

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 15 October 2025
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillors Present: I Armitt, T Hicks, K Holmes, S Holmes (Vice Chairman), G Manuel, D Risely, N Weavis (Chairman) and K Webb

Also Present: E Mote, Parish Clerk
Councillor P Denman, Dartford Borough Councillor for Darenth
One member of the public

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

73/10/25: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor T Prentice.

74/10/25: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

75/10/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 September 2025 as a true record.

76/10/25: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairman confirmed no urgent items had been raised for Member consideration and approval.

77/10/25: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND WORKING GROUPS

(a) Kent County Council Report

KCC Councillor, Michael Brown, was not present at the meeting.

(b) Dartford Borough Council Report

Councillor Paul Denman reported the following casework matters: Darenth Woods palisade fencing installation; fencing at the top of Wood Lane repaired by Dartford Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team; a meeting to be held in December at The Yew Tree (further details would follow); potential youth activities to start at Acacia Hall; update on the Dartford Borough Council General Assembly meeting held on Monday 13 October; crimes concerning catapult incidents in Darenth.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Denman for his informative report.

(c) Kent County Council Community Warden Report

Members, having previously received the October 2025 Report provided by Community Warden Joanne Appleton, duly noted the contents.

(d) Greenlands School Parking - Working Group Report

The Working Group reported that the school had conducted a survey with parents regarding car park barriers and the results had been positive. Discussion had taken place regarding arrangements for

dropping off and a separate route proposed for those wishing to use the car park. Before committing to any firm plans, a date for summer 2026 was set to review all matters.

78/10/25: FINANCE

(a) To note receipt of 2nd half precept amount in the sum of £45,281.00 received on 26 September 2025

(b) To consider Grant Applications

Members noted that no applications had been received.

(c) Insurance renewal

Members noted renewal of Parish Council insurance due on 9 November 2025 with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited, at a cost of £4,537.51 for the annual premium and tax of £544.50 resulting in a total payable of £5,082.01.

The Clerk proposed that an option for paying monthly instalments by direct debit be implemented for the 2025 insurance renewal under a Long-Term Agreement of three years.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk renews the policy for the ensuing year and informs the council's insurers of the decision to pay by monthly direct debit under a Long-Term Agreement option of three years.

(d) To agree Monthly Bank Analysis as at 30 September 2025

(e) To note Monthly Budget Analysis as at 30 September 2025

(f) To note interest rate change for the Cambridge & Counties 60-Day Business Notice Account

Members noted that the current rate of 3.30% Gross/AER (monthly 3.251%) variable will change to 3.00% Gross/AER (monthly 2.960%) variable, from 5 December 2025.

(g) To note Yorkshire Gas Power's Regulated Asset Base Charge

Members noted that the electricity supplier for Darenth Hall had notified the Parish Council of a new charge, effective from the 1st of November called the Nuclear Regulated Asset Base (RAB) charge.

RESOLVED: To agree and note financial records, reports and information as presented.

79/10/25: TO DISCUSS PARISH LITTER BINS

Members, having received a written report from Councillor Webb, considered the options and proposals. It was agreed that the Clerk contacts the Council's greens maintenance contractor to determine scheduling of cuts. If it is practical to receive this information, community litter picks can be coordinated to coincide with work at parish greens.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Ministry of Justice Community Payback team to see if supervised community service groups could help collect litter on parish land.

RESOLVED: That Members noted the report and agreed relevant actions including liaising with the Council's greens contractor, contacting the Ministry of Justice Community Payback team and reviewing matters in three-months, whereafter the Council will discuss and agree next actions and propose any new bin locations.

80/10/25: TO RECEIVE UPDATE IN RESPECT OF WALLER PARK WOODEN GARAGE DOORS

Having previously noted reports of deterioration to the large wooden garage doors, approval was sought at the September 2025 meeting of the Council to source quotes for their imminent and necessary replacement was approved by Members.

One Member, having previously suggested that the greens maintenance contractor could be responsible for half of the costs, had contacted Omega Tree Care Ltd. However, it was established that the building is owned by the Parish Council, and the current greens maintenance contract permits equipment storage

provided it is insured by the contractor. Members resolved that the matter of approving necessary works on the doors be deferred to the November meeting of the Council to allow time for quotes to be sourced.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed that quotes to repair the Waller Park machinery garage doors be sourced and presented at the November meeting and, as the garage is a Council owned property, they would be responsible for repair costs.

81/10/25: TO RECEIVE UPDATE IN RESPECT OF PARISH DOG WASTE BINS

At the September 2025 meeting, the Council agreed to audit and review potential needs for new bins and report findings at the October meeting.

Councillors Manuel and Kelly reported potential locations for consideration as:

1. At the top of Wood Lane
2. Opposite the coop near the bus shelter
3. At the bottom of the slope (near the bridge that goes over the road near the school)
4. As close to the road on Green Street Green opposite the opening to the farmers field, opposite 28 Watchgate

Members agreed the addition of three new bins in locations 2/3/4 and Councillor Paul Denman would look into sourcing a waste bin for location 1. Following further discussion, Members resolved to add a waste bin at Darenth Road South and the Clerk would contact Kent County Council regarding its location.

The Clerk confirmed with Dartford Borough Council (DBC) Waste Management that they will empty additional bins free of charge but will not be responsible for any future bin replacements. It was agreed to purchase larger bins provided DBC agree to their collection.

RESOLVED: To install four new dog waste bins, three located on Green St Green Rd and one at Darenth Road South.

82/10/25: TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Councillor Manuel provided Members with details of a proposed Christmas Lights Competition which would invite Darenth residents to decorate their home with a festive theme, thereby automatically entering them into the competition. A hamper would be purchased as a prize for the winner and Members approved a poster advertising the contest.

Councillor Manuel also confirmed that local florist, CJ Love, would kindly donate Christmas trees to be located at Green St Green Rd. Members confirmed the purchase of solar lights and installation poles/hooks for the decorating of the trees.

RESOLVED: Members noted the proposals for a Christmas Lights Competition and approved purchase of the necessary supplies and prizes.

83/10/25: PLANNING

(a)

(a) To consider new applications

25/01043/TPO - 27 Darenth Park Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6JN

Application for G1 - Pair of Himalayan Birch to be reduced by no more than 1.2m and lightly thin by 10%, subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995.

Observations: Members noted the application.

25/01123/FUL - 10 Littledale Green Street Green Rd Darenth Kent DA2 7HU

Erection of a part single/part two storey rear extension & internal alterations.

Observations: Members noted the application.

25/01128/FUL – Savigny Darenth Hill Darenth Kent DA2 7QR

Erection of a part single storey/part two storey rear extension.

Observations: The Parish Council notes that the Application mirrors one previously submitted that was refused on the grounds that the proposed extension would be:

- 'bulky and discordant additions' and
- 'disproportionate addition to the original building that would constitute inappropriate development within the Green Belt'

Whilst the Parish Council has some sympathy for the Applicant's desire to increase the property's living space and notes that this Application seeks to address the above it still considers that the reasons for the previous refusal remain.

DA/25/01068- Land At Darenth Hill Darenth DA2 7QY

P3R PRIOR APPROVAL NOTICE

Application under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as to whether prior approval is required for proposed conversion of the existing barn into an office (Class E(g)(i)).

Observations: Members noted the application.

(b) To note recent decisions and appeals

DA/25/00584/COU - Land Adjacent Ryecroft Farm Green St Green Rd Darenth Kent

Conversion of existing building into a one-bedroom dwelling (Use Class C3)

Decision: PERMISSION REFUSED

DA/25/00711/FUL - 17 Powell Avenue Darenth Kent DA2 6NT

Change of use of land to residential garden and provision of a hard standing for vehicle parking with dropped kerb.

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

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

No new applications were received after agenda publication.

84/10/25: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 19 November 2025.

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