

DARSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 10TH MARCH 2020

DRAFT MINUTES [not yet approved by councillors]

Public Forum – three members of the public attended; It was announced that there would be a new webmaster, as the current one was leaving the village. There were comments from neighbours re the proposals to build two houses behind no. 3 Ivy Cottages, and councillors would consider these when discussing the plans at item 7. Concerns were raised over environmental damage, narrow access, over-development etc.

3-1 – Welcome and apologies – the chairman, Robin Leggate, welcomed councillors Jasmine Backhouse, Simon Manning, David Stanley, John Butler and Heather Ballantine. Apologies were received and accepted from County councillor Richard Smith and District councillor, Norman Brooks, and from parish councillors Keith Rolfe and Diane Taylor. The clerk, Caroline Cardwell, was in attendance.

3-2 – Declarations of interest and any dispensations allowed – Robin Leggate declared an interest in item 7, Planning.

3-3 – Minutes of previous meeting [11-02-20] were approved and signed as a true record.

3-4 – Matters arising on the minutes not on agenda – councillors were happy with [darshampc@gmail](mailto:darshampc@gmail.com) as the generic address; the dog bin was due to be installed.

3-5 – Finances –

- **Balance** at Barclays Bank on 28-02-2020 - £15,345.93
- **Cheques** approved by councillors
- 872 – Essex and Suffolk Water – 6,690.60 [cost of water supply to allotments] - *Signed and dated 24-02-2020, previously agreed by council – this was specifically approved by councillors on 10-03-20*; 873 – M. Shipp – 28.00 [maintenance]; 874 – C. Cardwell – 183.22 [net sal mar]; 875 – HMRC – 137.40 [tax to 5 Apr]; 876 – C. Cardwell – 87.08 [expenses from Sep 19 to Mar 20]; 877 – Ashtons Legal – 1,227.20 [fees for easement] - Total cheques - £8,353.50
- **Financial risk assessment** and statement of internal control – clerk had circulated these to councillors and they all agreed that the correct procedures were in place and fit for purpose.

3-6 – Asset register – this was reviewed and the third dog waste bin added. Clerk asked to add this to our insurance; it was queried whether the value of the allotment field had increased with the addition of the water supply – clerk to inquire.

3-7 – Planning –

- DC/19/4746 – Waratah, The Street – application for machinery store – DC permission granted
- DC/20/0540/OUT: 3 Ivy Cottages, The Street, Darsham – application for new build dwelling
- DC/20/0541/OUT: 3 Ivy Cottages, The Street, Darsham – application - matters reserved

The two applications for Ivy Cottages were discussed and councillors objected to the application [*see details on ES Planning portal – public access*]

- DC/20/0792/FUL – Rose Cottage, Low Road, Darsham – application for cart lodge and log store – *for this item the chairman withdrew from the room during councillors’ discussions.* Councillors agreed to support this application.

3-8 – Village Green, new – proposed Dark Skies policy – councillors were happy to support the policy, but felt it was mostly up to the village hall to encourage.

3-9 – Website – it was announced that the present webmaster would be retiring, as he was leaving the village. However a new volunteer had applied and was welcomed. The chairman thanked the retiring webmaster for all his hard work and the excellent way the website was kept up. The new accessibility requirements for disabilities would be checked by the new webmaster.

3-10 – Allotments and orchard – David Stanley reported that work on the water supply should start after Easter. Essex and Suffolk will connect, but choice of water provider [to a non-residential premises] had to be arranged. Jasmine Backhouse reported that the latest planting would take place on 12th March. It was important for donors to understand that although they have donated a tree, the tree then becomes the property of the parish council. There had been thefts of fruit last year, and it was emphasised that the fruit was for Darsham residents, not allotment holders, some of whom live outside the village. A notice would be put on the board to that effect.

3-11 – Reports from councillors

- Heather Ballantine – has sent details of FP8 to County councillor Richard Smith and reported on the CILs planning meeting and the guidance available to councils.
- Keith Rolfe reported that he was awaiting contact with siting the dog bin.
- Michael Simons reported that there had been no recent meetings with EDF. With reference to Coronation Wood and its proposed clearance, crowd funding had been set up to support a judicial review.

3-12 – Correspondence received and discussed.

3-13 – Annual Meetings – will be planned next month.

3-14 – Any other business –

- Litter pick would take place on 5th April, 10am at village hall. Clerk to arrange equipment etc.
- Wyching Way, Low Rd., - clerk reported that she had had no information from Enforcement officer.
- Coronavirus – it was queried whether the annual meeting would in fact take place. Councillors and clerk are monitoring any government and SALC information, and listening to any government recommendations.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.