

# DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 24 May 2023  
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

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

**In Attendance:** E Mote.

**Visitors:** Two representatives from 1<sup>st</sup> Darenth Brownies and one member of the public.

**135/05/23: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Gutteridge, K Holmes, S Holmes, N Weavis and Borough Councillor P Denman.

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

**136/05/23: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST**

None received.

**137/05/23: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 April 2023 as proposed by Councillor Hicks and seconded by Councillor Risely.

**138/05/23: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Vice-Chairman moved that the following items would be considered after **Agenda Item 141/05/23:**

- a) Anti-social behaviour from motorcyclists at Darenth Woods
- b) Proposed closure of the West Dartford Household Waste Recycling Centre
- c) Damage to CCTV cameras following attempted break-in at Darenth Hall
- d) Nomination for the role of Darenth representative for the Joint Transportation Board

**139/05/23: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES**

- a) Councillors Hicks and Prentice had no further updates regarding streetlight matters and confirmed that, disappointingly, they had never received a response from former Borough Member, Councillor M Kelly. Councillors Hicks and Prentice sought and acquired Member approval to make an approach to Councillor P Denman, the recently elected Borough Councillor for Darenth, to look into this issue.

- b) Borough Councillor P Denman submitted a written report which had been distributed to Members.

Key points covered recent Dartford Borough Council activities including: Councillor induction procedure; formal introduction to departmental heads; attending formation meetings and consideration for progressing priorities for Darenth.

The Ward activity summary took into account: anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping issues; initial plans for the Hill Rise play-space project; updated mowing schedule for the Hill Rise village green and monthly litter picking.

**RESOLVED:** To note information and reports received.

**140/05/23: FINANCE**

- (a) **TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the accounts as at 31 March 2023 for ratification as proposed by Councillor Hicks and seconded by Councillor Risely.

- (b) **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT  
TO NOTE ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023**

Members noted Section 1 of the annual return, requested by External Auditor Mazars for the year end 31 March 2023.

- (c) **ACCOUNTING STATEMENT  
TO NOTE ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023 -  
ACCOUNTING STATEMENT**

Members noted Section 2 of the annual return, requested by External Auditor Mazars for the year end 31 March 2023.

- (d) **TO NOTE RECEIPT OF PRECEPT AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT  
GRANT**

Members noted payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the 2023/24 Precept of £40,011 and Council Tax Support Grant of £962.00. Total received - £40,973.

- (e) **TO NOTE RECEIPT OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY  
FOR THE PERIOD 1st OCTOBER 2022 to 31st MARCH 2023**

*The Dartford Community Infrastructure Levy is the duty to pass CIL to local councils (Neighbourhood Portion) under CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) - Regulations 59A to 59D.*

Members noted receipt of £2,248.80 in respect of Land Adjacent to 17 Coombfield Road, Darenth and the Vice-Chairman asked for future capital-spend project suggestions.

- (f) **BANK SIGNATORIES**

Bank signatories for the Council's Bank Accounts with NatWest and Cambridge & Counties Bank were confirmed as Councillors Weavis and Gutteridge.

**RESOVLED:** To note bank signatory details.

- (g) **TO AGREE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30 APRIL  
2023**

**RESOVLED:** To agree the financial Statement as presented.

- (h) **TO NOTE ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2022–2023**  
Members noted the Internal Audit Report section of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return for 2022-23 as presented.
- (i) **KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS' SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**  
Member considered renewal of the 2023-24 annual membership subscription for the National Association of Local Councils and the Kent Association of Local Councils in the sum of £1,261.42.

After deliberation, it was agreed not to renew the subscription as Members had not considered the membership to be of benefit in terms of advice or training.

**141/05/23: TO CONSIDER REVIEW OF GREEN STREET GREEN ROAD BUNDING**

Members were asked to consider a review of bunding at Green Street Green Road to establish any areas of potential vulnerability and discuss action required to rectify. This proposal followed recent traveller incursions to Parish owned land.

As portfolio member for Public Realm, Councillor Hicks, along with Councillor Prentice and (in his absence) Councillor K Holmes, would assess bunding and report areas of concern and plans for rectification at the June 2023 Meeting of the Parish Council.

*Having announced at **Agenda Item 138/05/23**, the Vice-Chairman led discussion on the following:*

- a) ***Anti-social behaviour from motorcyclists at Darenth Woods***  
A member had recently been subjected to anti-social behaviour and physical ill-treatment by motorcyclists at Darenth Woods. This site is of special scientific interest and has long been plagued by the inconsiderate conduct of bikers.  
  
Parish Members resolved to reinforce previous reports regarding this long-standing issue, to all relevant authorities.
- b) ***Proposed closure of the West Dartford Household Waste Recycling Centre***  
Kent County Council recently announced that it is to launch a consultation which could see the potential closure of 4 Household Waste Recycling Centres in Kent, including the site at West Dartford.  
  
Members agreed to record concerns and make their response once the consultation is launched.  
  
The Vice-Chairman wished to note thanks to the Always Darenth Facebook Page for their promotion of this proposed closure.
- c) ***Damage to CCTV cameras following attempted break-in at Darenth Hall***  
Darenth Hall storage containers had been subject to an attempted break-in on 17 May 2023. Thieves had not been able to penetrate the secured boxes but had damaged two newly installed CCTV cameras

during the process. The Clerk had spoken to the installation company who had confirmed they would be checking the cameras for the intentions of repair.

d) ***Nomination of Darenth representative to put forward for the Joint Transportation Board***

Councillor Prentice was nominated for the role of Darenth representative, proposed by Councillor Risely and seconded by Councillor Hicks. The Clerk would submit the Parish nomination to the Democratic Services Officer.

**142/05/23: PLANNING**

(a) **To consider and determine action in respect of the Mabledon Site, Green St Green Road**

Members were asked to consider and approve the following:

1. *For either the Clerk or a delegated Member or Members, to contact Dignity and*
2. *To consider the posting of an article on the Parish website and Facebook page asking anyone affected by the off-road bikers to raise the matter with Dignity*

Following discussion, Members resolved to charge the Clerk with contacting Dignity and all relevant parties to determine the current position in respect of the Mabledon Site and its security. Members also requested an article on the Parish website and Facebook page encouraging residents affected by the off-road bikers to raise this directly with Dignity.

(b) **To consider new applications**

**DA/23/00479/FUL - 35 The Green Darenth Kent DA2 6JS**

Conversion of existing double garage to habitable room to include garage door removal and insertion of new windows

**Observations:** *The Parish Council has no objection provided that, the property footprint is not exceeded, the position of the property within the site curtilage, the required Parking Standard for a 5-Bedroomed residential property is satisfied*

**DA/23/00484/FUL - 111 Ladywood Road Darenth 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

**Observations:** *Members noted the application*

**DA/23/00546/FUL - Ivy Cottage Darenth Road Darenth Kent DA2 7QT**

Erection of detached car port in the front garden and detached, partly open, building to provide covered seating area in the rear garden and external alterations including landscaping works, hard standing & fencing within the curtilage of Listed Building

**Observations:** *With regard to the proposed open car port and covered seating the Parish Council accepts that the nature of the constructions are such as to have no adverse impact on either the*

*openness of the Green Belt nor the Area of Special Character. In addition, the Parish Council believes that the proposed landscaping of what is a neglected and overgrown site will enhance the street scene and therefore fully supports the Application*

**DA/23/00547/LBC – Ivy Cottage Darenth Road Darenth Kent DA2 7QT**

Listed building application for internal renovation of grade ii listed building with proposed detached car port and covered seating area within the curtilage

**Observations:** *The Parish Council notes the following Constraints on the proposed Full Application and the accompanying application for Listed Building Consent:*

- a) the property to be developed is part of a Grade II Listed Building*
- b) the property is situated in the Metropolitan Green Belt and an Area of Special Character.*

*The Parish Council further notes that there is to be no alteration to the exterior fabric of the building with the only work to be undertaken being 'restoration and decoration' but that the interior of the building is to be renovated but 'carried out in a sympathetic manner to its listed status'. The Parish Council welcomes the regard given to the building's heritage and applauds the Applicant's aim of 'preserving it (sic Ivy Cottage) as asset as opposed to letting it degenerate further and beyond repair' and accordingly has no objection to Listed Building Consent being 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

**Observations:** *Members noted the application*

(c)

**To note recent decisions made by the Planning Authority**

**DA/23/00223/TPO - Darent Valley Hospital Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent**

Application to carry out various works to various trees as per Tree Safety Report subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

**Decision:** *CONSENT GRANTED*

**DA/23/00267/FUL - 38 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LQ**

Demolition of existing rear conservatory and lean-to and erection of a single storey side and rear extension

**Decision:** *PERMISSION GRANTED*

**DA/23/00268/FUL – 38 Coombfield Drive Darenth Kent DA2 7LQ**

Provision of dormer windows in front and rear elevations and window in flank elevation at first floor level in connection with providing additional rooms in the roof space

**Decision:** *REFUSED TO PERMIT*

**Observations:** Members noted recent decisions made by the Local Planning Authority.

(d)

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

No new applications or recent decisions had been received.

**143/05/23: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the proposed date for the next Council Meeting as Wednesday 21 June 2023.

There being no further business, the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 20:18.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Vice-Chairman)