



Darnhall Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE DARNHALL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs M Sherry, R Strachan, R Lee, G Higgs, and C Williams
Dr M Bailey (Clerk)
Members of the public

Cllr M Sherry was in the chair for the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Sherry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. REPORT ON THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Cllr Sherry presented the report on the past 12 months: -

- Thanked everyone who has helped with the position of Chair.
- Several parish councillors retired last year – including Laurence Jinks, Maggie Davenport, and Richard Langley – and thanked them for their work.
- Introduced the current Parish Council and mentioned that there are two vacancies on the Parish Council.
- Mentioned the representatives from the WI and Brownies, as well as Angela Hancock who looks after the Village Hall.
- Details of activities are available in the newsletter.
- The Darnhall Show is to take place in July 2024.
- Shared information on classes in the Hall including Pilates.
- Thanked those who work in the community and for the parish.
- No further information is available on the solar farm or on the bridge closure.
- Introduced the Let's Farm initiative and congratulated them on the award they have won.
- Congratulated Darnhall Dancers on their work.

3. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

No report was provided.

4. LET'S FARM INITIATIVE

Cllr Rosie Lee (RL) presented information on the Let's Farm initiative.

Located at Weaver Dairy House Farm in the parish. RL took the meeting through how the scheme came into being.

Facilities are provided for those with learning and other issues beyond the

age of 18 who are appointed as Rangers.

In developing the initiative, open days were held and LF gained an award from the High Sherriff. After a period, staffing was expanded and LF attended the Cheshire Show and other events. Also attended the Nantwich Show.

The Rangers are at the centre of this work and have learnt how to do various tasks on the farm such as lambing, preparation for market, health checks and shearing. Also involved in administering medication, vets' visits, animal care, as well as breeding. Each Ranger decides what they want to do each day, so get plenty of variety in terms of the work they do. LF also make products which can be sold to feed back into the funding of the scheme, as well as art displays. There is a focus on conservation as part of the LF scheme. Looking to install a polytunnel to ensure that plants can be grown and sold.

As a result of the work, there have been huge improvements in terms of the social skills of those working as Rangers. The aim is to make sure that each Ranger works in as many areas as possible on the farm and in the local area. These include birdwatching, team building, communications, forest skills, and opportunities to learn.

RL went through a few case studies of those people who have come to work on the farm as part of the LF initiative.

RL thanked those organisations who have supported LF over the years including the Cheshire/Nantwich Shows, St Chads Church, Reaseheath College, and Cheshire Police amongst others. RL also thanked the community for all their support.

5. DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023/24

The Parish Clerk went through the finances of the Parish Council – position is relatively healthy thanks to income for the DVH and due to fundraising efforts.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were ten members of the public present.

Meeting closed at 8.11pm