

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 16 June 2021

Councillor's Present: D Carey (Vice Chairman), W Cook, I Gutteridge, T Hicks, T Prentice, D Risely, Y Seymour, S Watson-Holmes and N Weavis (Chairman).

In Attendance: E Mote, Parish Clerk

Visitors: PCSOs' Midford and Keers plus three members of the public.

At the Chairman's discretion the meeting received details of a question from the public.

One question had been received via email:

The Boundary commission for England have published their proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies and our village of Darenth is proposed to be represented by the MP for Sevenoaks instead Dartford. Is the view of the Parish Council to take part in the consultation and object to the change as our village has had too many boundary changes and we are very remote from Sevenoaks and are likely to be underrepresented in Parliament by this change?

Response: To date the Parish Council had not considered the consultation but would formulate a response for submission once deliberated. The Borough Councillor will also be contacted regarding the Boundary Commissions Parliamentary Constituency Review and its impact on Darenth.

The Chairman welcomed PCSOs' Midford and Keers to the meeting. PCSO Midford confirmed he was the new Community Support Officer for Darenth, working with PCSO Prior and being mentored by PCSO Keers. PCSO Midford reported that he looked forward to working with the Darenth Community and would be providing updates to the Clerk for Councillor and Community distribution.

PCSOs' Midford and Keers left the meeting.

25/06/21: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Borough Councillor Kelly.

26/06/21: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

27/06/21: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

28/06/21: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One member wished to have the Questions from the public item (which does not form part of the business of the meeting) reworded. The Clerk would await his suggestions.

29/06/21: TO FORMALLY NOTE RECRUITMENT OF NEW GROUNDS AND FACILITY WARDEN FOR WALLER PARK PAVILION

Members noted the successful recruitment of the new Warden who took up his position on 7 June 2021.

30/06/21: TO DISCUSS ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO MEMBERS FOR:

- (a) Finance & Human Resources
- (b) Planning
- (c) Public Realm & Facilities

Expressions of interest in portfolio positions had been made to the Clerk as requested.

One Councillor requested a vote: a majority of 8 Members were in favour of confirming positions submitted to the Clerk, with one Member abstaining. All positions were proposed, amongst other, by Councillor Carey and Seconded by Councillor Watson-Holmes.

Due to the extent of the Public Realm & Facilities portfolio position, it was agreed to divide responsibility between two Members.

RESOLVED: To appoint Portfolio Members as follows:

- (a) Finance & Human Resources – Councillor Watson-Holmes
- (b) Planning – Councillor Weavis
- (c) Public Realm & Facilities – Councillors' Carey and Hicks

31/06/21: TO CONSIDER URGENT REPAIRS TO WALLER PARK PAVILION

Members agreed various urgent works were required. Receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy monies could potentially be used for some repairs and the Clerk would investigate potential funding for future projects. Members were given quote details for electrical works and, providing all costs included parts and labour, Members confirmed delegated authority to the Clerk to initiate works as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: To prioritise all works and delegate authority for procedure to the Clerk.

32/06/21: TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR STREET LIGHT AT SLIPWAY COTTAGES

Following a request from UK Power Networks in respect of upgrade to an existing power line at Slipway Cottages, Members discussed options regarding streetlight upgrade. Additional weight of a new overhead line would result in replacing a new pole and stay-wire arrangement. The existing pole is located too close to the roadway to fit the stay-wire and UKPN field engineers propose relocation of the pole approximately 1.5m further back into the green space to facilitate the installation of the stay-wire. Members felt more information was required to determine an effective decision. The Clerk would forward the current Streetlights Inventory to all Members and contact the Streetlights contractor for further clarification.

RESOLVED: That further clarification is required regarding power upgrade works at Slipway Cottages before a decision is made.

33/06/21: FINANCE

- (a) **To receive Financial Statement as at 31 May 2021**

RESOLVED: That Members agreed the Financial Statement as presented.

- (b) **To note Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £10,387.09 from Dartford Borough Council received on 26 May 2021**

Members noted details of the Dartford Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a duty for the Borough Council to pass CIL to local councils under CIL Regulations 2010 (amended) Regulations 59A to 59D. CIL payments were received by the Borough Council during the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021, for developments within Darenth Parish.

RESOLVED: To note receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy in the sum of £10,387.09.

34/06/21: PLANNING

(a) **To consider new applications**

DA/21/00746/FUL - Pheasants Field St Margarets Road Darenth

Demolition of existing stable block and erection of a stable block and barn store with associated hardstanding area

Observation: Members noted the application

DA/21/00838/LDC – 61 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension

Observation: Members noted the application

(b) **To note recent decisions and appeals made by the Planning Authority**

Members noted the details as presented:

DA/20/00474/FUL - Gate Lodge Darenth Fishing Complex Darenth Hill Darenth

Replacement of lawful use for stationing a mobile home with the erection of a detached dwelling house with rooms in the roof space and parking and amenity provision

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/21/00254/FUL - 12 Coombfield Drive Darenth DA2 7LQ

Erection of a single storey rear/side extension

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/21/00713/AGR - Land North East Corner Of Deanscroft Gills Road Darenth

Application under Schedule 2 Part 6 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 to determine whether prior approval is required for erection of 280m² agricultural building

Decision: The Planning Authority has determined that the proposal **WILL NOT**

REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL and therefore an application for planning permission in respect thereof **IS NOT NECESSARY**

(c) **To consider new applications/recent decisions received after agenda publication**

Members made the following observations:

DA/21/00845/FUL - 31 Coombfield Drive Darenth DA2 7LE

Demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension

Observation: The Parish Council had no objection to the application

35/06/21: TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

The Chairman read the Borough Councillor's report which Members had previously received by email. Several Members expressed disappointment that the Borough Councillor had now not been able to attend the first two Parish Council meetings since her election. The Chairman confirmed he would ask the Clerk to contact the Borough Councillor again.

A Councillor informed the meeting that he had been in contact with the Borough Councillor and had arranged a personal meeting with her. The Chairman asked what the meeting was regarding but this question was not answered. The Chairman then reminded the Councillor of the Parish Council's Councillor Code of Conduct, which the Councillor had previously signed and pointed out the fact that as part of the Parish Council's Standing Orders Members should not make independent approaches to Borough or County Councillors, or

Officers, without first clearing these meetings/conversations with either the Parish Clerk or Chairman. The Chairman quoted from the Standing Orders :

“A member cannot individually exercise any functions of the Council on behalf of the Council. A member must not issue any order relating to work being done for the Council or claim any right to enter any property on behalf of the Council”.

The Chairman informed the Councillor that the Parish Council was aware of his also contacting a KCC Officer and advised that if he continued these actions, without first contacting the Clerk, the Parish Council would have to escalate this issue to the Monitoring Officer.

36/06/21: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Council is Wednesday 21 July 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Council closed at 8:28pm