

## DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

*Public Forum – one member of public present – no questions*

10-1 – Welcome and apologies – the chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Diane Taylor, David Stanley, Heather Ballantine, John Butler, Michael Simons and Jasmine Backhouse. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Simon Manning and Keith Rolfe. Also present Suffolk County Councillor, Richard Smith. Apologies were also sent by East Suffolk District councillor, Norman Brooks

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

10-3 – Standing Orders 2019 – NALC model reviewed and adopted. [each councillor had received a copy]

10-4 – Minutes of previous meeting [10-09-19] – these were approved and signed with one minor change.

10-5 – Matters arising on minutes not on agenda – none

10-6 – Finances - Balance at Barclays bank on 30-09--19 - **£14,085.69** [including precept of £ 2,750]; Cheque approved – 862 - C. Cardwell – 172.60 [net salary oct 19]; Financial Regulations 2019 [NALC model] were approved, signed and adopted. [each councillor had received a copy]. It was agreed that the clerk should produce a bank reconciliation every quarter and also set up Dropbox for council documents.

*7.50pm – meeting closed for Suffolk County councillor, Richard Smith, to give his report. He raised various points about proposed Sizewell C, and suggested that the effects of construction alone would be considerable. Further comments on the County Council budget for 20/21 were not available as government had delayed stating their contribution to council funds. It was hoped that government funding might be more generous than in previous years. Michael Simons asked a question about the Sizewell C supporting structures and why the East Suffolk had voted 9/8 to allow initial removal of trees and hedges. RS was asked if he could make a contribution to the allotment water supply costs. He agreed he could give £300 and asked the clerk to send detailed costings when available. The chair thanked Richard Smith for attending. [ Meeting opened at 8.15pm]*

10-7 – Planning

- DC/19/3564 – Priory Farm, Darsham – councillors agreed to support the application for garage conversion.
- DC/19/ 3887 - Ash Spring game farm – this was discussed and it was noted that this was the sixth time that an application had been made for this site; councillors did not support the application for temporary accommodation. There were several new houses for sale in the village at present. The proposed application is outside the locality boundary.
- DC/19/1362 - 26 houses North of The Street, Darsham – the chairman gave a report on his part in the inspector’s consideration of the Local Plan and again repeated to the local council that the proposed housing should be delayed. Councillors then discussed the proposed development,

access, affordable housing etc and unanimously objected to the plans. Points raised included effect of lighting in a Dark Skies village, the balance of affordable housing; they were not against the development in principle but would not support at this stage as it was felt that there was enough housing available in the village at present, with the Cheney Green estate not sold and other houses for sale in the village. A delay of 5 or 10 years for this development was proposed.

- Low Rd. – Entrance to Wyching Way – clerk had contacted East Suffolk enforcement officer, but he had not yet visited the site

10-8 – GDPR policy – website and employment policies reviewed and approved

10-9 – Emergency policy, proposed – Diane Taylor presented a possible scheme; it relied on voluntary help

10-10 – Allotments water supply – David Stanley presented details of the possible mains water supply. The owners of Darsham House had very kindly offered to pay for the pipe through their land up to the allotment field, so cost to the parish council would only be in the region of £5,775; this cost would be defrayed by grants from District and County councillors (£1300) and the year's allotment rents (£650), resulting in an approx. spend of £3,825. The water would go to an Edwards standpipe where timer controls could be added that would enable water to go into the existing tank for plot holders' use. It might be necessary, once proven, to raise the plot fee by a small amount to help pay for the water used. Michael Simons asked for a full budget and costings, with quotes and councillors will make a final decision at the November meeting. Some legal advice might be necessary and Jasmine Backhouse would ask a solicitor. Clerk asked to contact Norman Brooks to confirm his suggested grant.

10-11 – Orchard – Jasmine Backhouse gave an update on orchard affairs. More trees were promised; the tables need to be treated, but padlocks had rusted!

As tree warden JB reported that trees and hedges in Low Rd would be pruned.

10-12 – Reports from councillors -

- Heather Ballantine – some footpaths were blocked by fallen trees. FP8: no joy from Suffolk Highways. As an update on the Village Hall, there were still some delays to final completion, and sadly these had affected bookings.
- Michael Simons - Sizewell C stage 3 consultation reply has been submitted; Regulated Asset Base can include private bills
- John Butler commented on the difference between the concerns over building Sizewell C compared with Sizewell B.

10-13 – Correspondence - received and discussed

10-14 – Any other business – David Stanley commented that it was time for allotment renewals and gave the clerk information to do this. It was noted that any spraying on the allotments should be very carefully done to avoid damaging trees and wild flowers.

10-15 – Next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm