

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Remote Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 18 November 2020

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 in virtual meeting: I Gutteridge (Chairman), D Carey, M Mahoney, S-J Mahoney, D Risely, Y Seymour and N Weavis (Vice Chairman).

Public present: There were two members of the public present who had registered to observe the meeting.

70/11/20: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-PARTICIPATION

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs' Cook and Hicks.

71/11/20: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

72/11/20: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2020

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 were incorrect as Councillor Carey was not shown as in attendance. The Clerk confirmed this was an administrative error that would be rectified. The minutes were then approved and adopted as a true record.

73/11/20: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

74/11/20: FINANCE

(a) To note Annual Governance & Accountability Review together with PKF Littlejohn LLP's External Audit report and certificate for 2019-20

RESOLVED: Members noted the details of the 2019-20 Annual Governance & Accountability Review incorporating the External Audit report and certificate from PKF Littlejohn LLP.

(b) To receive Financial Statement as at 31 October 2020

RESOLVED: Members approved the Financial Statement as presented.

75/11/20: PUBLIC REALM

(a) To consider Greens Maintenance Contracts for renewal on 1 March 2021

Members discussed greens maintenance contracts for Waller Park Pavilion and Green Street Green Road verges which terminate on 28 February 2020. It was confirmed that the contract for Green Street Green be renewed on the same basis as the previous year.

However, the Waller Park Pavilion contract required review and requote prior to renewal.

RESOLVED: That the Green Street Green verge contract is renewed from 1 March 2021 for the ensuing year. The Clerk would procure quotes in respect of the Waller Park Pavilion contract for consideration prior to the 1 March 2021 renewal date.

(b) To review highways under council remit

Members were asked to consider non-maintained roads off the B260 in the location of the unoccupied Ship Public House. A proposal was made that the land cease to be a highway. However, following consideration, The Chairman proposed a Working Party be formed and further investigations made with relevant local authorities to determine an outcome. Those present initially established that as this road had been used for many years, removing public access may not be a preferred option.

It was confirmed that the Working Party would consist Councillors' D Carey, N Weavis, who was proposed as Chairman, and Lane End Ward Councillor, T Hicks. The group would also oversee completion of the greens bunding.

The Clerk would make initial contact with the Senior Project Manager (West) for Kent County Council on behalf of the Working Party.

76/11/20: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

DA/20/01249/LDC - South Darenth Cold Stores, St Margaret's Farm, St Margaret's Road Darenth DA4 9LB: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing usage - agricultural use of both building 'X' (machinery storage) and building 'Y' (grain store).
Observation: The Parish Council noted the application.

DA/20/01290/COU - Caravan Site Hillside Farm, Darenth Hill, Darenth:
Extension to existing gypsy/traveller site to provide an additional 8 pitches, comprising the siting of 1 No. mobile home and 1 No. touring caravan per pitch. As well as associated car parking, hard-surfacing, and landscaping
Observation: The Parish Council objected to the application.

DA/20/01342/TPO - 39 Darenth Park Avenue, Darenth DA2 6LX:
Application reduce the overall height of the tree to approximately 3m of 1 No. Lime tree subject to tree preservation order No.1 1995
Observation: The Parish Council noted the application.

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

Members noted the details.

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

Members noted the details.

77/11/20: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council will be Wednesday 9 December 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:04.