

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 17 July 2024
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillor's Present: T Hicks, T Prentice, D Risely, N Weavis (Chairman) and K Webb.

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

Visitors: Borough Councillor Denman and one member of the public

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

36/07/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors I Armitt, I Gutteridge, K Holmes and S Holmes.

37/07/24: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

38/07/24: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 as Proposed by Councillor T Hicks and Seconded by Councillors D Risely and K Webb.

39/07/24: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no urgent items for consideration.

40/07/24: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES

(a) Borough Councillor Report

Councillor Denman reported on current casework being dominated by overgrown vegetation and green spaces which had been significantly impacted by recent weather conditions. In particular, he has been dealing with Hill Rise Playspace, Ridgeway Triangle and many surrounding roads.

Issues regarding inconsiderate parking of vehicles is currently being investigated under enforcement criteria.

Ongoing antisocial behaviour regarding vehicles entering Darenth woods at various ingress points are a matter of great concern. Councillor Denman is looking to prioritise a joint-representation meeting to discuss the matter and the Chairman confirmed to seek Member approval of the proposal at the September Meeting of the Parish Council.

Council Denman reported the enormous success of recent Borough activities including Pride; Dartford's Big Day Out and The Chill Out Day.

It was confirmed that the next Darenth litter pick will take place on Saturday 10 August 2024.

(b) **Kent Police Report**

Via Councillor Denman, PC Maffia reported that additional services to support Police activities had been ensured, enabling her to focus more on the Darenth community.

Also, PC Maffia is looking to host another Community Engagement exercise at a time which will hopefully encourage greater public attendance.

41/07/24: FINANCE

(a) **To consider expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy income of £2,248.80**

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the sum of £2,248.80 was received on 2 May 2023. Members were asked to note the CIL position, together with the spend criteria, and identify expenditure by 1 May 2028.

Councillors considered and approved to utilise CIL funds towards infrastructure costs, totalling £3,550.00, for localised bridlepath pothole repairs, located to the south of Greenlands Primary School. Members noted the terms for expenditure under CIL Regulation 59C, being: *"The local councils must use the CIL receipts passed to them to support the development of the local council's area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the local area."*

Under CIL Regulation 59E the Borough Council may serve a notice on the local council requiring it to repay some, or all CIL receipts that have not been applied to support development in its area, within 5 years of receipt.

Councillor Webb requested that alternative priorities within the Parish be considered for future CIL expenditure.

RESOLVED: That Members approved to use Community Infrastructure Levy income of £2,248.80 for localised bridleway infrastructure pothole repairs at Council owned land to the south of Greenlands Primary School.

(b) **Grant Applications**

To consider the **exclusion** of the **press and public** for the following item 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).

The Clerk confirmed that despite public reminders, no applications had been received. Under the terms of the Council's Grant Application Policy, the next date to consider grant applications would be October 2024.

(c) **To note Monthly Budget Analysis as at 30 June 2024**

(d) **To note Monthly Budget Analysis as at 30 June 2024**

RESOLVED: To agree and note financial records as presented.

42/07/24: TO RECEIVE UPDATE IN RESPECT OF COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

At the June 2024 meeting, the Parish Council resolved to extend an invitation to members of the public to express their interest in participating in a Community Speed Watch Programme. The invitation was publicised, requesting a response to Councillor Webb, by Friday 5th July, with any volunteer proposals or scheme conclusions being reported to Members for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

Councillor Webb confirmed no support for the programme had been received but maybe an approach could be made to Greenlands School for help with alternative speeding initiative projects in the form of pupils designing anti-speeding posters for display across the village. This type of scheme has worked in various UK areas, and it was confirmed that Councillor Webb would work with the Clerk in approaching the school to obtain their views.

RESOLVED: That, with no public responses to volunteer support for the project, no further action be taken in respect of the Community Speed Watch Programme but, an approach to Greenlands School would be made to seek support for alternative speed awareness initiatives.

43/07/24: TO CONSIDER ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION TO KENT COUNTY COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOLLOWING PUBLIC PRE-CONSULTATION

With the annual Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) due for submission to the Kent County Council (KCC) Community & Engagement Team (WEST) in August, and, following public pre-consultation to present safety concerns, Members considered proposals received for the 2024 Darenth HIP.

One request was received concerning the junction of Green Street Green Road and Sandbanks Hill (near to Manor Farm Cottages). Previous traffic collisions had, on occasion, required assistance from Kent Fire & Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service and Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey & Sussex. Longfield Academy have a bus pick-up/drop-off point opposite Manor Farm Cottages and one parent reported grave concerns regarding children crossing the main carriageway. Members noted the issue and suggested, as part of the HIP, that recommendations for lowering speeds be put forward.

With no other requests raised, Members agreed to submit the issues received for consideration by KCC's Community & Engagement Team (WEST), as part of Darenth's 2024 Highways Improvement Plan. Should any Member receive issues for consideration as part of the HIP, they would inform the Clerk before 1 August 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members approved submission of the Highways Improvement Plan 2024 as presented and asked the Clerk to submit the agreed Plan in early August.

44/07/24: TO NOTE CESSATION OF TREE-WATERING PLAN – 2021 TO 2024

Utilising Kent County Council Member Grant Funding in 2020, the Parish Council planted eight sapling trees on greens at the junction of Green Street Green Road and Shellbank Lane. A three-year watering plan was assigned for: Year one planting and water thirteen times during the growing season, with years two and three being watered seven times each year with approximately 75 litres of water. However, with some Covid restrictions in place, combined with an unusually hot, dry summer and a change of contractor towards the end of the watering plan, the saplings sadly had a difficult start in life.

With the Council currently maintaining another 312 trees throughout the Parish, Members were asked to note cessation of the watering-plan in September 2024.

Council Hicks, via the Chairman, requested that the situation be reviewed at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That Members note cessation of the Tree-Watering Plan 2021-2024 for trees located on greens at the junction of Green Street Green Road and Shellbank Lane and review the position at the September 2024 meeting of the Council.

45/07/24: POLICY CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

- (a) **To consider adoption of Fire Evacuation Policy**
- (b) **To consider adoption of Flagpole Flying Policy**

RESOLVED: To adopt new Council Policies as presented, with the Clerk submitting approved Policies to the Council's website. The Flagpole Flying Policy would be shared with Reverend Young from St Margaret's Church for her to present to the Parochial Church Council for noting.

46/07/24: PLANNING

(a) **To consider new applications**

DA/24/00776/TPO – 42 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6LX

Application to crown reduce by 30% (4.2m from height to leave at approx 10.8m in height and reduce spread by 1.5m all round-see annotated photo), prune back from property giving 2.5m clearance, crown lift to 5m above ground level and remove significant dead branches of T1 No. Lime tree to side of house subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995.

Observations: *Members noted the application*

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

DA/24/00439/FUL - 25 Watchgate Darenth Kent DA2 7JZ

Provision of a vehicle access onto B260 and excavation of front garden to create a driveway.

Decision: **PERMISSION GRANTED**

DA/23/01096/FUL Appeal Ref: APP/T2215/W/24/3342474 - 1 Lunedale Road Dartford Kent DA2 6LR

Erection of side extension and garage conversion to convert single dwelling house into 2 No. dwellinghouses

Decision: **AWAITING DECISION**

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

One new decision had been received after agenda production:

DA/24/00581/TPO - The Ship Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent

Application for Yew tree-14.5 wide-reduce crown over building by no more than 2m giving maximum clearance of 2m- back to yellow line on annotated photo-reduce crown spread over garden by no more than 3m - back to yellow line as shown on annotated photo (no crown height reduction) subject to Tree Preservation Order No.3 2023.

Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED**

47/07/24: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 18 September 2024, following Summer recess.

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