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

**Held in Darnhall Village Hall on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 7.30pm**

Members of the public present: None

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Strachan – away on holiday

1. **Disclosure of declaration of interest**

None

1. **Chairman’s opening remarks**

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Ted Grant who passed away recently aged 92. Ted in his time had worked on the Darnhall Estate for the Verdin family and he had been an active member of the Darnhall Parish Council both as a councillor and clerk. Ted had retired 10 years ago. The Chairman wished to thank Ted for all the work he had done in his time in Darnhall. He will be sadly missed.

There are no further updates on the proposed housing development by the Verdin’s. The deadline as we know passed on 18th August 2016 but Verdin’s may have the opportunity to file a claim against the decision. There have been no further updates from Robin Wood either regarding this development.

There was a report in the Winsford Guardian about 40-mile speed limits being reduced to 30, the area in question was Sproston. The report stated that “while it is a government directive to operate a 30mph limit through villages, Sproston does not meet the criteria as it has 19 housed within 600m rather than the requisite 20”. Therefore, regarding our campaign for reducing speed limits in our parish do we have the required number of house within a 600m area?

The 200 club is still doing well. The bank account has finally been sorted out and the old signatures have been taken off and the new ones added. The Chairman will now see to all the prizes being paid out. The 200 club currently has 147 members, paying £1764 into the bank and handing out £1152 in prizes and £20 for the cost of the licence.

Regarding the 200 club one of our winners, Mr Simon Gee who use to live in the parish and was a former parish councillor, returned his cheque as he only does on line banking now. This is something we need to add to the form so people can go online and join the 200 club that way.

1. **Minutes**

**To approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Tuesday 26th July 2016. 39/16 resolved that the council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2016.**

**Page 25/16**

1. **Matters arising from the minutes of the ordinary meeting on Tuesday 26th July 2016.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

1. **Clerks report and correspondence received**

Tickets for Oulton Park. After being offered tickets to go to the meeting regarding the Hall Fire due to popular demand we were only allowed 2. **40/16 agreed that Cllr Jinks and Cllr Davenport should attend the meeting.**

Two leaflets regarding the Autumn 2016 Cheshire rural touring arts where handed out to those that wanted them.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been posted in the notice board. Anyone in the parish wishing to see the accounts can contact the clerk.

At a previous meeting it was mentioned about the concealed entrance at Weaver Chapel. The clerk has looked into this a bit further and the answer that came back from Cheshire West and Chester was, unfortunately there is not a prescribed sign in the traffic sign regulation and general direction 2016 and highways are not therefore permitted to erect them on the adopted highway. However, arrangements can be made with the land owner to put their own sign up and this can be arranged without informing the highway authority.

The clerk will send a letter to the owners to inform them of this.

Letter from HMRC regarding possible customer survey that they may be carrying out and if necessary they will contact the clerk for details. Clerk will keep you posted on any developments.

The next rural parish meeting is due to take place in October/November, dated yet to be agreed.

1. **Planning, Neighbourhood plan or Parish Plan**
   1. there are no planning applications this month.
   2. Cllr Strachan was unable to attend this meeting but has forwarded a report to the meeting.

On 1st September Cllr Strachan met with Richard Thresh from CCA to discuss the next steps in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. The key task is to complete forms for grant monies. We need to develop our community vision and come up with a plan of action which the CCA will support at cost – usually around 10 days CCA time @£350 per day up to final draft plan (2 years’ timescale)

The community vision needs to include – evidence of community aspiration, evidence of demand for new facilities, can’t be a wish list which is a spending programme by the local authority, must only relate to things that need planning permission and result in our Vision for 2030.

This will be followed by consultation on vision – reform and ratification by community.

A key requirement is that the NP does not conflict with the LA plan or neighbouring N plans.

All this work need to be overseen by a steering group of at least 8 people probably including 2-3 councillors.

**Page 26/16**

Richard Thresh has undertaken to source an invitation to participate document/flyers that we can use to engage community members, he hasn’t provided this yet so will need to chase.

1. **Finances.** 
   1. The bank balance at the end of July was £12,492.53. Two cheques have been made out totalling £618.00, as listed below and two lots of money have been paid into the account, £45 for the sale of some of the Queen’s birthday mugs and another £45 for an insurance refund. This leaves a new balance in the account of £11,964.53.
   2. BDO LLP have completed the audit and have returned our Annual Return including their certificate and it has been approved and accepted at this meeting by Darnhall Parish Council Councillors.

In the ‘issues arising report’ there was one minor issue which was, “The smaller authority has included grant monies received in box2, rather than box 3, other receipts” It is recommended we ensure in future years that the above minor error are not included in the Accounting Statements.

* 1. The payment to BDO for £36 (the Audit fee) had to be paid in August so a cheque was raised for this and posted.
  2. The payment to Platt White Partnership for £582 for the survey fee on the Village Hall had to be paid straight away to save an interest been added to the bill. This was done before the meeting and posted.
  3. A refund from AON insurance had been received and banked for £45
  4. Cash for sale of Queens birthday mugs has been banked. Total £45.

1. **Survey on the condition of the Village Hall and plan of action**

After the survey on the village hall had been done a meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd August at the Village Hall to go through the report and walk around the building both inside and outside.

The building has suffered some distortion over the years with movement in the walls due largely to the weight of the roof having a spreading effect. However, the building has been braced and some building work done when the improvement took place and this all seems to be working effectively.

The floor has moved probably due to heave and sinking caused by adjacent large trees. Early movement in the walls may have provided room for the floor to move also.

The walls are some 13 inches thick and are of good quality build and in fair condition. Therefore, the building is in a stable condition and isn’t at risk of falling down or even slipping down the hill.

Various maintenance work does need doing to the building to ensure it remains in a sound condition – a list of jobs to be done has been drawn up.

The new porch extension seems to have moved away from the main building by over an inch. You can see where it joins with the window frame that it has moved since the window was installed.

General repairs and painting required on and around the roof areas.

The main hall floor – the concrete sub floor is deeply cracked in place and needs to be replaced. This will need digging out and a new sub floor put down to make it stable and level for the new floor. Quotes will be needed for this.

The building, provided it is maintained should remain stable so replacing the floor is a sensible thing to do.

The only other issue is the septic tank which does not comply with building regulations and may need looking at some time next year.

**Page 27/16**

1. **Update on the speeding traffic on the roads within our parish**

We have a few of the forms filled in by residents, a letter from Cllr Sherry and a collection of copy letters from Weaver Chapel that Cllr Jinks has been given.

The clerk will now compile all the information and send a letter to highways to request for a reduction of the speed limit in our parish.

1. **Parking along Beauty Bank and the state of the footpaths**

There has been no update regarding the parking or the footpath. Clerk to chase up again.

1. **Update on any other meetings attended by Councillors.**

Cllr Jinks attended a Chalc meeting on August 3rd at Tarvin Community Centre. The speaker at that meeting was from CWAC about planning updates.

1. **Cllr Langley to update on Village Hall Fundraising.**

We have now lost our income that we were receiving during the day. Due to various issues with the guy hiring the hall and the sudden ill health of the caretaker at that time a stop was put on the hiring of the hall during the day.

The Darnhall Show has become the main fundraising event for the hall.

Most other fundraising events for the hall have been cancelled for now.

Money raised from the 200 club helps with running cost and it has now been agreed to allow members to pay direct into the bank account.

**41/16 suggestion made that the hire of the hall be checked to see if it covers the running cost of the hall as fund raising should be a bonus and go towards the new floor, new equipment etc.**

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

Cllr Davenport has been working on the next newsletter which is due out shortly. Any items/articles to go in it need to be with her asap.

The defibrillator was mentioned again as nothing has been done about this. Need to check into costs, possible training etc. and see who has one in local parishes near to us and try to find out a bit more information.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

Dated ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**Page 28/16**