

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 19 March 2025
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillor's Present: T Hicks, K Holmes, S Holmes, G Manuel, T Prentice, D Risely, N Weavis and K Webb.

In Attendance: E Mote, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Visitors: Borough Councillor Denman, two members of the public

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the protocol regarding the audio and visual recording of proceedings.

123/03/25: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor I Armitt.

124/03/25: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

125/03/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2025 as a true record.

126/03/25: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairman confirmed no items for had been raised for Member consideration.

127/03/25: TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) Borough Councillor Report

1. Borough Councillor Denman provided Members with details regarding devolution in Kent. He confirmed that initial proposals were to be submitted by 21 March, final proposals by 28 November and new unitary authorities expected to go live in April 2028.
2. A report was given in respect of a meeting held on 6 March 2025 with Dignity PLC in respect of antisocial behaviour in Darenth Woods. A response to the situation from Dignity PLC was still awaited.
3. Operations continue at The Orchard Theatre with a current scheduled opening date of May 2026.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Denman for his thorough report.

(b) KCC Community Warden Report

Members retrospectively noted the February Report provided by Community Warden, Joanne Appleton, and noted her Report for March 2025.

(c) Borough and Parish Council Forum

Members noted the details from the Borough and Parish Council Forum in respect of proposed devolution plans.

RESOLVED: To note reports as presented.

128/03/25: TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DARENTH WOODS PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP

Having been deferred from the February Council Meeting, Members considered the proposed Terms of Reference for the Darenth Woods Partnership Working Group and agreed to adopt as a measure for this and future Working Groups formed by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: To note the Role of a Working Group, agree Working Group Terms of Reference for the Darenth Woods Partnership Working Group as presented and adopt the terms for future Working Groups formed by the Parish Council.

129/03/25: TO NOTE VACANT POSITION FOR THE DARENTH WOODS PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP AND APPOINT A REPLACEMENT MEMBER

To comply with the agreed Terms of Reference, Membership for Parish formed Working Group would be a quorum of three. With a vacancy arising following the resignation of Councillor K Webb, Members discussed future membership for the Partnership Working Group. After reconsideration, the group was confirmed as Councillors Webb, Prentice and Manuel.

RESOLVED: To confirm Councillors Webb, Prentice and Manuel as representatives of the Darenth Woods Partnership Working Group.

130/03/25: TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH AT WALLER PARK

Having received a request to have a memorial bench placed at Waller Park, Members deliberated Terms for permission which had been previously provided. It was agreed that each application be considered individually and that an item be added to the Terms to reflect this.

Members approved the request for a memorial bench to be installed overlooking the children's playground at Waller Park; to waive the £500.00 maintenance fee and organise and fund installation costs.

RESOLVED: That agreed Terms for the installation of memorial benches on Parish owned land be adopted and implemented for all future requests. That a memorial bench to be installed overlooking the children's playground at Waller Park; to waive the £500.00 maintenance fee in this instance and to organise and fund installation.

131/03/25: TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR 2025-26 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Having been deferred from the February meeting and with no definite proposal submitted, Members resolved to defer this item for discussion at the April 2025 meeting of the Council.

132/03/25: FINANCE

(a) **Members noted the interest rate change for the NatWest Business Reserve Account from 24 April 2025 to be 1.10% gross per annum, down from 1.25% in the previous financial year**

(b) **To agree Monthly Bank Analysis as for 28 February 2025**

(c) **To note Monthly Budget Analysis for 28 February 2025**

RESOLVED: To agree and note financial items as presented.

133/03/24: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

DA/24/00910/LDC - St Fiacre Green Street Green Road Darenth

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 195/26K. Application for a Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) for demolition of existing boundary walls and erection of the new walls to be same height as existing.

Observation: Members noted the details and confirmed their previous objection to the application would be considered as part of the appeal process.

DA/25/00197/FUL - 55 The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JT

Conversion of existing integral garage to habitable room and remove garage door and replace with matching block/brickwork infill and window to match existing

Observation: Members noted the details.

DA/25/00052/TPO - 84 & 85 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6LX

Application to T1 Reduce Cherry Tree in front garden to tidy and maintain car access to driveway and clearance over footpath. T2 Trim neighbour's (No 85) Plane Tree back to boundary to minimise leaf drop and sap on decking. T3 Remove selected branches from Walnut Tree that are touching or in close proximity to the shed; subject to Tree Preservation Order No 3. 1979

Observation: Members noted the details.

(b) To note recent decisions and appeals

DA/24/01449/FUL - 65 Ladywood Road Darenth Kent DA2 7LW

Erection of single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer window and roof lights on front roof slope in connection with providing additional rooms in the roof space

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

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

No new applications or recent decisions were received after agenda publication.

134/03/25: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 16 April 2025.

135/03/25: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

To consider the **exclusion** of the **press and public** for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2).

136/03/25: TO DISCUSS PARISH OWNED LAND LOCATED OUTSIDE GREENLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREEN STREET GREEN ROAD

Members discussed Parish owned land located outside Greenlands Primary School following a meeting with Cygnus Academies Trust on Wednesday 12 March 2025. Following discussion, Borough Councillor Denman confirmed he would liaise with the school directly in the first instance.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:59.