



Darnhall Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2024 AT 6:30PM

PRESENT: Cllr M Sherry (Chair)
Cllrs A Gaskill-Jones, C Williams, G Higgs, and R Lee.
Mr. Peter Wain (Managing Director, Mellor Speakman)
Dr. M Bailey (Clerk)

PART A

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Cllr R Strachan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted to the meeting.

3. VERDIN ESTATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Peter Wain (Mellor Speakman) attended as a representative of the Verdin Estate. The following issues were discussed.

- Local Planning – whether the Estate is putting forward a representative for nature recovery. This is being considered as part of future plans. Other areas are in place – sustainable farming initiative, for example. Members hoped to see footpaths enhanced in the parish.
- Insultation – is there a plan to deal with this – there is a plan to do this, although the date for compliance has been pushed back by the Government.
- Local Plan – Members asked about land in the area and whether certain sites were to be earmarked for development in the future.
- Solar Farm – this is due to go to Planning Committee next month.
- Village Hall - it was stated that the Parish Council could not apply for grants as it is not the owner. The response was that some consideration would be given to support if there is a need for that and will discuss areas where funding can be sought. The issue of fascia boards was raised and the cost of maintenance – it was agreed to seek estimates and the Estate said that they would assist with potential funding bids.
- Landscape Management – Members raised the matter of a number of areas near the brook being overgrown – the woodland areas will be cleared in due course – will need to wait for dry weather.

The offer was made of an annual meeting to discuss any matters relating to the Estate.

4. CASUAL VACANCY

It was reported that one vacancy remains on the Parish Council. It was agreed to include it in the next newsletter.

5. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – 16th JANUARY 2024 (PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)

The Chair signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were considered by Members: -

- Tree Planting – will make a formal request to CWAC Highways to site the tree.
- Fees and charges – included on the agenda.
- Bridge Closure – dates changed to April/May 2024 – no exact dates.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair presented her report, which was noted.

- Darnhall Dancers – event took place which was well-attended, and the event went well and was very inclusive.
- Village Hall Door – thanks for assistance from Martin O'Neill in terms of repairing the door.
- Cheshire Life - \article about the local Drinkall family.
- Let's Farm – congratulations were passed to Cllr Lee regarding the work of her team which had been featured on TV and radio.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered the following financial items.

9.1 Ledger/Bank Reconciliation Statement (1.4.23-29.2.24)

The ledger/bank reconciliation statement for the period 1st April 2023-29th February 2024 was noted by Members.

It was confirmed that anyone wishing to claim a refund should be told the terms and conditions of the booking and the process of deciding on a refund.

9.2 Fees and Charges 2024/25

Members were asked to review the following fees and charges for the 2024/25 financial year.

- Booking Cost (Darnhall Village Hall) – currently £12.50 per hour (minimum two hours)
- Booking Fee (Darnhall Village Hall) – currently £25.00 (refundable after the hire)

Members agreed to defer this matter to a meeting of the Finance Committee, pending information on other comparable halls.

9.3 Authorisation of Payments

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| £360.53 | Mark Bailey (Clerk Payment February/March 2024) |
| £53.40 | Intelligent Monitoring Systems (Website) |
| £181.00 | Cheshire West Council (Election Charges – May 2023) |
| £19.80 | Shires Accountants (Payroll Costs) |
| £1,140.00 | Jim Ashley (Ground Maintenance Work – DVH) |
| £9.77 | Cllr Richard Strachan (Reimbursement) |

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

Members noted that the following payments have been made since the last meeting.

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| £25.00 | ChALC (Training Session) – BACS Transfer |
| £35.00 | ICO (Annual Registration Fee) – Direct Debit |
| £62.89 | Shires Accountants (Payroll Costs) |
| £954.00 | Cutler Cleaning (Floor Polisher – DVH) |

10. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered planning matters affecting the parish.

11. DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL

Members agreed to develop a schedule of works for maintenance of the building.

Members requested that the Caretaker provide an update on issues affecting the Village Hall.

Cllr Lee raised the issue of the cupboards occupied by the Brownies and have asked for the Caretaker to rectify this matter.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's raised the following issues: -

- Annual Parish Meeting – it was suggested that the meeting features a presentation on Let's Farm and it was agreed that the meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- D-Day 80th Anniversary – it was agreed to raise with the Fundraising Committee – it was noted that there was to be an event on the following Saturday (8th June 2024).

13.SHARED INFORMATION

There were no issues raised by Members.

14.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the date of the Annual Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 6.30pm (Darnhall Village Hall).

15.EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to their confidential nature, Members may decide to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following matters in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Reports relating to these items have been withheld from public circulation and deposit.

PART B

16.PURCHASE OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the Powerheart G5 AED from Cardiac Science at a cost of £1,125.00.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm