

# DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 20 November 2024  
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

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**Councillor's Present:** I Armitt, T Hicks, K Holmes, S Holmes, T Prentice, D Risely and N Weavis (Chairman).

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

**Visitors:** Borough Councillor Denman and two members of the public

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

## **75/11/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Webb.

## **76/11/24: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**

None received.

## **77/11/24: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

## **78/11/24: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Chairman raised the following items for Members to note:

1. Reverend Young from St Margaret's Church had proposed Carol Singing on the Hill Rise Green in early December. Whilst the Parish Council would be in full support of a community event, restrictions on time limits would be a determining factor. The Chairman would contact Reverend Young directly to explain the Council's position and advise that, out of courtesy, permission would need to be sought from Dartford Borough Council to use the Hill Rise area. During the discussion, Members confirmed they would be very happy to support this type of event in 2025.
2. The Chairman reported a recent incident of an overturned car at Darenth Road South. A Parish owned tree and retaining wall had been damaged during the event. A crime number would be obtained and an investigation of the tree and wall made in case an insurance claim needed to be made.

## **79/11/24: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES**

### **(a) Borough Councillor Report**

Councillor Denman informed the meeting that a litter pick would be taking place on Saturday 23 November. The October litter pick had proven successful, but it was noted that large nitrous oxide canisters were once again being found with disposal problems re-emerging.

The waste bin outside Greenlands School was continuing to cause issues despite being emptied by Dartford Borough Council regularly. A previous request from Councillor Denman had resulted in the Clerk writing to the headteacher to ask for support in terms of staff litter picking and improved communication with parents. To date no response had been received and the Parish Chairman confirmed this item would be raised at the December meeting.

Enforcement fines had been issued for the regular fly-tips at Hill Rise. Concerns with cars parking on pavements had resulted in marked bays to be installed in the future.

The ongoing Hill Side fly-tipping issue appeared on the Dartford Borough Council list of regular offences, making the Enforcement Team fully aware of the problem.

Councillor Denman wanted to make the meeting aware of a retrospective planning application for Hawkspare Ltd which had not yet been passed to the Parish for comment.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Denman for his report.

**(b) Update from Darenth Woods Working Group**

No meeting had taken place, but Councillor Prentice suggested notices at the SSSI Dignity Site entrance informing of the potential dangers and damage caused by antisocial behaviour. This matter was referred to Borough Councillor Denman.

**(c) Darent River Preservation Society Update**

Councillor Hicks, the DRiPS representative, informed Members of the forthcoming meeting taking place on 28 November 2024.

**RESOLVED:** To note reports as presented.

**80/11/24: TO CONSIDER KENT WASTE & MINERALS CONSULTATION**

**Public Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39**

**RESOLVED:** To note Proposed Main Modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan for 2024-39.

**81/11/24: TO NOTE WALLER PARK ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION CARRIED OUT ON 23 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To note the Annual Playground Inspection for Waller Park, carried out by The Play Inspection Company on 23 October 2024, and comply with its recommendations.

**82/11/24: TO CONSIDER WRITTEN/VERBAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND TO CO-OPT A CANDIDATE TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCY IN LANE END WARD AS REQUIREMENTS FOR A BYE-ELECTION WERE NOT MET**

With the requirements to hold a by-election not being met, the Parish Council exercised its power to co-opt a person onto the Council to fill the Lane End Ward vacancy. Members heard verbal Supporting Statements from one candidate who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

The Clerk confirmed that the candidate was qualified to stand for the position. Members agreed to co-opt Mrs Gail Manuel with immediate effect and arrangements would be made to complete the required documentation including a Declaration for the Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, welcomed Mrs Manuel and congratulated her on the new role.

**RESOLVED:** To co-opt Mrs Gail Manuel by for the position of Councillor for Lane End Ward by unanimous decision.

### **83/11/24: POLICY CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

- (a) **To consider adoption of Scheme of Delegation Policy**
- (b) **To consider adoption of Breach Notification Policy**

**RESOLVED:** To adopt new Scheme of Delegation and Breach Notification Policy as presented.

### **84/11/24: FINANCE**

- (a) **To agree the 2025-26 Draft Budget which incorporates calculations required by s49A Local Government Finance Act 1992**

**RESOLVED:** That the 2025-26 Draft Budget, incorporating calculations required by s49A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be agreed and noted as presented.

- (b) **To consider and agree facility hire Fees & Charges for 2025-26**

**RESOLVED:** That facility hire Fees & Charges for 2025-26 be agreed at an increased charge of 15% and implemented from 1 April 2025. Application of revised fees will apply to Parish facilities; sports usage; regular hirers and private hirers.

- (c) **To agree Monthly Bank Analysis as for 31 October 2024**
- (d) **To note Monthly Budget Analysis for 31 October 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To agree and note financial items as presented.

### **85/11/24: PLANNING**

- (a) **To consider new applications**

#### **DA/24/01253/FUL – 20 Darenth Mill Darenth DA2 7BF**

Loft conversion to provide additional rooms in the roof space with roof lights on front roof slope.

**Observations: The Parish Council objects to the proposed development for the following reasons:**

- ***The original development of the former Darenth Mill site was accepted by the Council as the design and style of the residences reflected the previous use with the detached building on the weir being representative of the Mill owner's house and the terraced houses those of the Mill workers. The proposed alteration would mean the important local heritage value of the site would be forever lost***
- ***As a result of the proposed development of the property it would be totally out of character with all but one of the residences on the former Darenth Mill site and have an unacceptable adverse impact on the street scene***
- ***The installation of lights in the roof space could have a detrimental effect on the adjacent properties***
- ***Whilst the Parish Council accepts and understands every Application must be treated on merit it is believed that, if approved, it would create a precedent that could result in the further unacceptable erosion of the site's history***

- (b) **To note recent decisions and appeals**

#### **DA/24/00354/CDNA - The Lodge Darenth Hill Darenth Kent**

Submission of details relating to ecological enhancement plan pursuant to condition 5 of planning permission DA/22/01344/FUL (part demolition and change of use of existing outbuilding as separate

dwelling and subdivision of plot including parking provision, cycle store and refuse store and creation of new vehicular access.)

***Decision: APPROVED THE DETAILS***

**DA/24/00910/LDC - St Fiacre Green St Green Rd Darenth Kent**

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.

***Decision: APPLICATION IS NOT LAWFUL***

**DA/24/00034/CAS - Roundabout On Junction Of Watling St, St James Lane And Darenth Wood Rd Dartford Kent DA2 8DA**

Display of 4 x free standing, non-illuminated fascia advertising boards.

***Decision: APPEAL DISMISSED***

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

The following new application was received after publication of the agenda:

**DA/24/01267 – 108 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LH**

Erection of a first-floor side and part two/part single storey rear extension and external decking area to rear.

***Observations: Members noted the application.***

**86/11/24: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 11 December 2024.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:19.