

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Virtual Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15 July 2020

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

Councillors' participating via email: W Cook and T Hicks

Public present: There were two members of the public observing the virtual meeting.

31/07/20: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-PARTICIPATION

Apologies for non-participation of the virtual meeting were received from Cllrs' Cook and Hicks and email responses were submitted by both. No response was received from Cllr Carey.

32/07/20: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33/07/20: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 17 June 2020 were approved and adopted as a true record.

34/07/20: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

35/07/20: URGENT MATTERS ARISING

Members were asked to consider the following items in addition to the published Agenda.

(a) To consider and note the External Auditor's Report for 2018-19

Member's present at the virtual meeting noted the details of the External Auditor's Report for 2018-19. Councillor Hicks provided written confirmation that he had considered and noted the report. Councillor Cook did not respond to the item.

(b) To note and agree revised figures to page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019-20

Members were provided with revisions to page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year 2019-20. The revised figures were considered by those present at the virtual meeting and duly noted. Councillor Hicks gave written validation of the amendments, Councillor Cook did not respond to this item.

(c) To consider and approve new Habitual or Vexatious Complaints Policy

Members at the virtual meeting considered the new policy document and unanimously approved its adoption. With no previous policy in place, the Clerk recommended its adoption. Councillor Hicks provided email endorsement of his support for the approval of the new policy. Councillor Cook did not respond to this item.

36/07/20: FINANCE

(a) To approve Annual Governance & Accountability Review together with

As the Parish Council is required to perform a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an annual governance statement in accordance with proper

practices in relation to accounts, Members considered and approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Review as presented, including revised figures for page 5.

(b) Accounts for 2019-20

Members considered and agreed the Accounts for 2019-20.

(c) To approve Internal Control Policy

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 states that a Council shall be responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes arrangements for risk management.

Member reviewed, approved and adopted the Internal Control Policy for the Parish Council.

(d) To receive Financial Statement as at 30 June 2020

Members approved the Finance Statement as presented.

37/07/20: GREENS

(a) To review location of designated wild areas at Waller Park Pavilion

Councillor S-J Mahoney had asked for clarification of locations for designated wild areas at Waller Park Pavilion. It was suggested that these areas may look more aesthetically pleasing if they surrounded bases of trees. The Clerk confirmed that under the current Greens Contract, swathes on banks are left uncut during June and July to encourage growth of flora and fauna.

The Chairman suggested that this item be deferred pending consultation with the Contractor. Members agreed deferral to the September meeting of the Council when it would be discussed further.

Councillor Cook had indicated via email that he was happy to defer the item and thought that areas should be cut on occasions to stop them looking shabby as it is a park.

38/07/20: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

DA/20/00682/FUL - Radar Cottage Sandbanks Hill Darenth DA2 8EH

Demolition of existing dwelling, removal of storage container and caravan, and erection of detached dwelling and associated parking and amenity space provision.

The Clerk provided Members with the following details for consideration:

Whilst the proposed new building replaces an existing one the size, bulk and mass is considered to result in an overdevelopment bearing in mind that the site falls within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Concern also exists over the appearance of the proposed build which is considered to have an adverse effect on the openness of the Green Belt.

Members approved the comments for submission to the Local Planning Authority.

DA/20/00759/FUL - 29 Moore Close Darenth DA2 6NN

Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of rear part of garage to habitable room.

Councillor Cook submitted the following comment by email "*Building on Green Belt and doing away with a garage in a non-parking area really isn't desirable*".

Members registered no objection to the application.

(b) **To note recent decisions and appeals made by the Planning Authority**
Members noted recent decisions made by the Local Planning Authority.

(c) **To consider new applications/recent decisions received after agenda production**
No further applications/recent decisions were received after publication of the agenda.

39/07/20: CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had made enquiries with ALS Civils Ltd regarding bunding installation to the Green outside The Ship and also with Kent County Council in respect of repairs to the non-maintained highway. Members would be updated as soon as possible.

Councillor Cook emailed the following comment *"This is an area of complete confusion between Darenth Parish Council and Kent County Council. It needs to be sorted out as soon as possible. We need KCC to put their views in writing so that we know where we stand"*.

Councillor Hicks' email submission *"KCC could possibly meet at site or acknowledge the situation as insurance issues might arise"*.

40/07/20: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council is Wednesday 16 September 2020.

There being no further business, the virtual meeting of the Council closed at 7:48pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Chairman)