

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 20 January 2021

COVID-19 2020 Regulations Statement

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented Government measures in response to the crisis (e.g., prohibitions on gatherings, social distancing, self-isolation and shielding of those deemed to be the most vulnerable) have meant that the requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person with all members present in one place cannot currently be met. The statutory requirements for meetings are mainly contained in the Local Government Act 1972 ("the 1972 Act") and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 ("the 1960 Act").

In recognition of the difficulties of holding and attending meetings, the Government included s.78 in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and provided the Secretary of State the power to make Regulations for the provision of holding alternative format meetings.

As such, this Meeting was held under agreed terms, being to conduct the Council business remotely by Zoom with decisions recorded by the Clerk.

Councillors' participating at remote meeting: W Cook, I Gutteridge (Chairman), T Hicks, M Mahoney, S-J Mahoney, D Risely, Y Seymour and N Weavis (Vice Chairman). Councillor D Carey was unable to join the meeting, despite many attempts, due to technical difficulties.

Public present: There was one member of the public present who had registered to observe the meeting.

Ahead of the business of the meeting, The Chairman asked those present to observe a one-minute silence to remember former Waller Park caretaker, Mr Alfred Whisker, who very sadly passed away on 10 January 2021. The Chairman confirmed that Alfred would be a huge loss to the Parish Council and the Community of Darenth.

Questions from the public: The Chairman had received three questions from members of the public.

- 1) I raised the question of nuisance bikes in the Mabledon site at the December meeting and correspondence was sent but there does not seem to be any action taken. In fact, the situation has been worse. Including the gate to Mabledon being left insecure. I understand that the local PCSO is liaising with DBC but action is required. Can the Parish Council raise this nuisance to a higher level? Especially since due to COVID 19 we are currently in a national lockdown and should only going out for essential journeys.

Response: The response from the Parish Council remains the same as the previous month in that, prior to his resignation, Darenth Ward Councillor, Ian Armitt had written to Dignity Funerals Ltd, informing them that access to the Mabledon Site had been gained by breaking down the boundary fence between the site and the entrance to Darenth Country Park, which is owned and managed by Dartford Borough Council. The urgent need for fence to be repaired had already been reported and it was confirmed that Kent Police had again been made aware of the situation.

The Clerk added that she had contacted Dartford Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces Manager who confirmed that contact had been made with Dignity Funerals Ltd and urgent concerns over boundary security had been raised. The Borough would also be securing any possible entry points within their remit. A copy of (former) Councillor Armitt's letter to Dignity Funerals Ltd had been sent to the member of the public following the December meeting of the Council.

- 2) Has DPC taken any action to remove dumped tyres and other rubbish on the green, located both sides of Shellbank Lane? (Reported to DPC on 28/12/20.)

Response: The Chairman reported that no action had been taken in respect of this particular incident and, that due to the timescale involved and the closure of the Parish Office over the festive period, members of the public and Council Members are reminded and encouraged that they should report cases of fly tipping directly to the Borough Council. Full details for reporting fly tipping issues are contained on the Council's website.

- 3) Can an update be provided of the Working Groups enquiries with DBC and KCC regarding the status of the access road by the Ship?

Response: No update had been received from Kent County Council to aid progression and the Clerk would follow this up.

89/01/21: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-PARTICIPATION

Councillor Carey was unable to join the meeting remotely.

90/01/21: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

91/01/21: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REMOTE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2020 were approved and adopted as a true record.

92/01/21: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

93/01/21: FINANCE

- (a) **Precept Base for 2021-22**

RESOLVED: To note the Precept Base for 2021-22 as 1273.

- (b) **2021-22 Budget**

RESOLVED: That, having been circulated prior to the Meeting, Members approved the Budget for 2021-22 and instructed the Clerk to submit the Precept request and supporting papers to the Collecting Authority.

- (c) **Government Support Grant**

RESOLVED: To note that a Government Support Grant of £1,923 will be received in 2021-22, payable in two instalments.

- (d) **To receive Financial Statement as at 31 December 2020**

RESOLVED: Members approved the Financial Statement as presented.

94/01/21: PLANNING

- (a) **To consider Grant of Easement over Parish owned Common land for additional electricity supply to Swyres Farm**

Members unanimously granted an Easement for this cable to be placed under Parish owned Common land to aid an additional electricity supply with a proviso for any disturbed areas of Common land to be reinstated.

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

Members noted recent decisions from the Local Planning Authority:

DA/20/01409/TPO - 22 The Green, Darenth DA2 6JS

Application to reduce height (pollard) to line as marked on plan to 1 No. Sycamore tree subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995. Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED**

DA/20/01430/TPO - 58 Darenth Park Avenue, Darenth DA2 6LX

Application to raise crown over road to 6m and over footpath by 2.5m on trees, 0023, - Low canopy overhanging pavement and roadway of Latham Close, 0024 - Low canopy overhanging pavement, 0028 - Low canopy overhanging pavement and roadway of Latham Close and reduce 0028 by 2m all over, reduce 0023 by 1.5m all over subject to tree Preservation order No.1 1995. Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED**

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

Members noted recent decisions from the Local Planning Authority which had been received after production of the agenda:

DA/21/00023/RCON - Jade Unit, Darent Valley Hospital, Darenth Wood Road DA2 8DA
Application for removal of condition 6 of planning permission DA/16/00699/FUL to allow the temporary planning status to be permanent. Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED**

DA/20/01342/TPO - 38 Darenth Park Avenue, Darenth DA2 6LX

Application to reduce the overall height of the tree to approximately 3m of 1 No. Lime tree subject to tree preservation order No.1 1995. Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED**

95/01/21: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council was noted as Wednesday 17 February 2021.

96/01/21: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND 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 Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

97/01/21: TO CONSIDER FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WALLER PARK PAVILION, INCLUDING CARETAKER ACTIVITIES AND ANY ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members considered potential options for future arrangements of the Waller Park facility. Following discussion, this item was deferred until the next meeting (or sooner if practically possible). The Clerk would provide Members with outline duties required for the prospective position.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:14.