

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 12TH NOVEMBER 2019

MINUTES – [approved by councillors on 14-01-2020]

Public Forum – two members of the public present. Also present - Richard Smith [Suffolk County Councillor] and Alison Cackett [East Suffolk Councillor – in place of Norman Brooks]. The chairman welcomed Alison Cackett and she gave a report on protocol for Planning Committee meetings. The chair will attend on 10th Dec. with reference to plans to build 26 houses North of The Street, Darsham. A member of the public commented on the Committee process, and this was briefly discussed. The parish council would support the application for 26 houses, bearing in mind that it is not yet in the final East Suffolk Local Plan, but asking for a 10 year delay, as so much building is already taking place in the village. Richard Smith congratulated the village hall committee on the new hall; no other comments to make and he would discuss the proposed allotment water supply grant in Jan. [Purdah for general election on 12th Dec]

11-1 - The chairman, Robin Leggate welcomed councillors Michael Simons, Simon Manning, John Butler, Diane Taylor, Dave Stanley, Keith Rolfe and Heather Ballantine. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were accepted from Jasmine Backhouse.

11-2 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – Simon Manning declared a personal interest in item 8 with reference to trees.

11-3 – Minutes of previous meeting [8-10-19] were approved and signed as a true record.

11-4 – Matters arising not on agenda – reference was made to the plans to transfer council documents to Dropbox. The clerk asked to progress this.

11-5 – Finances –

Balance at 31 Jul. 19 – 12,012.56

Add receipts 3,103.64

15,116.20

Less payments 1,240.96

13,875.24

Balance at bank on 31 Oct.2019 - **13,875.24**

Cheques approved as follows - 863 – C. Cardwell – 172.60 [net sal Nov]; 864 – HMRC – 129.60 [tax Jan 5th]; 865 – CAS – 60.00 [website hosting]; 866 – Royal British Legion – 50.00 [wreath]; 867 – Darsham PCC – 330.00 [grant for churchyard]

11-6 – Clerk’s contract – it was agreed to add GDPR care to the clerk’s job description and raise the salary to NALC SCP 9 [£10.57 per hr] from January 2020, 5 hrs per week.

11-7 – Budget for year Apr. 2020 to Mar.2021 – the clerk supplied financial information on current expenditure against budget, reserves etc. After discussion, taking into account planned expenditure on allotments and orchard, councillors agreed to a deficit budget for the year, drawing on reserves. The precept to be finalised in January.

Richard Smith left at 8.15pm.

11-8 – Planning – DC/19/4080/TCA: trees in Low Rd – councillors had no objection to trimming. Councillors noted the Planning Inspector's decision on Ash Spring, The Street [enforcement not upheld]. Town and Parish Council Forum – the chair and vice chair will attend. Further comments were made re the planning process; AC stated that planning laws are changing, There is a new manager in the planning office, Liz Bacon.

Alison Cackett left at 8,30pm

11-9 – Allotments

The cost of the allotment water supply was discussed in detail; councillors noted that two parishioners had kindly agreed to donate the cost of solicitor's fees for an easement over Darsham House land; it is likely that the total spend to the council will be £5,575 less cost of agreed grants from county and district budgets – final cost about £4,275. Although questions were raised about the propriety of spending a large sum on an asset enjoyed by few gardeners, it was pointed out that the allotments and orchard were enjoyed by many residents; there was a community memorial orchard, and summer social events could be held there. There would be a possible small increase in plot holders' fees to cover cost of water. The allotments generate 12% of the PC's income and are a major asset of the Parish Council. The chair thanked David Stanley for all the hard work he had put into this project. To obtain a grant from the County councillor a form had to be completed by DS and the clerk.

11-10 – Emergency policy – Diane Taylor gave an update on progress; the Emergency Plan officer, Keith Falkner-Simpson is to meet with DT and volunteers on 25th Nov.

11-11 – Correspondence – received and discussed.

11-12 – Reports from Councillors –

Keith Rolfe – the tin shed had been moved to a new site; acoustics in the hall still needed attention and there were lots of little extras needed in the kitchen. It was hoped to install a pedestrian access.

Councillors all agreed that the new hall was a very good addition to the village. Michael Simons – reported on a networking session at Snape Maltings about Sizewell C and Scottish Power plans. EDF had already started recruiting for staff. Local parishes are trying to prevent any early work on the EDF site

11-13 - Any other business – meeting dates for next year finalised. A resident mentioned the need of a footpath along The Street to the A12.

11-14 – Next meeting – 14th January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.20pm