

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 15 April 2026
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillors Present: K Holmes, S Holmes (Vice Chairman), G Manuel, T Prentice, D Risely, and N Weavis (Chairman)

Also Present: E Mote, Parish Clerk and Proper Officer, Darenth Parish Council
Councillor P Denman, Dartford Borough Council
PC K Swan, Kent Police, Dartford Neighbourhood Team
One member of the public

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

138/04/26: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Armitt, T Hicks and K Webb.

139/04/26: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

No declarations of disposable pecuniary or prejudicial interest were received.

140/04/26: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 as a true record.

141/04/26: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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

142/04/26: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND WORKING GROUPS

(a) Dartford Borough Council Report

Councillor Denman updated the meeting over ongoing concerns regarding the antisocial behaviour of motorcycles in Darenth and Darenth Country Park. He continues to report issues through appropriate mediums.

The devolution process continues towards a go-live date of April 2028 for new unitary councils formed from 2025 proposals.

(b) Kent County Council Community Warden Report

No report was received for April as the Community Warden had been on annual leave. It was confirmed that a report would be submitted in May 2026.

(c) **Greenlands School Parking - Working Group Report**

Councillors Holmes and Manuel confirmed there was no progress regarding parking solutions to report, and the Working Group were awaiting a reply from Greenlands School.

Verbal update from PC Swan, Kent Police – Dartford Neighbourhood Team

PC Swan gave updates regarding Neighbourhood Team training for untaxed vehicles and ongoing antisocial behaviour of motorcycles in Darenth and Darenth Country Park.

The Chairman thanked contributors present for their reports.

RESOLVED: To note reports as presented.

143/04/26: FINANCE

(a) **To consider Grant Applications received**

The Clerk confirmed that no applications had been received for consideration.

(b) **To note monthly Finance Statements**

RESOLVED: To agree and note financial statements as at 31 March 2026.

144/04/26: TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING BRIDLEWAYS WITHIN THE PARISH

Councillors K Holmes and Prentice inspected bridleways near Greenlands School and Dene Yard, noting deterioration. A contractor had been approached to provide a quote for repairs and this was anticipated shortly. Members requested the Clerk approach local businesses to ask for help in funding proposed works where the bridleway is most worn. No budget was allocated for bridleway upgrades in 2026-27 during budget-setting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk acts in accordance with the decisions made.

145/04/26: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONSULTATION ('LGR CONSULTATION')

Having received support for the proposal, Members formally noted that the agreed response to the LGR Consultation was submitted to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 25 March 2026.

RESOLVED: That the submission of the response to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 25 March 2026, be formally noted.

146/04/26: TO NOTE UPDATE TO THE 2025 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW (AGAR) - ASSERTION 10

(a) With the 2025 AGAR introducing a requirement that the Internal Auditor asserts that:

- the Council has the recommended gov.uk domain
- the Council has at least one clerk/Authority owned domain
- every Member has a secure dedicated email address separate from any personal account
- the Council has an up-to-date Information Technology and Privacy Policy

(b) whilst not a requirement, it is deemed 'best practice' for a Council to work toward all Members and staff having '.gov.uk' email address

(c) HugoFox, the Council's website/domain provider is offering ten gov.uk email addresses at a monthly cost of £17.49 + VAT.

Along with the above conditions, Members were asked to determine the requirement for dedicated gov.uk email addresses. The Clerk confirmed that all staff members had been using the authority owned domain since April 2025.

Members noted the Clerk's confirmation of the Assertion 10 requirements including advice for best practice in respect of Member gov.uk email addresses. Following discussion, Members confirmed they had email addresses they used for council business and there was no requirement for them, at this stage to obtain gov.uk addresses.

RESOLVED: Members noted requirements for the AGAR Assertion 10 together with the Clerk's endorsement of the Council's position on them, and concluded there was no requirement, at this time, for dedicated Member gov.uk email addresses.

147/04/26: POLICY CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

Members considered and adopted the Information Technology & Privacy Policy, noting that it was in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils' model document.

RESOLVED: That Members considered and adopted the Information Technology & Privacy Policy as presented.

148/04/26: TO CONSIDER REFERRING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF THE B260/B262 JUNCTION AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO WEST KENT HIGHWAY'S IMPROVEMENT TEAM FOR DELIBERATION

RESOLVED: Members considered the proposed plans in respect of the B260/B262 Junction and resolved to pass delegated authority to Councillor Prentice to act on the Council's behalf to submit the proposal to Kent County Council under the Highways Improvement Plan.

149/04/26: TO NOTE ANNUAL COUNCIL PROPERTY INSPECTION

Members noted details of the Waller Park flat annual property inspection carried out on 10 March 2026 and resolved to carry out any necessary works in due course.

RESOLVED: That the report and details therein be noted.

150/04/26: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

25/01373/FUL - Hawkspare Ltd Hawkins Yard Green St Green Rd Darenth DA2 8DP

Mixed-use of the land as a crane and construction equipment, hire and sales yard with storage of cranes, plant, materials, machinery, containers, and other construction equipment and vehicles with use of existing buildings for shot blasting (shot blasting shed), workshop and office (building 1) (Use Classes B8, B2, E(gi & giii)). In addition, the provision of associated construction and alteration of hardstanding, fencing, drainage infrastructure, new substation infrastructure, with amendments to access and provision of new landscaping (retrospective) (smaller site) with fencing and acoustic fencing.

Observations: Members noted the details of the application.

25/01374/FUL - Hawkspare Ltd Hawkins Yard Green St Green Rd Darenth DA2 8DP

Mixed-use of the land as a crane and construction equipment, hire and sales yard with storage of cranes, plant, materials, machinery, containers, and other construction equipment and vehicles and associated accredited construction-plant training facility with moveable welfare unit containers with use of existing buildings for shot blasting (shot blasting shed), storage for the training facility (veteran shed) workshop and office (building 1) (Use Classes B8, B2, E(gi & giii) & F1). In addition, the provision of associated construction and alteration of hardstanding, fencing, land re-grading, drainage infrastructure, new

substation infrastructure, with amendments to access and provision of new landscaping (retrospective) (larger site) with fencing and acoustic fencing.

Observations: Members noted the details of the application.

26/00294/FUL - Fairfield (Front) Green Street Green Road Darenth Kent DA2 8DP

Erection of concrete framed building with steel cladding, use of building and associated land for storage (Use Class B8), acoustic and palisade fence, impermeable hardstanding, covered vehicle maintenance area and improved visibility from existing access on to Green Street Green Road (retrospective).

Observations: Members noted the details of the application.

26/00322/FUL - 12 Moore Close Darenth Kent DA2 6NN

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Observations: Members noted the details of the application.

26/00357/FUL - 12 Moore Close Darenth Kent DA2 6NN

Loft conversion including the formation of a rear dormer and installation of roof lights to the front roof slope.

Observations: Members objected to the application due to the nature of the proposed development meaning the overall effect would be an over-intensification of the plot which, due to the size and bulk, would be out of character with the street scene.

(a) To note recent decisions made by the Planning Authority

There were no decisions received at the time of Agenda publication.

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

26/00121/FUL – 24 Hill Rise Darenth DA2 7HY

Retrospective erection of a summerhouse.

Observations: Members noted the details of the application.

DA/25/01431/VCON – The Ship Green St Green Rd Darenth

Variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 34 of planning permission 22/01444/FUL (partial redevelopment of site to provide 2 no. 1 bed flats and erection of 2 no. 5 bed detached houses) to regularise changes to the external design and increased width of the rear projection, extended hardstanding area, enclosure of front porch and changes to the internal layout to include staff welfare facilities at first floor and changes to the arrangement of the flats at 1st and 2nd floor. Also, to remove the requirement to demonstrate rights of access to rear dwellings. Submission to include details of foul & surface water drainage, biodiversity enhancements & bat mitigation, noise and odour from extraction system and noise insulation between the flats and the public house; waste & cycle storage; boundary treatments; amenity space for flats and M4 (2) details.

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

151/04/26: TO RECEIVE PARISH UPDATES

A verbal summary was given by the Clerk regarding recent Parish matters that did not require Full Council approval. Topics included:

- Work continues on Parish trees as a result of issues from the Tree Management Survey carried out in May 2025.

- Reports of trees being felled outside Complex Gym prompted investigations which determined that these trees do not appear to be registered as Parish property. The Clerk thoroughly reviewed Parish records and consulted with the Local Planning Authority; however, no definitive evidence was found indicating that the trees are owned by the Parish Council.
- Following Council recommendation, the noticeboard located at Darenth Park Avenue has now been safely removed.
- The Clerk confirmed that she was currently preparing papers for the 2025-26 Annual Governance and Accountability Review and would be providing relevant documentation to the Internal Auditor imminently before submitting required information to the External Auditor before 30 June 2026.
- One rented container at Darenth Hall was in need of repair and it was confirmed essential work would be carried out during the summer months of 2026.
- One litter bin (from the 4 recently purchased) will be held in storage until a suitable location is confirmed.
- The damaged wall, hit by a falling tree at Darenth Road South will be repaired at a cost of no more than £500.00.
- The Clerk has ordered and received a new Union Jack flag to be located at the Church memorial.
- The Parish Council thanked Councillor Hicks and a member of the public for the maintenance and upkeep of the plant containers at the Church memorial. New plants had been purchased at a cost of £29.45.

152/04/26: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next Meeting of the Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Full Council Meeting on Wednesday 20 May 2026.

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

Signed: _____
(Chairman)

Date: _____