

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMONS & AGENDA

To All Members of The Council:

Councillor I Armitt
Councillor T Hicks
Councillor K Holmes
Councillor S Holmes (Vice Chairman)
Councillor G Manuel
Councillor T Prentice
Councillor D Risely
Councillor N Weavis (Chairman)
Councillor K Webb

You are summoned to attend the

Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on:

Wednesday 16 September 2026, 7:00pm

Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion,
Wood Lane, Darenth DA2 7LR

Ellen E Mote

Ellen E Mote
Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Dated: 10 September 2026



***If members have any questions regarding the agenda or the draft minutes,
please notify the clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting
to ensure enquiries can be addressed appropriately***

A G E N D A

MEETING OF DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL Wednesday 16 September 2026, 7:00pm

Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth DA2 7LR

The Chairman will remind the Meeting of the protocol regarding the audio and visual recording of any part of the proceedings. Anyone wishing to film events is asked to declare an intention prior to commencement of the meeting. This measure ensures transparency and the orderly conduct of procedures.

39/09/26: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

40/09/26: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

41/09/26: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026

RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026, be confirmed as an accurate and true record of proceedings and duly signed by the Chairman.

42/09/26: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairman will confirm any items for consideration and indicate their position on the agenda.

43/09/26: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND WORKING GROUPS

(a) Dartford Borough Council Report

(b) Kent County Council Community Warden Report's for September 2026

(c) Greenlands School Parking - Working Group Report

RECOMMENDATION: To note reports as presented.

44/09/26: FINANCE

(a) To receive update regarding Corona Energy billing increase

A billing discrepancy (UA Ref MT 00045288) was raised by the Clerk with the Validity Team at Utility Aid regarding an unexpected change in gas rates. The supplier confirmed this was due to the RIIO (Revenues, Incentives, Innovation and Outputs) adjustment applied on 01/04/2026. Corona Energy have advised that there will be an increase to the non-commodity element of gas charges. Non-commodity charges are the costs associated with transporting gas through the national network and maintaining the infrastructure that delivers gas to properties. These charges are set by the industry and regulated by Ofgem. The increase is due to the introduction of RIIO-3, a new regulatory price control introduced by Ofgem. This framework allows gas network operators to invest in maintaining, upgrading and operating the gas network safely and reliably. As these charges are industry-regulated, they apply across the market and are passed on by energy suppliers.

As a result, the following changes were applied to the Parish Council account from 1 April 2026 and will apply for the remainder of our current contract:

- Unit Rate: Increase of 0.0225 pence per kWh
- Standing Charge: Increase of +108 pence per day

(b) To note monthly Finance Statements for July & August 2026

RECOMMENDATION: To agree and note financial records and statements as presented for signature by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

45/09/26: TO NOTE REJECTION OF DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY APPLICATION BY DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Having previously been presented with the application and subsequent refusal of Community Infrastructure Levy funds, Members are asked to formally note the refusal decision by Dartford Borough Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members note the disappointing outcome of an application to Dartford Borough Council for between £7,380 to £10,209 of Community Infrastructure Levy funds towards bridleway repairs outside Greenlands Primary School, noting that the project was dismissed as not being of community-wide benefit.

46/09/26: TO NOTE DETAILS OF DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND SUBSEQUENT SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION TO PAUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Under option 4b, the government is replacing Kent County Council, Medway Council and the 12 district, borough and city councils that currently deliver services across the county with four new unitary councils.

- a unitary council covering the areas currently served by Dartford, Gravesham and Medway in the north
- a unitary council covering the areas currently served by Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west
- a unitary council covering the areas currently served by Swale, Ashford and Folkestone and Hythe in the middle of Kent
- a unitary council covering the areas currently served by Canterbury, Thanet and Dover in the east

Each newly established council will assume responsibility for delivering all services within its respective area, as similarly undertaken by Medway Council. This will include education, social services, highways, libraries, refuse collection and disposal, leisure centres, and housing services.

However, following the government's decision to pause local government reorganisation (LGR) in Kent and Medway, the matter is now under review. The geographies of any new unitary councils will not be confirmed until the review has finished.

RECOMMENDATION: To note the details of the Local Government Reorganisation as confirmed by Government ministers on 16 July 2026 together with Secretary of State's decision to pause local government reorganisation and review.

47/09/26: TO CONSIDER FORMULATING AND ADOPTING A COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The Emergency Planning Officer at Dartford Borough Council has requested that Parish Councils develop new community resilience programs.

There are three main tasks for the Parish Council to consider:

1. **The Community Resilience Plan** - Main focus and task. The aim of the plan is to outline what would happen if there was an incident in the Parish including the resources available to support

the community. As community resilience arrangements develop, for example by adding Flood Wardens, new programs and ideas can be added to the plan.

2. **To encourage residents to sign up as Flood Wardens** - Flood Wardens are volunteers who help prepare for and respond to flooding incidents in their area. The Environment Agency (EA) maintains the contact list, while Parish Councils recruits residents. The Parish Council are asked to use local community connections to encourage residents to sign-up and complete training.
3. **To identify locations for "Preparing for Emergencies" booklets**

Members are asked to note that Waller Park was designated confirmed as a designated Community Welfare Centre in April 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Clerk acts in accordance with resolutions made by the Parish Council.

48/09/26: TO CONSIDER FUTURE BRIDLEWAY REPAIRS WITHIN DARENTH PARISH

Further to the July 2026 meeting, Councillor Webb has requested a detailed review of the responsibilities and planning for future repairs to the Parish bridleways.

Members are asked to consider the report provided, prioritise any necessary actions, and determine future protocol as appropriate for the safety and accessibility of all users.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Clerk acts in accordance with resolutions made by the Parish Council.

49/09/26: TO CONSIDER PARISH PARTICIPATION IN THE 'NO MOW MAY' INITIATIVE FOR MAY 2027

Following Councillor Webb's request, Members are invited to consider participating in the 'No Mow May' scheme for next year.

No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign to encourage communities to refrain from mowing green spaces throughout May. The aim is to allow wildflowers to flourish, thereby supporting pollinators and enhancing biodiversity in the local environment to encourage health of local ecosystems.

Members are asked to provide feedback regarding this proposal and to raise any considerations or concerns to assist informed decision-making that best serves the interests of our community.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Clerk acts in accordance with resolutions made by the Parish Council.

50/09/26: TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF FLAGPOLE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Members are asked to consider adoption and utilisation of the flagpole inspection checklist provided by the Clerk.

Consideration for the checklist has arisen as flagpoles are exposed to outdoor conditions year-round, subjecting them to continuous wind conditions due to their placement in prominent, public-facing locations. Even minor defect, such as a worn halyard, loose base fixings, or corrosion at ground level, can escalate into significant safety hazards if regular inspections and maintenance are not conducted. It is therefore essential that flagpoles are assessed routinely to ensure all components remain in safe working condition and to mitigate risks associated with undetected deterioration.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members adopt the flagpole inspection checklist and utilise as proposed in conjunction with the Parish Council's Flagpole Flying and Protocol Policy adopted on 17 July 2024.

51/09/26: TO NOTE THANK YOU FROM WE ARE BEAMS FOR GRANT DONATION

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to formally acknowledge receipt of the thank you letter from Mrs Maria Austen on behalf of We Are Beams, in recognition of the £500.00 grant donation made in July 2026.

52/09/26: TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE SQUADDIE BOX INITIATIVE

Members, having previously received details of a request to support the Squaddie Box initiative, are asked to consider the invitation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Clerk acts in accordance with resolutions made by the Parish Council.

53/09/26: PLANNING**(a) To consider new applications**

Planning Reference	Location	Proposals
26/00826/TPO	44 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6LX	Application for 1 No. Lime tree (Tilia sp) (T1) - Remove all epicormic growth arising from the main stem from ground level to the point of crown break (the first primary scaffold branches), subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995
26/00861/TPO	14 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6JN	Application to reduce the crown to a suitable point outside the previous reduction points as per annotated photo and thin crown by no more than 35% of 1 No. Sycamore tree subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995
26/00446/FUL	Knoxfield Caravan Park Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent DA2 8AA	Change of use of land to a gypsy Traveller site, extension of Plot 2 for 4 static caravans, 3 touring caravans, Septic tank and Small shed and associated additional hardstanding and erection of fences. <i>The Parish Council submitted its objection on 07/08/2026 as application received during Summer recess: The Parish Council would object to the application on the following grounds:</i> ▪ <i>the over-intensification of the Knoxfield site, means that, once again, Darenth's disproportionate share of the local Travelling Community has increased.</i> ▪ <i>what is the relationship of the Applicant's pitches with the 'managed' Knoxfield site?</i> ▪ <i>the fact that the land is not owned by the Applicant with seemingly little effort to ascertain the owner with only an advertisement placed in the 'Gravesend Messenger' (not the Dartford edition).</i> ▪ <i>the need for the claim that, what is clearly Green Belt, be re-designated as Grey Belt to be challenged.</i>
26/00591/FUL	185 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent	Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension

	DA2 7LF	
26/00932/FUL	Savigny Darenth Hill Darenth Kent DA2 7QR	Conversion of existing detached garage/outbuilding to form a granny annexe ancillary to the main dwelling, including alterations to existing openings and associated external alterations.
26/00797/FUL	St Fiacre Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent DA2 7HT	Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single dwelling house. <i>The Parish Council submitted its objection on 26/08/2026 as application received during Summer recess: The Parish Council would object to the application on the following grounds:</i> <i>The site lies in the Metropolitan Green Belt where development is considered to be inappropriate unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. The Council does not believe this requirement has been met.</i> <i>There is no need for an additional dwelling south of the A2 as the Borough Council is able to clearly demonstrate the existence of a 5-Year housing supply.</i> <i>The proposed dwelling would be in a 'Windfall site' and would need to be considered against the Council's Policy.</i> <i>The dwelling would result in an over development of the site.</i> <i>The Parish Council's contention that the boundary of the Application Site encroaches on to Common Land remains and would ask that this be fully investigated.</i>
26/00996/FUL	2 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6JN	Erection of a single storey rear extension

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

Planning Reference	Location	Proposals	Decision
DA/26/00719/PDE	2 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6JN	Determination pursuant to Schedule 2, Part 1 (Class A.1 (g) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as to whether prior approval is	PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED and has been REFUSED

		required for the erection of a single storey rear extension	
26/00761/TPO	Playground The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JR	Application for T1 Sycamore - Crown reduce by 2.5m, crown lift to clear the fencing by 0.5m and cut back to clear playground equipment (zip line) by 2m, subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995	PERMISSION GRANTED
DA/26/00444/LDC	Darenth Fishing Complex Darenth Hill Darenth Kent	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for small single storey one bedroom dwelling	APPLICATION IS NOT LAWFUL
DA/26/00580/FUL	33 Powell Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6NT	Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension	PERMISSION GRANTED
DA/26/00588/FUL	Savigny Darenth Hill Darenth Kent	Alterations and enlargement of the existing rear roof form through the connection and extension of the two existing rear dormer structures to create additional first-floor accommodation within the roof space	PERMISSION GRANTED
DA/26/00671/LDC	St Fiacre Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for the existing boundary walls	APPLICATION IS NOT LAWFUL
DA/26/00751/PDE	21 Ridgeway Darenth Kent DA2 7JW	Determination pursuant to Schedule 2, Part 1 (Class A.1 (g) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as to whether prior approval is required for the erection of a single storey rear extension	APPLICATION WILL NOT REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL
DA/26/00861/TPO	14 Darenth Park Ave Darenth Kent DA2 6JN	Application to reduce the crown to a suitable point outside the previous reduction points as per annotated photo and thin crown by no more than	CONSTENT GRANTED

		35% of 1 No. Sycamore tree subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995.	
DA/26/00721/FUL	2 Darenth Park Ave Darenth Kent DA2 6JN	Erection of a single storey front porch	PERMISSION GRANTED

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

54/09/26: TO CONSIDER AND RESPOND TO PROPOSED DIVERSION OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC FOOTPATH DR47 (PART) UNDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 119

The County Council has received an application to divert part of Public Footpath DR47 at Darenth. An extract from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way (Network Copy) is provided to Members, showing Public Footpath DR47 and a larger scale map (1:2500) showing the proposed diversion.

The length of Public Footpath DR47 to be diverted is shown by a solid black line between points A-B on the map provided to Members. The proposed new route will have a width of 2.0 metres and will follow from points A-C-D as shown by the dashed line.

The application has been made by a landowner to divert part of Public Footpath DR47 in order to reduce the potential conflicts between vehicles and footpath users by making a demarcated, clearer, and safer footpath through the industrial site, and therefore improve the safety of the site. A plan of the proposed site layout is also attached to assist.

A visit to the site is recommended to view the proposed route and consider the benefits to the landowner and public, and the effect it may have on enjoyment and convenience.

Views on this proposal should be submitted before 9 September 2026*.

*NB. *The Parish Council has been granted an extension to the response deadline until 17 September 2026.*

55/09/26: TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES FOR 2026

56/09/26: TO RECEIVE PARISH UPDATES

A verbal summary will be provided to members regarding recent Parish issues that do not require Full Council approval. The topics are shared for informational purposes; members requiring more details on specific items should contact the Clerk.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members note information on Parish updates presented by the Clerk.

56/09/26: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next Meeting is Wednesday 21 October 2026.