

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Remote Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 21 October 2020

COVID-19 2020 Regulations Statement

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented Government measures in response to the crisis (e.g. prohibitions on gatherings, social distancing, self-isolation and shielding of those deemed to be the most vulnerable) have meant that the requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person with all members present in one place cannot currently be met. The statutory requirements for meetings are mainly contained in the Local Government Act 1972 ("the 1972 Act") and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 ("the 1960 Act").

In recognition of the difficulties of holding and attending meetings, the Government included s.78 in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and provided the Secretary of State the power to make Regulations for the provision of holding alternative format meetings.

As such, this Meeting was held under agreed terms, being to conduct the Council business remotely by Zoom with decisions recorded by the Clerk.

Councillors' participating in virtual meeting: I Gutteridge (Chairman), D Carey, W Cook, T Hicks, M Mahoney, S-J Mahoney, D Risely, Y Seymour and N Weavis (Vice Chairman).

Public present: There were two members of the public present who had registered to observe the meeting.

55/10/20: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-PARTICIPATION

No apologies for absence were received.

56/10/20: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

57/10/20: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

Resolved that the Minutes of the virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 were approved and adopted as a true record by Members.

58/10/20: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

59/10/20: URGENT MATTERS ARISING

There were no urgent matters arising.

60/10/20: FINANCE

(a) **To consider and accept Annual Insurance Renewal quotation from Came & Company for the period 9 November 2020 to 8 November 2021. Members are asked to note the policy update with reference to Infectious and Communicable Diseases/Specified Disease/Prevention of access**

RESOLVED: Members approved details for Renewal of Annual Insurance with Came & Company for the period 9 November 2020 to 8 November 2021.

(b) To consider and adopt updated Financial Regulations

Following receipt of the Internal Auditor's Report for 2019-20 in which it was reported that previously adopted Financial Regulations had been based on the National Association of Local Councils' model and more appropriate measures were advised for consideration and adoption.

RESOLVED: That following advice from the Internal Auditor during his 2019-20 inspection, Members considered and adopted updated Financial Regulations as presented.

(c) To receive Financial Statement as at 30 September 2020

RESOLVED: Members approved Financial Statement as presented.

61/10/20: PUBLIC REALM

(a) To consider concern raised by a Member that the plans for the Ladywood Road fencing installation are incorrect

RESOLVED: By majority decision, Members agreed that no further consideration was required as, following a site visit, plans had been accepted by the Planning Officer and permission for the fence installation granted. The Chairman confirmed that any further concerns regarding the approved planning decision should be made directly to the Local Planning Authority.

Following the introduction of the item for agreement as per the recommendation, a councillor raised a number of questions. However, due to Dartford Borough Council's Planning Officer having already confirmed approval of the fence installation planning permission, the questions were felt to be outside the recommendation remit of this agenda item and could therefore not be discussed.

62/10/20: PLANNING

(a) To note recent decisions and appeals

Details for recent decisions and appeals were noted.

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

No new applications had been received following production of the agenda.

To allow for Member update, The Chairman resolved to move the following agenda item to the main section of the meeting.

66/10/20: TO RECEIVE UPDATE AND DETERMINE ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

Councillor Hicks confirmed that St Margaret's Church was unable to host a Remembrance Service this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Parish Council wish to commemorate Remembrance Day 2020 and will therefore arrange a Civil Service which observes all social distancing measures in place at the time of the event. Councillor Carey was asked to attend as Standard Bearer.

Councillor Hicks will liaise with Members and the Clerk and as soon as arrangements are determined, the details will be made public. It was noted that the Parish Council will be unable to invite members of the public to participate in the Civil Service due to Government constraints regarding social gatherings.

The Chairman resolved to bring forward agenda item so that any public and press leaving, received notice of the date.

To allow for public update, The Chairman resolved to move the following agenda item to the main section of the meeting.

69/10/20: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council is Wednesday 18 November 2020.

63/10/20: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND 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 Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

64/10/20: TO REVIEW HIGHWAYS UNDER COUNCIL REMIT AND CONCLUDE APPROPRIATE FUTURE ACTIVITY

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

65/10/20: TO REVIEW COUNCIL DEBTORS

This item was deferred.

66/10/20: TO RECEIVE UPDATE AND DETERMINE ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

To allow for Member update, The Chairman resolved to move this agenda item to the main section of the meeting.

67/10/20: CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

This item was deferred.

68/10/20: CLERK'S UPDATE

This item was deferred.

69/10/20: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This item was move to the main section of proceedings. The date for the next meeting of the Council is Wednesday 18 November 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:58.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Chairman)