

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 19 July 2023
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillor's Present: I Armitt, T Hicks, K Holmes, S Holmes, S Oke, T Prentice and D Risely.

In Attendance: E Mote.

Visitors: Three members of the public.

Due to severe traffic problems locally, the Vice Chairman delayed commencement of the meeting to 19:34.

159/07/23: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Chairman, Councillor N Weavis, and Councillor I Gutteridge.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillor I Armitt, took the Chair.

160/07/23: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

161/07/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2023

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023. Proposed by Councillor T Hicks and seconded by Councillor K Holmes.

162/07/23: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairman moved that the following items would be considered, and confirmed their position on the Agenda:

1. **Trees on Wood Lane/Waller Park boundary** – as part of Public Realm Agenda Item 165/07/23
2. **Planning Application DA/23/00344/FUL - Land To The Rear Of Hawks Crane Hires Ltd Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent DA2 8DX** - to consider response to Local Planning Authority under Planning Agenda Item 168/07/23 (a)

163/07/23: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES; AGENCIES; COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

(a) **Borough Councillor Report**

Councillor P Denman provided a verbal report.

Key points included:

Hobby Farm planning enforcement; Wood Lane fly-tipping; Wood Lane car park; planted triangle at Ridgeway; antisocial behaviour from motorcycles; Ladywood Road tree incursion; Ladywood Road woodland access; community litter picks and an update on the Hill Rise play area.

19:40 – Councillor Prentice joined the meeting as he had been stuck in traffic.

(b) **Update from the Streetlights Sub Committee**

Members were asked to consider and agree proposed correspondence to the Head of Legal Services at Dartford Borough Council requesting meaningful engagement with the Parish Council in order that the matter of streetlight ownership, following the 2018 Boundary Review, could be resolved under Provision 16 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Public Health Act 2007.

A document amendment in respect of 'Lane End' ward which should have stated 'Fleetdown' Ward was noted and agreed by Members.

RESOLVED: To agree submission of letter to Head of Legal Services at Dartford Borough Council requesting engagement regarding streetlight ownership under Provision 16 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Public Health Act 2007.

(c) **Update from the Bunding Review Working Party**

Members were asked to give consideration to scheme proposals received as part of a Member Briefing Paper.

Thames Water offered the installation of temporary bunding to Council land to aid safe access to their site for staff and visitors.

Members discussed the installation of wooden bollards to grass verges to the west of the Thames Water site to prevent dangerous parking and unauthorised access to the greens.

The Parish Council would ask Greenlands School to inform parents to observe safe parking practices outside the school premises.

The Working Party will ensure that the Chairman and Vice Chairman are informed and updated in respect of progress.

RESOLVED: That the Council's preferred option is to reinstate bunding materials to Council owned land and give delegated authority to the Clerk and Working Party to obtain quotes and carry out work for the desired scheme.

(d) **Borough & Parish Council Forum**

Councillor Oke provided feedback from the Forum meeting held on 4 July 2023. The meeting had been well attended and included updates on Kent County Council issues plus a presentation from Digital Kent in

respect of digital inclusion and capabilities for local communities. It was reported that meetings of the Borough & Parish Council Forum may be less frequent going forward and Councillor Oke would confirm this at a later date.

The Chairman thanked representatives for their reports.

RESOLVED: To note all reports and action relevant decisions.

164/07/23: TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A DISPENSTATION FOR A PERIOD OF SIX-MONTHS FROM ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR COUNCILLOR NICK WEAVIS BY REASON OF ILLNESS AND TO GRANT AN EXTENSION FOR THE SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Members were asked to consider and agree granting a dispensation to Councillor Nick Weavis from attending meetings of the Council for a six-month period by reason of illness.

Members discussed and considered the implications of a six-month dispensation and unanimously agreed the same together with granting of an extension for the signing of the Chairman's Acceptance of Office Form for the same timeframe.

RESOLVED: To grant a dispensation to Councillor Nick Weavis from attending meetings of the Council for a six-month period by reason of illness and to grant an extension for the signing of his Acceptance of Office Form.

165/07/23: PUBLIC REALM

1. Highways Improvement Plan Proposal

Members agreed to submit the proposals formerly agreed at the June Meeting of the Parish Council. It was noted that Greenlands School would also be submitting a travel plan to Kent County Council and would share the same with the Parish Council.

Members considered and agreed an approach to the Kent County Council's Dartford Rural Ward Member to replace missing school signs on the B260.

RESOVLED: To submit agreed proposals to Kent County Council's Road Safety Engineering Project Team for consideration as part of Darenth Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan.

The Chairman confirmed that following agreement under Agenda Item 162/07/23, being Items for Consideration, the following would be discussed:

2. Trees on Wood Lane/Waller Park boundary

The Parish Office received notification on Monday 17 July, including photographic evidence, of a branch that had fallen into the rear garden of a Wood Lane property. This was treated as an urgent matter and a quote sought, and approved by the Clerk, from Omega Tree Care Ltd for the removal and full clearing of debris from the property.

A Tree Management Plan conducted by Alltree Consultancy Ltd in October 2022 in respect of every Parish owned tree, confirmed that all report recommendations had been noted, approved and resulting

work carried out in March 2023. The tree in question had not required immediate works and appeared healthy at the time of inspection.

Members were asked to consider a request to instruct the Clerk to commission an interim tree survey to confirm the current state of the tree and to instruct additional works as required.

RESOLVED: To delegate authority to the Clerk to take action as required.

166/07/23: TO RECEIVE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT KENT MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2024-2039 AND THE DRAFT KENT MINERAL SITES PLAN

Members were asked to note receipt of the consultation previously supplied and consider any response.

RESOLVED: To note the details of the consultation with no response.

167/07/23: FINANCE

(a) **Delegated Authority**

Members were asked to agree that, in the absence of an August Meeting of the Council, delegated authority to make a decision on any matter be given to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in conjunction with the Clerk. It was also noted that if a decision be required on a financial matter, that this authority be extended to include the Portfolio Member for Finance. Councillor S Holmes requested that all members be notified of any financial decisions made under delegated authority.

RESOLVED: To delegate authority and report to Members as agreed.

(b) To agree monthly financial statement as at 30 June 2023

RESOLVED: To agree the statement as presented.

(c) To note budget position as at 30 June 2023

RESOLVED: To note the budget position as presented.

(d) To note increase in the interest rate for 60 Day Notice Business Account with Cambridge & Counties Bank

RESOLVED: To note interest increase rate.

168/07/23: PLANNING

(a) **To consider new applications**

DA/23/00771/TPO – Rear Of 28 Moore Close Darenth Kent DA2 6NN

Application for T1 - Removal subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

DA/23/00802/FUL - 9 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6JN

Conversion of integral garage to habitable room with associated alterations to front elevation

DA/23/00829/FUL - 158 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LH

Conversion of existing attached garage to habitable room comprising raising height of existing wall and roof and erection of a single storey infill extension to rear

Observations: *Members noted the details in respect of new applications received.*

The Chairman confirmed that following agreement under Agenda Item 162/07/23, being Items for Consideration, the following would be discussed:

DA/23/00344/FUL - Land To The Rear Of Hawks Crane Hires Ltd Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent DA2 8DX

Erection of a light industrial building for 3D printing (E Class)

Observations: *Members noted the details.*

(b) **To consider proposed observations for Planning Application DA/23/00497/FUL – Lanes End Farm, Darenth Hill, Darenth DA2 7QY**

Proposed Development: Change of use of agricultural building and land for dog day care (Sui Generis), including the provision of hardstanding, fencing and alterations to existing building.

Members were asked to consider and agree proposed response to the Planning Authority with any amendments being sent to the Clerk and shared with Members, ahead of submission.

RESOVLED: To agree observation comments and submit to the Planning Authority.

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

DA/23/00315/FUL - 31 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LE

Demolition of existing rear conservatory, erection of a single storey rear and side extension and a part garage conversion including pitched roof and alteration to front elevation.

*Decision: **PERMISSION GRANTED***

DA/23/00484/FUL - 111 Ladywood Road Darenth Kent DA2 7LP

Erection of a first-floor side extension and loft conversion with five rooflights to front and rear roof slopes in connection with providing additional rooms in the roof space

*Decision: **PERMISSION GRANTED***

DA/23/00612/FUL - 87 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6LX

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension

*Decision: **PERMISSION GRANTED***

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

The following application was received and discussed under Agenda Item 168/07/23 (a):

DA/23/00344/FUL - Land To The Rear Of Hawks Crane Hires Ltd Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent DA2 8D

169/07/23: TO FORMALLY NOTE CONCLUSION OF BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023

Following production of the final report and recommendations in respect of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England, The Boundary Commission confirmed that the concluded constituencies, once approved by the Privy Council, will be used for the next General Election. Members noted that the proposed constituency for Darenth is now the Dartford Parliamentary Constituency.

RESOLVED: To note conclusion of the 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review.

170/07/23: TO FORMALLY NOTE RECRUITMENT OF NEW FACILITY COORDINATOR FOR DARENTH VILLAGE HALL ON 03 JULY 2023

Members noted the recruitment of our new staff member at Darenth Hall and extended a warm welcome to her. Members also wished to thank the Waller Park Grounds & Facilities Warden for his help with our new recruit.

171/07/23: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 20 September 2023 following the August recess.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.58.