

DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL ON
Tuesday 26th January 2010

Present	Councillors	L Jinks M Davenport E Edwards S Gee J Hignett D Tomlinson H Walker
Apologies	Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Barbara Roberts came late following a full council meeting.	
Absent	Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Andrew Needham Cheshire West and Chester Councillor John Grimshaw Due to a meeting elsewhere.	

Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending this meeting and wishing everyone a belated Happy New Year. On the 8th January the Chairman and his wife had represented Darnhall at the Mayor of Winsford's At Home which was held in the Dingle Centre. He had met the Mayor of CW& C and other local dignitaries. A supper of Hot Pot and Apple Pie was provided and the entertainment was a talk by local historian Tony Bostock on Darnhall and St Chad's, and a performance by Little Budworth Bell Ringers. The proceeds of the raffle are to be given to a local charity which promotes Prostate Cancer Awareness. The Darnhall Quiz team was joint 2nd in the last round held at Byley and the next round will be held at Darnhall on 18th February. The chairman had attended the local meeting of CHALC in December when the matter of the Boundary Commission was a topic together with Telephone Kiosk and the Mobile Library Service. Since the last meeting another local resident Mr Edward Walker known as 'Ted' has died. He was well known throughout the local farming community having worked on various farms and farming on his own account.

Declaration of Interests.

Councillors declared that there had been no changes to their interests.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and these were passed as correct.

Proposed Councillor Tomlinson
Seconded Councillor Walker

Appointment of New Councillor

Mrs Davenport returned her Acceptance on Office and will complete her Code of Conduct when a copy is received from CW&C Council.

Matter Arising

- 12/2007** **The Village Hall Support Group**
Councillor Gee reported that a meeting of this group will take place in February.
- 27/2008** **Formation of a Management Committee for Village Hall**
Councillor Gee is in talks with Cheshire Community Action
- 31/2008** **Clerk's Comments**
Financial Regulations.
Risk Assessment
Standing Orders
Still on going
- 06/2009** **Clerk's Comments**
The clerk has now obtained these forms and they will be completed in due course. Unfortunately the bank had supplied the wrong forms, still work in progress.
- 32/2008** **Broadband**
Is this still OK I will not ask again.
Councillor Davenport is willing to receive her documents by email.
- 33/2008** **Residents Complaint**
Mobile Library still no news.
- 05/2009** **Condition of the Road Surface of Hall Lane**
Some work is currently being done and some areas have been marked out for further attention, therefore it currently seems a matter of wait and see how much work is carried out. see **18/2009**.

Payments

	Amount	Cheque Number
Clerks' Payment	75.00	260
Clerks' Broadband	15.00	261
Just Me IT Website Design	72.00	263
Audit Commission	57.50	262
Rent due for 1 meetings in January	15.00	264

Councillor Gee will contact Mellor Braggins regarding the rent of £10.00

**Proposed Councillor Tomlinson
Seconded Councillor Hignett**

08/2009 Ward Boundaries

Councillor Jinks having attended a meeting of the Vale Royal Area of CHALC late last year had found out that the Boundaries Commission was planning to place Darnhall Parish within Winsford. However he took advice from various contacts and sent the attached document by email reaffirming the wishes of the council to remain in a rural area. to the Boundary Commission and the appropriate department of CW&C.

CW&C Councillor Barbara Roberts had come straight from a full council meeting of CW&C to tell the parish council that CW&C council agreed with this and would forward this recommendation onto the Boundary Commission. .

13/2009 Telephone Kiosk

Councillor Gee had contacted British Telecom and the telephone box is not currently at risk since it was repainted last year. It was discussed at Vale Royal Area of CHALC late last year that telephone boxes at Antrobus and Lache Dennis are in a similar situation.

14//2009 Raven Inn

The Chairman had been in contact with the owners of the property and they have carried out extensive works to make the building and surrounding area safe. Bollards have also been put along the entrance to the car park to stop unauthorised parking etc. The site now looks much improved.

17/2009 Voting for APB Meeting representative.

Graham Stewart ,Utkinton Parish Councillor, had been elected.

18/2009

Smithy Bank

A response had been received from Meller Braggins (Receivers of A R N Verdin) regarding Smithy Bank to the effect that the problems was in the drain passing under land owned by residents on Beauty Bank. However they had been contacted by Colin Powell of CW & C Highways and they will be carrying out a detailed investigation to try and resolve the matter. Councillor Hignett will keep an eye on developments

Darnhall Knobs

A response had been received from Meller Braggins (R J Verdin Esq.) They are aware of the vandalism and will discuss it with Mr James Verdin on his next visit.

19/2009

Audit Report

This has been returned from the Audit Commission with the note that the following are still outstanding.

Financial Regulations.

Risk Assessment

Standing Orders

Any other Business

20/2009

Heavy Goods Vehicles using Hall Lane

A resident had raised the matter of the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles using Hall Lane and how that when Cheshire East had closed various road junctions on the A51 and introduced weight resections this had reduced the HGV's using the Lane. The resident asked if a weight limit could be put permanently on this road. After discussion the council will look into this matter and CW&C Councillor Barbara Roberts will give the clerk the details of who is the relevant contact at CW& C.

21/2009

Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

The chairman would like his name to go forward to attend this function on the 22nd June 2010.

Correspondence

This was passed round, but this is much reduced due to the fact that more is being sent via email.

Meeting Closed at 21.00 hours

Next Meeting: to be. 30th March 2010

Darnhall Parish Council strongly objects to the Boundary Commission's draft recommendations placing the rural Darnhall with the urban wards of Swanlow and Dene in Winsford, to be called South Winsford.

However, the Council is very pleased to support C W A C Council's proposal to include Darnhall in the Eddisbury Ward, along with Tarporley and the surrounding rural parishes.

Over the years Darnhall has formed strong links with the Eddisbury Ward parishes through its major industry which is dairy and beef farming. The farmers are naturally orientated to Beeston Cattle Market where they sell their stock as calves or finished beef cattle. Beeston also has a weekly stall holders market which is very popular with the residents in Darnhall. The residents also frequent the rural pubs, farm shops, butchers, garden centres, etc. of the Eddisbury ward.

A good number of the residents also use the educational, medical and dental facilities in Tarporley, Bunbury, Eaton and Calveley. Particularly of great use is the Tarporley Memorial Hospital for radiotherapy, small operations, and recuperation.

As mentioned the main employers in the parish are the farms together with approximately three other small businesses. The biggest of these is John Bownes Ltd which supplies agricultural machinery and is a major national factor. One of the other small business was started by a retired dairy farmer who has created a cottage industry making cakes and fruit pies and supplying farm shops, village cafes, and the Tarporley delicatessen, all in the rural areas of Eddisbury.

The boundary maps of Darnhall make it clear that we are a rural parish because part of the boundary is formed along the Wettenhall Brook and Ash Brook which meet and flow into the Winsford Flashes. And the longest boundary of the parish is with East Cheshire (Wettenhall, Lea Green and Church Minshull) all of which are agriculture and rural areas. Only a very small part of the parish boundary is with Winsford and that boundary is mainly rural. The remaining boundary within Cheshire West and Chester is with Little Budworth and Rushton and Eaton and once again this is an agricultural area.

There are two main areas of housing in Darnhall - one is a new development adjoining the Winsford boundary and the other approximately one mile away along a country lane near the recently refurbished Village Hall. There have been cottages in this area for hundreds of years, and the small holding adjoining one of the cottages is the home of a farrier who shoes anything from small ponies to shire horses both on and off site.

A large portion of the property and land in the parish is owned by the Verdin Estate and joins onto their lands in Wettenhall.

An area of land next to Darnhall Village Hall marks the Centre of Cheshire. The Hall itself has recently been refurbished and rejuvenated thanks to over £100 thousand in grants from rural funds. It is regularly used by the local community and is home to the Darnhall & Wettenhall Women's Institute, Darnhall Brownies and Guides, Darnhall Dancers, as well as many private functions. Many of the participants come from the local rural villages in the Eddisbury Ward.

The events in the Hall are often shown in the local glossy magazine, Tarporley Talk, where there is a strong sense of the local community. This sense is not often shared by the Winsford newspapers who are too 'urbanised' to bother with their surrounding villages.

During the last four years we have had a very good working relationship with the three Eddisbury Councillors. They have represented us well in council, and have given good advice when needed. Also they have acquired grants for us to continue with our refurbishment. Long may this continue that Darnhall is regarded as a separate and worthwhile entity of its own, and not just another 'suburb' of Winsford to be casually subsumed into a greater whole for the sake of a few population statistics.

The councillors feel that the best interests of the residents of the parish would be served by continuing to be in a rural cluster. The problems of urban areas are in many ways different from those where there is no rural transport and very few services, and a rural based cluster would have a better comprehension of our problems.

