

# DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 15 June 2022  
Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

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**Councillor's Present:** D Carey (Vice Chairman), W Cook, I Gutteridge, T Hicks, T Prentice, D Risely, Y Seymour and N Weavis (Chairman)

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

**Visitors:** PCSO's Prior & Midford and two members of the public.

**31/06/22: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Watson-Holmes.

**32/06/22: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**  
No declarations received.

**33/06/22: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 as a true and accurate record.

**34/06/22: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**  
One Member requested that the Clerk contact the Council's greens contractor to note that the verges and wild areas at Green Street Green Road were looking very good currently.

**35/06/22: TO NOTE ANNUAL REQUEST FROM JOHN LAWSON CIRCUS TO HIRE COUNCIL GREENS DURING WEEK COMMENCING 3 APRIL 2023**  
Members noted the annual request from John Lawson Circus and looked forward to welcoming the show in 2023.

**36/06/22: TO NOTE PENSION RE-ENROLMENT WITH THE PENSIONS REGULATOR**  
With a legal duty as an employer under the Pensions Act 2008 to assess and re-enrol staff every three years, Members were advised that, in compliance with the Act, re-enrolment was carried out on 30 April 2022 and re-declaration was confirmed by The Pensions Regulator on 3 May 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That Members noted re-enrolment with The Pensions Regulator on 30 April 2022.

**37/06/22: TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT LONE WORKING POLICY; LONE WORKING RISK ASSESSMENT AND LONE WORKING PROCEDURES**  
Members were asked to consider policy, risk assessment and procedures for lone workers employed by the Parish Council.

The purpose of the policy was to alert employees to the risks presented by lone working, to identify the responsibilities each person has and to recommend procedures which will minimise such risks. It is intended to give employees a framework for managing potentially unsafe situations.

It was confirmed that the policies and procedures are also relevant to home working in line with the Council's insurance cover.

The Lone Working Risk Assessment was used to identify and evaluate hazards present in the workplace to ensure that lone workers are safe during employment. The purpose of the assessment was for line managers to mitigate risks and prevent accidents.

**RESOLVED:** To adopt the Lone Working Policy; Lone Working Risk Assessment and Lone Working Procedures.

**38/06/33: TO NOTE COMPLIANCY GAS SAFETY CHECKS IN RESPECT OF WALLER PARK FLAT**

Gas Safety Record checks were carried out by Gas-Jet Ltd on 17 May 2022 to the combination boiler and gas cooker. The Parish Council, as the landlord for the property has a duty to ensure these checks are carried out to comply with Gas Safety Regulations.

The Clerk would investigate any options for bringing future checks into line with a view to combining visits to potentially enable cost savings.

**RESOLVED:** To note Gas Safety Record checks carried out to Waller Park flat on 17 May 2022.

**39/06/22: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES**

(a) **Kent Police PCSO's Monthly Returns Sheet for May 2022**

Members noted receipt of the Monthly Returns Sheet for May 2022 and the Clerk confirmed that the details had been uploaded to the Parish website and shared via the Council's Facebook Page. The Team was aware of ongoing nuisance bike issues in the area and were continuing to issue Section 59 warnings where appropriate. It was reported that there appeared to be a decrease in calls compared to the same period in 2021.

(b) **Joint Transportation Board update from DPC representative (verbal)**

JTB representative Councillor Seymour reported that she had attended the JTB meeting on 7 June and confirmed there was nothing significant to report concerning the Darenth community. Members noted that further consultation regarding local bus routes would be held.

*Following enquiries regarding representation in Darenth, the Clerk had received the following information from Jacqueline Fuller, Acting Team Leader and Community Support Warden for Kent County Council, Dartford and Gravesham: During covid Community Wardens had provided Food Aid to the vulnerable and were currently working with Greenlands School (playground duties, giving talks etc). From*

*September 2022 Jacqueline would running an afterschool club looking at culture and diversity with the introduction of falconry*

*The Team continues to look at social and welfare aspects and make referrals to relevant agencies.*

*The Acting Team Leader has been given meeting dates and hopes to attend a future meeting to discuss work within Darenth.*

It was noted that Councillor Hicks was awaiting a report from the Darenth River Preservation Society.

**RESOLVED:** To note written and verbal reports.

**40/06/22: FINANCE**

- (a) **To note Cambridge & Counties Bank increased interest rate effective from 7 February 2022**

There was some question over how the increased interest rate details were reported by Cambridge & Counties. The Clerk would investigate and report the findings to Members.

- (b) **To agree Financial Statement as at 31 May 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the Financial Statement as presented

PCSO's Prior and Midford left the meeting.

**41/06/22: PLANNING**

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

Members noted the details as presented:

**DA/22/00549/FUL - 37 Hill Rise Darenth Kent DA2 7HX**

Erection of a single storey rear extension

*Observation: Members noted the application*

**DA/22/00617/VCON - Dimples Day Nursery Green Street Green Road Dartford Kent DA2 7HT**

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of single storey extension comprising expanded kitchen, new classroom, toilets and store (removal of condition 3 (the requirement for contaminated land assessment) and variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) and condition 5 (materials) re new materials, as stated on the drawings attached are yellow stocks and Spanish slate.

*Observation: Members noted the application*

**Neighbouring Authority Application No. DA/22/01172/FUL - Land To North And West Of Franks Farm Dartford Road Horton Kirby Kent**

Consultation on an application for erection of polytunnels and creation of new non-impounding irrigation reservoir and associated works within Sevenoaks District Council area

*Observation: Members noted the application*

**Neighbouring Authority Application No. DA/22/01173/FUL - Land To North And West Of Franks Farm Dartford Road Horton Kirby Kent**

Consultation on an application for erection of new storage and cold store building and creation of new farm access road within Sevenoaks District Council area

*Observation: Members noted the application*

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

**DA/22/00320/TPO - 16E The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JR**

Application for thinning by 35%, remove dead branches of 1 No. Pine tree subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

*Decision: CONSENT GRANTED*

**DA/21/00347/FUL - Darent Valley Hospital Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent**

Provision of a stand-alone Endoscopy unit (with a capacity for 2 procedure rooms), adjacent to the main hospital buildings, to provide an isolated facility. Plus, associated crash barrier, footpath, soft landscaping and hardstanding areas

*Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED*

**DA/21/01737/FUL - 217 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LF**

Erection of a detached garden outbuilding/annex to main house for office and leisure activities (retrospective application)

*Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED*

**DA/22/00381/FUL - 5 Littledale Green Street Green Road Dartford Kent**

Erection of a first-floor rear extension

*Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED*

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

**DA/22/00421/FUL - 126 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LH**

Erection of single storey side & rear extension to meet existing garage which is to be converted into habitable room, and extension to existing raised decking

*Observation: Members noted the application*

**DA/22/00578/TPO - 46 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6LX**

Application for T1 = To Reduce 1 X Lime Tree by 2.0/2.5 metres  
(current height is 13.0Mtrs & Width is 9.0Mtrs. We Intend the keep the  
same height but lift crown from 3.5 Mtrs to 5.5/6.0Mtrs & reduce  
crown width from 9.0 mtrs to 6.5/7.0mtrs) subject to Tree  
Preservation Order No.1 1995

*Observation: Members noted the application*

**42/06/22: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the proposed date for the next Parish Council Meeting  
would be on Wednesday 20 July 2022.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:14.