

DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 16 April 2025
Jubilee Hall, Waller Park Pavilion, Wood Lane, Darenth, Kent DA2 7LR

Councillor's Present: T Hicks, K Holmes, S Holmes, G Manuel, T Prentice, D Risely, N Weavis and K Webb.

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

Visitors: One member of the public

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

137/04/25: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor I Armitt and Borough Councillor P Denman.

138/04/25: TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received.

139/04/25: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Holmes and Seconded by Councillor Hicks.

140/04/25: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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

141/04/25: TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL REPORTS

(a) Borough Councillor Report

Borough Councillor Denman submitted apologies for the meeting.

(b) KCC Community Warden Report

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

(c) Darenth Woods Partnership Working Group

Members noted that the Partnership Working Group was awaiting sign-off of information posters from Dartford Borough Council.

With the Partnership Working Group reporting that it felt matters regarding antisocial behaviour within Darenth Woods had been sufficiently highlighted to all relevant parties, the decision was taken by the Full Council to draw the Partnership Working Group to a close.

(d) Friends of Darenth Country Park

Councillor Prentice attended the meeting held on Thursday 3 April 2025 where reports presented included personal damage to horse riders from catapults; progress on woven hedgerows; potholes on access road; issues with electric motorcycles and bulb planting in the meadows.

RESOLVED: To note reports as presented.

142/04/25: TO NOTE ADOPTION OF THE KENT MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2024-39 – 13 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED: To note adoption of Kent County Council's Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39.

143/04/25: TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR 2025-26 COMMUNITY EVENT

Councillor Manuel presented a provisional plan together with considerations for a proposed event for August 2025.

Members agreed to the event in principal and confirmed financial support via the Events Budget and designated it the Darenth Parish - Community Fun Day. Members confirmed that the Waller Park Warden be consulted in detail and that a committee of volunteers would be required at the event on the day.

RESOLVED: To agree outline proposals and support financially via the Council Events Budget for 2025/26.

144/04/25: TO NOTE WALLER PARK PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT FOR MARCH 2025

Members noted that as part of the March inspection, playground rubber flooring was deteriorating and could cause a trip hazard. Members asked the Clerk to instruct repairs to rectify the situation.

RESOLVED: That the March 2025 Playground Inspection Report for Waller Park be agreed with any required issues being noted and actioned by the Clerk.

145/04/25: FINANCE

(a) To consider first round of Grant Applications

Members, having previously received details of Grant Applications from The Cottage Community and We Are Beams were asked to consider requests received in line with the Council's Grants & Donations Policy.

After careful consideration, Members confirmed that all criteria had been met to fulfil policy measures and agreed award of funds as £250.00 to both applicants.

RESOLVED: To award £250.00 each to The Cottage Community and We Are Beams charities from the Grants & Donations Budget for 2025/26.

(b) To note interest rate decrease for Cambridge & Counties 60-Day Business Notice Account from 22 June 2025

(c) To agree Monthly Bank Analysis as for 31 March 2025

(d) To note Monthly Budget Analysis for 31 March 2025

RESOLVED: To agree and note financial items as presented.

146/04/24: PLANNING

(a) To consider new applications

DA/25/00350/LDC – Dwelling At Darenth Fishing Complex Darenth Hill Darenth DA2 7QY

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of building as a one-bedroom dwelling and use of surrounding land as associated residential garden.

Observation: Members noted the details.

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

DA/25/00084/TPO – Darent Valley Hospital Darenth Wood Road Darenth

Application for T1558 Sycamore (Photo 1): Broken, suspended branch in northwestern side of crown at a height of approximately 4.5m. Remove suspended or broken branches. T1560 Common Lime (Photo 2): 1 no. broken, suspended branch at a height of approximately 8m in northeastern side of crown. 1 no. broken, suspended branch at a height of approximately 5m in western side of crown. 1 no. major dead branch in upper crown. Remove suspended or broken branches and major dead wood. T1561 Common Lime (Photo 3): Numerous broken, suspended branches in south-western side of crown, overhanging private road. Remove suspended or broken branches. T1562 Common Horse Chestnut (Photo 4): Tree within falling distance of footpath and road with large cavity at base of main stem. To reduce the crown (15m) by 3.5m to a finished height of 11.5m. Spread is currently 3m to be reduced back by approximately 1m, leaving 2m on all sides/cardinal points. T1563 Common Horse Chestnut (Photo 5): 2 no. large dead branches on south-western side of crown overhanging public footpath, at heights of approximately 4m and 6.5m. Remove major dead wood; subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1995.

Decision: CONSENT GRANTED

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

Applications/recent decisions received after agenda publication:

DA/25/00393/FUL – 25 Watchgate, Darenth DA2 7JZ

Erection of a single-storey rear and side extension, including the installation of two roof lights and internal modifications.

Observation: Members noted the details.

DA/25/00168/TPO – 1 Darenth Park Avenue, Darenth DA2 6JN

Application for T6-reduction on lateral aspect, to provide a clearance of 1.5m from the wall and roof of the property and vertically to have a 4m clearance from the ground; T7 – pruning and reduction to match T6, with 4m clearance from the ground subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 1 1995.

Decision: PERMISSION GRANTED

147/04/25: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next Meeting of the Council was confirmed Wednesday 21 May 2025, 7:30pm and will be preceded by the Annual Council Meeting (Public) being held at 7:15pm.

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