

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 21 July 2021

Councillor's Present: D Carey (Vice Chairman), W Cook, I Gutteridge, T Prentice, D Risely, Y Seymour, S Watson-Holmes and N Weavis (Chairman).

In Attendance: E Mote, Parish Clerk

Visitors: Four members of the public were present at the meeting.

There were no questions from the public present, nor any received prior to the meeting.

37/07/21: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor T Hicks and Borough Councillor Kelly.

38/07/21: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

39/07/21: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 and the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2021.

40/07/21: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One Member asked for clarification regarding Agenda Item 30/06/21. The Chairman confirmed that issues arising from this matter were now resolved.

41/07/21: URGENT MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman moved that this item be discussed in camera at the end of the meeting due to the need for financial consideration by Members.

42/07/21: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES

- (a) **Dartford Borough Councillor for Darenth**
- (b) **Darenth PCSO, Kent Police**

RESOLVED: To note external reports.

43/07/21: TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE RESPONSE IN RESPECT OF 2023 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Members considered background information provided by the Clerk with an emphasis on proposing considerations for Darenth to remain within the Dartford Parliamentary Constituency rather than move to Sevenoaks. The Clerk stressed the importance of including information regarding historical and geographical links with Dartford and would prepare a draft response for dissemination to Members. Once sanctioned, the response would be submitted to the Boundary Commission for England. The Clerk would provide the relevant BCE link to Members for them to make personal representation.

RESOLVED: To delegate responsibility to the Clerk to prepare a draft response for submission to the Boundary Commission for England by the deadline date of 2 August 2021.

44/07/21: TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING STREETLIGHT INVENTORY

Details for boundary information regarding the Fleet Estate Ward, which is no longer within the remit of Darenth following the 2018 Boundary Review, have been requested from Kent County Council. Once received, the streetlighting inventory and contract would be updated.

45/07/21: TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING NON-MAINTAINED HIGHWAY OFF B260 AT JUNCTION WITH SANDBANKS HILL

The Chairman reported confirmation that following further investigation, neither Kent County Council nor Dartford Borough Council had any interest in this non-maintained highway, although did not believe the road could be closed. It is hoped that Dartford Rural Ward Member for KCC, Councillor Kite, will attend the September meeting of the Council to update Members. The Parish Council are advised to engage the services of a solicitor to determine ownership. This motion was proposed by Councillor Carey and seconded by Councillor Seymour.

46/07/21: TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR HIRE OF DARENTH HALL

Members considered proposals but determined that regular hire of Darenth Hall would result in the loss of a valuable community amenity.

Councillor Watson-Holmes proposed a vote to resolve the matter which was seconded by Councillor Seymour: One Member voted for the proposal, six Members were against, and one Member abstained.

47/07/21: TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- a) The Chairman had received correspondence from a resident who wished to thank the Parish Council for the installation of the Ladywood Road fencing.
- b) At the May meeting of the Council, under Agenda Item 20/05/21, Members noted the retrospective decision for a storage request from external wall insulation contractors carrying out works to Borough owned properties at Hill Rise. Members had previously agreed to permit storage containers at Darenth Hall grounds. The Clerk reported that, despite contacting the contractor, no response had been received and it was therefore assumed this offer would no longer be required by the contractor.

48/07/21: FINANCE

(a) **To receive Financial Statement as at 30 June 2021**

Members agreed the financial statement as proposed by Councillor Carey and seconded by Councillor Gutteridge.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed the Financial Statement as presented. Councillor Watson-Holmes abstained.

(b) **To note Government Support Grant of £1,923 and receipt of the 1st instalment of the 2021-22 Precept payment in the sum of £38,151.00 paid on 30 April 2021**

Members noted the Government Support Grant of £1,923 and the first instalment of the 2021-22 Precept payment in the sum of £38,151.00.

(c) **To note Internal Auditor's Report 2020-21**

Having been provided with the Internal Auditor's Report, carried out on 17 June 2021, Members were asked to note its content.

RESOLVED: To note details of the Internal Auditor's Report for 2020-21 as presented.

(d) **External Audit 2020-21**

Members noted that the required documentation for the Annual Governance and Accountability Review had been submitted to External Auditor PKF Littlejohn on 19 June 2021.

(e) **Financial Regulations**

Following the 2020-21 Internal Audit Report, Members were asked to approve and adopt the amendment to Regulation 4.5 of the Council's Financial Regulations to note that 'In cases of extreme risk to the delivery of council services, the clerk may authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the council which in the clerk's judgement it is necessary to carry out. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement, or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure. The Responsible Finance Officer, having consulted with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, may authorise payment for emergency works and report to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter'.

RESOLVED: That Members approved adoption of amendment to Regulation 4.5 of the Council's Financial Regulations as presented.

(f) **To note commencement of The 2020 Tree Project**

The Parish Council, having been successful in obtaining a Kent County Council Combined Member Grant from Councillor J Kite, received £5,168.00 on 16 February 2021. Members were reminded that The 2020 Tree Project followed requests from residents for sustainable tree planting on the busy B260 main road with a view to helping mitigate the pollution from car emissions. The Project would see trees planted which are dedicated to the many NHS staff, keyworkers, carers, support staff and volunteers who worked and continue to work tirelessly in the battle against COVID. The funding also incorporates a three-year watering timetable and tree maintenance component to ensure trees are expertly cared for whilst they are establishing. The location for planting will be at greens on the B260.

The Clerk informed Members that, following consultation with the Council's tree contractor, planting could be carried out in late September/early October. Confirmation of tree varieties should be provided to SL TreeCare Ltd in mid-August so that an order can be placed. It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of Councillors' Cook, Hicks (considering his role as portfolio Member for Public Realm) and Prentice will liaise with the contractor to determine suitable locations for planting. The re-establishment of the Community and Facilities Committee was proposed by Councillor Watson-Holmes and seconded by Councillor Carey. The Clerk would arrange for the sub-committee to contact SL TreeCare Ltd and make a report to Full Council at the September meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members note commencement of The 2020 Tree Project for planting of sustainable trees, ongoing maintenance and watering plan on Parish owned greens, following Kent County Council Combined Member Grant Funding in the sum of £5,168.00.

49/07/21: TO ACKNOWLEDGE INCIDENT INVOLVING TETHERED PONY AT HILL RISE GREEN

Members were asked to note a recent case concerning a pony being left to graze at the Hill Rise green open space. This land does not fall under the remit of the Parish Council and the matter was reported to Dartford Borough Council as owners of the land in question.

RESOLVED: That Members noted the matter regarding a tethered pony on Dartford Borough Council owned land and acknowledged the Hill Rise green space is not a Parish Council responsibility.

50/07/21: PLANNING

(a) **To consider new applications**

DA/21/00137/COU - Land Adjacent Kentwood House Darenth Road Darenth

Change of use of former agricultural land to mixed use as a hobby farm and for keeping of horses. Removal of some of the existing buildings. Erection of an agricultural barn

Observation: Members objected to the application and comments would be submitted to the Local Planning Authority

DA/21/00940/FUL - 186 Coombfield Drive Darenth DA2 7LH

Erection of a first-floor side/rear extension

Observation: Members noted the application

DA/21/10141/CDNA - Land Adjacent 17 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LG

Submission of details relating to landscaping, refuse and cycle stores pursuant to condition 5 of planning permission DA/19/01711/FUL (granted on appeal) for demolition of existing double garage and erection of an attached 3-bed dwelling with associated parking, amenity space and landscaping

Observation: Members noted the application

DA/21/00879/CDNA - Land Adjacent 17 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LG

Submission of details relating to levels pursuant to condition 3 of planning permission DA/19/01711/FUL (granted on appeal) for demolition of existing double garage and erection of an attached 3-bed dwelling with associated parking, amenity space and landscaping

Observation: Members noted the application

DA/21/10141/CDNA - Land Adjacent 17 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LG

Submission of details relating to external materials pursuant to condition 4 of planning permission DA/19/01711/FUL (granted on appeal) for demolition of existing double garage and erection of an attached 3-bed dwelling with associated parking, amenity space and landscaping

Observation: Members noted the application

DA/21/01072/TPO - Adjacent 35 The Green North of Recreation Ground Darenth DA2 6JS

Application for T1, T2 & T3 (Sycamore Trees) to be reduced by 2.5m, cutting back overhanging branches to the boundary fence (intended finished dimensions for all three height of 12.5m approx and a width of 7.5m approx) subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

Observation: Members noted the application

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

Members noted the details as presented:

DA/21/00648/FUL - Eebs Stables Trollingdown Hill Green Street Green Road Dartford Kent DA2 6N

Provision of 3 No. mobile homes, partial conversion of existing stables as a utility room, and ancillary hard standing and parking provision (part retrospective)

Decision: APPLICATION REFUSED

DA/21/00482/FUL - 91 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LE

Demolition of existing side garage and conservatory to rear, and erection of single storey side and rear extension with pitched roofs and front porch

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/21/00356/FUL - TWA Water Works Green Street Green Road Dartford

Removal of existing two storey demountable office building and erection of single storey demountable office building

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/21/00673/FUL - 20 The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JS

Erection of a front porch

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/20/01610/FUL - Parking Area Rear Of 25 And 27 Sinclair Way Darenth

Erection of a detached store for use by 59 Sinclair Way

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

DA/21/00789/FUL - 137 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LF

Erection of a single storey rear extension

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

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

Members made the following observation:

DA/21/01152/TPO - 19 The Green

Application for T2 Lime - Overall crown reduction of 2-2.5m height and approx. 1-1.5m from the lateral spread (annotated PDF), Remove any dead branches (exempt works) & remove all epicormic growth up to 3m measured from ground level (to cut size 25mm) subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

Observation: The Parish Council had no objection to the application

51/07/21: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the proposed date for the next meeting of the Council would be Wednesday 15 September 2021.

The following item had been moved to the end of the meeting for Members to discuss decisions involving Council finances.

41/07/21: URGENT MATTERS ARISING

Electrical quotes for upgrade work to Waller Park Pavilion were considered and a preferred option determined. Proposed by Councillor Cook and seconded by Councillor Carey.

Members approved purchase of new goalposts following the theft of eight posts in June 2021. Proposed by Councillor Watson-Holmes and seconded by Councillor Weavis.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.