**Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darnhall Parish Council**

**Held in Darnhall Village Hall on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 7.30pm**

Members of the public present: None

Members of the council present: Cllr Jinks (chair), Cllr Bostock, Cllr Davenport, Cllr Langley, Cllr Sherry

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Bownes – away on business, Cllr Strachan – not well and CWAC Cllr Burns – another meeting

**2. Disclosure of declaration of interest and declaration of acceptance off office for new councillors.**

There were no declarations of interest. The two new councillors Cllr Bostock and Cllr Sherry both filled in their declarations of acceptance of office, signed them and the clerk also signed them as officer for Darnhall Parish Council. The Notification of members interests were also given to the two new councillors for them to fill in after the meeting and hand back to the clerk.

**3. Chairman’s opening remarks**

Chairman welcomes our two new councillors and talks about their back ground to introduce them to the other councillors.

The horse chestnut trees on Hall Lane – some have been marked with a yellow dot, 12 in total, we assume this is due to the disease in the trees and these are the ones that will be removed. This being the case maybe we should enquire with Darnhall Estate to see if the trees are going to be replaced.

The Chairman & Clerk both received a letter from the estate (Meller Braggins Estates Plus) informing us of the new name - Meller Speakman Limited which links back to their original company name of Meller Speakman and Hall.

The Chairman went on to tell us about a book called ‘Darnhall Poaching Affray’ – the Nantwich Poachers and the Riot, written by Don Tomkinson. The book tells stories of men from Nantwich who helped themselves to some of Squire Corbett’s pheasants in Darnhall and what happened to them.

**4. Minutes**

**To approve the minutes of the ordinary parish meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2016. 13/16 resolve that the council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2016.**

**5. Matters arising from the minutes of the ordinary meeting on Tuesday 26th January 2016.**

There were no matters arising.

**6. Clerks report and correspondence received.**

6.1 Cllr Bostock has been booked onto a councillor induction training course on 14th April.

6.2 Clerk has chased Aleta Steele for any updates on the Raven – not heard anything back as yet.

6.3 Queens 90th Birthday party celebrations. The idea being everyone is more than welcome to come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 11th June 2016 from 2pm onwards, bring their own food and drink and just join together to celebrate this very special occasion. Also mentioned the idea of a commemorative mug for all the children in the parish and a few extra ones should

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anyone wish to purchase one. Clerk will look into some costing for this and availability.

6.4 clerks training and points scheme. Over the next 12 months the clerk will need to attend various meetings, training, read certain magazine/books to enable her to gain enough points to complete her Continuous Professional Development.

6.5 Notice boards – not sorted this as yet. Still looking into notice boards for the main entrance to the hall and tidy up the notice boards outside the village hall.

**7. Planning, neighbourhood plan(NP) or Parish Plan**

7.1 Copy of draft letter regarding neighbourhood plan. As Cllr Strachan was unable to attend the meeting this item will have to be left. Possibility that another meeting may be needed in April before the May meeting to sort out various paperwork.

Clerk has also received an email from SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) to say there is funding available for local councils preparing a neighbourhood plan up to £9000 from 1st April 2016.

At a recent parish meeting attended by Cllr Jinks and Cllr Langley it had been suggested that Darnhall is too small for a neighbourhood plan and maybe a Parish Plan would be better for Darnhall. The Parish Plan would make more out of the history of the area, Centre of Cheshire, the area of the old hall etc.

**14/16 agreed to leave this till the next meeting when Cllr Strachan can explain more.**

**8. Finances**

8.1 There was no bank statement this month. Due to the changeover in Clerk, it would appear that the bank hasn’t been able to sort everything out yet. Therefore the bank balance as per our last meeting was, £10,965.13. There are 9 cheques to make out this month totalling £1129.40 leaving a new balance in the current account of £9835.73.

8.2 Parish Precept for 2016/2017. Clerk has sent this in and it has all been approved. However the clerk was slightly out on her calculations and had not allowed for the difference in council tax reduction grant from last year to this year. This means that the council tax bills will see an increase of 0.18p

**15/16 agree to the following payments being made:-**

8.3 Simply signs for phone box signs £104.4

8.4 Pay Chalc for Councillor Training £30

8.5 Pay previous Clerks Wages and expenses £480

8.6 Pay new Clerks Wages to end of current tax year £240

8.7 Pay tax on wages to HMRC £135

8.8 Pay the Brownies their donation as per the precept £50

8.9 Pay the guides their donation as per the precept £50

8.10 Pay the Darnhall Dancers their donations as per the precept £50 (Chairmans award)

8.11 Pay the rent for use of the Village Hall for meeting £125

8.12 Claim the vat £23.40

8.13 Update about the new bank mandate – we are still waiting to hear back from the bank about this.

8.14 Transparency funding – application successful £1050.98. The clerk has received an email to say our application was a success. **16/16 agreed the clerk can now go out and purchase the new laptop and printer as part of the funding.** The rest of the funding is to go towards the cost of setting up the Web page which Cllr Langley is working on.

Also mentioned about looking into the cost of having Wi-Fi in the village hall.

8.15 Clerks wages from April 2016 – 2017 **17/16 all agreed to leave them at £100 per month.**

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8.16 Annual return for year-end 31st March 2016. The clerk has received the form and will see to it being filled in, taken to the internal auditor (John Hignett) and then presented to the council at the next meeting.

**9. Website update**

Cllr Langley and Cllr Strachan have had a meeting with David Roston who organises the Website for Whitegate & Marton Parish Council. This is run through Weebly and is very easy to use. Costs are around £8.00 per month. The Darnhall.org name needs to be transferred from CWAC to Weebly – Cllr Langley will sort this. Cllr Bostock has offered to help if needs be. More information is needed from local groups, organisations etc to go onto the website. Cllr Langley has put as much information as he can onto the new website at the moment. Just need to contact CWAC about the domain name and then the new site can go live. This will all hopefully happen in April.

**10. New signs in the phone box.**

Cllr Langley has put the new ‘Darnhall’ signs in the phone box.

**11. Speed problems in the Parish.**

As per the last meeting the clerk has now drafted a letter to go out with the next newsletter for residents of the parish to send in comments about traffic/road problems in their area. This information can then be collected together to enable the parish council to put forward a case to the highways department for traffic problems in the parish with residents support.

It was also mentioned that neighbouring parishes all have different speeds. Cllr Langley has been in touch with a councillor from Wettenhall PC and they got traffic speed down to 40, but this took a long and difficult time to get sorted.

Also note the white lines on the road at Ash brook have faded.

**18/16 agreed the draft letter is ok and it can go out with the next newsletter.**

To make sure all residents in the parish get a newsletter, forms, traffic letter etc. it was suggested that envelopes are done with addresses on for all the residents in the parish.

Also need the letter off Cllr Strachan regarding the neighbourhood plan.

**12. Update from councillors who attend various meeting.**

Various meeting as per agenda. Cllrs reported feedback from the meetings. Also another parish meeting was held in February but again it was very much all about Tarporley. Another meeting is due in April, Cllr Jinks and Langley will attend this one again to see if there is any change and then decide if they are worth continuing with.

The clerk & Cllr Langley have also attended an induction training course in February.

**13. Parish Assembly – 31st May 2016.**

Rosie Lee is booked as the guest speaker and she will talk for around 30/40 mins and do a slide presentation. The screen will need putting up for this.

Items for the agenda – Neighbourhood plan, speed in the parish and update on fundraising for the hall.

Clerk to invite various groups etc. who use the hall on a regular basis to attend the parish assembly if they wish and put up a small table to advertise what they do free of charge.

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The presentation of gifts to retired councillors will also be made at the parish assembly by the chairman.

**14. Update on Village Hall**

There has only been one fund raising event so far and that was the bingo which made £105

There is some damage to the hall floor that needs sorting out as it is a trip hazard. Cllr Langley has been on touch with a floor specialist called, Natural Flooring Solutions and they have had a look at repairing the new hole in the floor and the rest of the damage. The quote for the work is £3290 plus vat

Maintenance of the grounds around the Village Hall. Steve Redmond has sent in a quote for the work and it comes to £512. Steve would also be happy to undertake any additional work, such as clearing drains, fixing broken lights etc. but there would be additional costs for this.

**15. Next edition of the Darnhall Newsletter**

The next newsletter needs to be ready for April to go out in time for the parish assembly.

Cllr Davenport handed out a draft of the newsletter, just need to add the extra letters etc. to go with it then it can all go off the be printed.

Also suggested that maybe a form/letter could go out with the newsletter about the mugs for the queens 90th birthday to see how many children there are in the parish and how many we might need. Cllr Davenport will draft the letter.

**16. Items for information and discussion only**

Cllr Davenport mentioned in one of the clerk’s emails that get circulated to councillors there was one from LEADER – they offer funding to local business’s. Suggestion made that maybe the clerk could contact local business’s in Darnhall to make them aware of this funding.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed by the Chairman …………………………………………………………………………………..

Dated ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………