 [please note change of date]

The meeting closed at 9.10pm