

# DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 18 January 2023  
Jubilee Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

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*The Chairman reminded the Meeting of the protocol regarding the audio and visual recording of proceedings.*

The Chairman opened the meeting and announced a suspension of proceedings for 15 minutes to allow a request for regular hire of Jubilee Pavilion to be proposed by The Cottage Community. Members were invited to ask questions, but this item would not form part of the meeting.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting and proposed that Members may wish to consider The Cottage Community proposal further at the end of the meeting under the Exclusion of the Press & Public due to the nature of the item. Councillor D Carey seconded this recommendation, and The Chairman confirmed this action for the purpose of the Minutes.

**Councillor's Present:** D Carey, W Cook, T Hicks, S Holmes, T Prentice, D Risely and N Weavis (Chairman).

**In Attendance:** E Mote.

**Visitors:** PCSO Prior, three Trustees from The Cottage Community, one Dartford Borough/Longfield Parish representative and six members of the public.

**94/01/23: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Gutteridge and Seymour.

**95/01/23: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**  
Councillor S Holmes declared an interest in Agenda Item 101/01/23(d) in respect of payment for greens maintenance to GSG Services Ltd.

No other declarations were received.

**96/01/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022 AND FORMALLY NOTE, DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE CANCELLATION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022 and formally note, due to severe weather conditions, the cancellation of the Council Meeting on 14 December 2022.

**97/01/23: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES**

- (a) Darenth PCSO, Linda Prior from the Neighbourhood Policing Team reported on the forthcoming Kent Police restructure which will see 6 PCSO's per Borough working collaboratively with Beat Officers. This initiative will be implemented on 05 June 2023.

PCSO Prior also asked it to be noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Team were no longer required to provide the Parish Council with Council Returns but that data for Darenth could be accessed via the Kent Police website.

- (b) Councillor P Denman from Longfield Parish Council informed the meeting of forthcoming Warm Hubs for vulnerable families taking place in neighbouring Longfield Parish.
- (c) Councillor T Hicks in his role as Chairman of the Streetlights Sub-Committee reported that, following written communication with Brent Ward Councillors' R Currans and A Sandhu, Councillor A Sandhu proposed a meeting with Kent County Council but there was nothing further to report currently.

**RESOLVED:** To note information received.

**98/01/23: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Issues that have arisen or been raised since agenda production:

*The Chairman verified that the details of The Cottage Community request had been confirmed as part of the Minutes and would be discussed under Agenda Item: 104/01/23 – Exclusion of the Press & Public.*

**99/01/23: TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION/UPGRADE OF CCTV EQUIPMENT**

Members were asked to consider quotes for the installation of a new CCTV system or a part-upgrade of the current equipment at the Darenth Hall facility.

Following discussion, Members opted for the quotation from AJ Security Installations in the sum of £1,288. This sum includes one year's free service.

**RESOLVED:** To confirm preferred contractor and instruct The Clerk to confirm required works as per the quotation from AJ Security Installations.

**100/01/23: TO NOTE INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR PARISH STREETLIGHTS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2023-24**

The Parish Council's appointed contractor, Streetlights, provided details of a 5% cost increase in streetlight maintenance for 2023-24. The current annual costs are paid in two instalments of £1,233.36 in May and October.

Members agreed the increase in principle, pending updated contract details from the contractor.

**RESOLVED:** To agree a 5% price increase in streetlight maintenance costs from May 2023, in principle, and confirm Contract details with Streetlights.

## **101/01/23: FINANCE**

- (a) **To note Precept Base Rate set by Dartford Borough Council on 12 December 2022, approve the Budget for 2023-24 and to set a Precept for the financial year 2023-24**

Having received confirmation of the Precept Base and details of the Government of Support Grant, Members were asked to approve the Budget for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix A and to set a Precept of £80,022 for the financial year 2023-24 noting, for information, that this represents an increase of 3% and equates to £61.89 for property within Council Tax Band D.

**RESOLVED:** That, having been circulated to Members as an Appendix to the Agenda, the Budget for the financial year 2023/24 was approved and the Precept for the year accordingly set at £80,022. It was noted that the Precept reflected an increase of 3% and that the resultant charge for a property within Council Tax Band D would be £61.89. Members noted the confirmed Government Support Grant of £1,923.

- (b) **To formally note the cost for emergency plumbing works of £1,340.41, paid on 20 December 2022 for the repair a water leak at Darenth Hall in November 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To formally note retrospective costs of £1,117.01 + £223.40 VAT in respect of essential urgent works at Darenth Hall to fix and repair ageing pipework

- (c) **To note interest rate increase on 60 Day Business Notice Account with Cambridge & Counties**

Members noted the interest increase for the Parish Council's 60 Day Business Notice Account from 2.05% to 2.35%, effective from 6 December 2022.

- (d) **To agree Financial Statements as at 30 November and 31 December 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To agree Financial Statements as presented.

## **102/01/23: PLANNING**

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

### **DECEMBER**

#### **DA/22/01293/FUL - Land Adjacent Ryecroft Farm Green St Green Rd**

Erection of stables/barn (revisions to previously approved planning permission DA/18/00734/COU) (retrospective application)

#### **DA/22/01344/FUL - The Lodge Darenth Hill Darenth DA2 7QR**

Part demolition and change of use of existing outbuilding as separate dwelling and subdivision of plot including parking provision, cycle store and refuse store and creation of new vehicular access

#### **DA/22/01402/FUL - 72 Watchgate Darenth DA2 7JY**

Erection of a single storey rear extension to existing retail unit at Watchgate Minimart

## **JANUARY**

### **DA/22/01492/FUL - 2 Lunedale Road Darenth DA2 6LR**

Erection of a single storey rear extension

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

### **DA/22/01291/TPO - 18 The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JS**

Application for 1 No Horse Chestnut tree -reduce tree by 2.5 metres in height and 1.5m in width as per annotated photo subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

*Decision: **CONSENT REFUSED** on the grounds that proposed works to Horse Chestnut Tree is unnecessary and unjustified on arboricultural grounds.*

### **DA/16/00479/CDNA - Plots 4, 5 And 6 Knoxfield Caravan Park Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent**

Submission of details relating to a scheme for foul and surface water drainage of the site; site access arrangements; the internal layout of the site including the siting of caravans; hardstandings; parking, amenity and play areas; tree, hedge and shrub planting including details of species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and densities; waste and manure disposal; facilities for the storage and collection of refuse and waste; the management arrangements for the site pursuant to condition 2 of planning permission DA/13/00536/COU for change of use of land for the stationing of sixteen caravans.

*Decision: **REFUSED THE DETAILS** on the grounds that the layout details show caravans exceeding the maximum number permitted at this site and the caravans are too close to each other resulting in an increased fire hazard.*

### **DA/21/00126/LBC - The Clock House Green Street Green Road Dartford Kent**

Application for listed building consent to repair and restore roof structure, reinstate parapet wall to roof, replace roof tiles and repair and restore gable wall.

*Decision: **CONSENT GRANTED***

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

### **DA/23/00024/FUL - Darent Valley Hospital Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent DA2 8DA**

Two new plant rooms with associated works and ducting, one on the existing flat roof of the hospital at level 3 and one to the south of the main hospital buildings.

**Observations:** Members noted the application

## **103/01/23: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The proposed date for the next Meeting of the Council is Wednesday 15 February 2023.

**104/01/23: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & 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 the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2).

**105/01/23: TO PARISH CLERK REVIEW**

The Clerk left the meeting.

Members approved certain elements of the Clerk's Review.

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