

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 20 March 2024
Jubilee Pavilion, Waller Park, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillor's Present: I Armitt (Vice Chairman), I Gutteridge, T Hicks, K Holmes, T Prentice, D Risely and N Weavis (Chairman).

In Attendance: E Mote, Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Visitors: Councillor Denman, Dartford Borough Council and two members of the public.

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

250/03/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Homes and K Webb.

251/03/24: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

252/03/24: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 as Proposed by Councillor Hicks and Seconded by Councillor Risley.

253/03/24: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items raised for consideration.

254/03/24: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES; AGENCIES; COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

(a) Borough Councillor Report

Councillor P Denman provided the meeting with a verbal report in respect of the following:

Casework: All current casework continues in respect of housing/parking. A meeting had taken place with Beat Officer PC Maffia and further updates would be received in due course.

Planning: An update regarding the planning application in respect of The Ship was reported as being approved. The Chairman thanked Councillor Denman for his input in respect of the application.

Via the Borough Councillor, a request to inspect potholes on bridleways at Green Street Green Road was made by a member of the public. The Chairman confirmed

the matter would be addressed at the earliest opportunity with related feedback conveyed to Members.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Denman for his informative and comprehensive report.

RESOLVED: That reports were noted, and any relevant decisions actioned as appropriate.

255/0324: FINANCE

(a) To note retrospective expenditure in respect of refurbishment works at Waller Park

As scaffolding was already erected, saving potential future costs of up to £15,000, Members were asked to retrospectively note that fascia painting and guttering upgrade works were authorised by The Clerk in February 2024.

Under Section 4.5 of the council's Financial Regulations, the Clerk confirmed there was sufficient budgetary provision for the expenditure and authorised the spend on behalf of the council. The Responsible Finance Officer (the Clerk), having consulted with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, authorised payment for the works and confirmed she would report to the Council as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED: That Members noted retrospective costs for fascia painting and guttering upgrade works authorised by The Clerk.

(b) To note National Minimum Wage increase to £11.44 from 1 April 2024

RESOLVED: Members noted the increase to the National Minimum Wage together the any resulting effect on staff salaries.

(c) To agree monthly financial statement as at 29 February 2024

Proposed agreement by Councillor Armitt and Seconded by Councillor Hicks.

(d) To note budget position as at 29 February 2024

Proposed agreement by Councillor Armitt and Seconded by Councillor Hicks.

RESOLVED: That the finance items were agreed and noted.

256/03/24: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

DA/24/00217/TPO - Darent Valley Hospital Darenth Wood Road Darenth Kent DA2 8DA

Application for group of mature Limes(Tilia) T1-T5 around accommodation blocks plus mid-sized stand of Acer species near site boundary of accommodation area at the corner of Powell Ave/Darenth Wood Rd-remove epicormic growth from base of trunks of mature Lime trees and raise crowns of semi mature Sycamores and mixed small tree to give 2m clearance) subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995

Observations: *Neutral*

DA/24/00245/ADV - Roundabout On Junction Of Watling St, St James Lane And Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, Kent, DA2 8DA

Display of 4 x free standing, non-illuminated fascia advertising boards

Observations: *Members objected to the application due to the possible detrimental impact on sightlines for motorists.*

RESOLVED: That the Clerk submits any comments or observations to the Planning Authority.

(b) **To note recent decisions and appeals**

DA/23/01081/FUL - Darenth Fishing Complex Darenth Hill Darenth Kent

Change of use of two parcels of land to provide touring caravan sites for 29 No. Pitches and provision of associated facilities including toilet/shower blocks and refuse stores.

Decision: **REFUSED TO PERMIT**

RESOLVED: That Members note recent decisions made by the Planning Authority.

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

DA/ 24/00278/FUL - 31 Wood Lane Darenth Kent DA2 7LR

Demolition of garage and erection of 3-bedroom detached dwellinghouse.

Decision: The Parish Council objects to what it considers to be an overdevelopment of a relatively small site and considers that the bulk would provide an unacceptable cramped appearance to the street scene. The Parish Council accepts that there is a mix of houses in Wood Lane but still believes this Application to be unacceptable.

In addition, the land is a Windfall Site and would firstly need to be fully tested against the Borough Council's Core Strategy Policy CS10; in particular, that this is not an identified 'brownfield' site and the infrequency of public transport.

The Borough Council is able to demonstrate a greater than required 5-Year Housing Supply rendering this Application to be un-necessary.

RESOLVED: To note recent decisions received after agenda publication with the Clerk submitting any comments or observations to the Planning Authority.

257/03/24: TO NOTE AND CONSIDER ROOF INSPECTION REPORT FOR DARENTH HALL

Members considered the contents of the report and resolved to request three written quotes for works be obtained for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk acts in accordance with any decision made in respect of the roof inspection report for Darenth Hall.

258/03/24: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 17 April 2024.

259/03/24: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & 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 the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2).

260/03/24: TO CONSIDER BOILER UPGRADE WORKS AT WALLER PARK PAVILION CHANGING ROOMS

Members resolved to form an advisory panel comprising Councillors Hicks, Prentice and Risely. The panel would meet with potential contractors to gain a more precise understanding of the works required and a report would be made at the next meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk acts in accordance with any decision made in respect of boiler upgrade works at Waller Park Pavilion Changing Rooms.

261/03/24: TO RESOLVE MATTERS IN RESPECT OF PARISH STREETLIGHTING

RESOLVED: To retain the existing undertaking in respect of streetlighting contract and associated costs.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:34.