



Datchworth Parish Council

27th March 2024

c/o Datchworth Village Hall

52 Datchworth Green,

Datchworth,

SG3 6TL

Tel : 07938743424

Present: Cllrs Sara Miller, Julia Florence, Dean Goodman, Charles Groves, Mark Light, Emma Norman, Viv Marshall. Pat Perry, Mike Sims.

Cllr Andrew Wood arrived at 19:10

In attendance: 2 members of public

Minutes of Datchworth Parish Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 26th March 2024

Datchworth Church Hall at 7pm

PCM24-03/01 Apologies

Apologies for absence – Clerk. Cllr Perry acted as the clerk for the meeting.

PCM24-03/02 Interests

- a. To receive declarations of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Goodman Plough Car Park
Cllr Sims – Burnham Green Festival Committee

- b. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests

None

- c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate

None

PCM24-03/03 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of PCM held on 27th February 2024 are a true and accurate record of proceedings and duly signed by the chairman Unanimous **Resolved**

PCM24-03/04 Outstanding Actions

Letter to residents – Roman Road to be sent by Clerk.

PCM24-03/05 Public Issues

- a. **Tewin Wood Centenary.** Tewin resident David Rixson proposes to form a committee to celebrate in 2025, the 100th anniversary of Tewin Wood, which has around 200 houses, (50 or so in the parish of Datchworth). Mr Rixson's book may be published and for sale.
Action: to invite Mr. Rixson to the next BGJMC meeting on 8th May (Clerk)

PCM24-03/06 Finance (Cllr Light)

- a) To review & approval of March's monthly finance report Unanimous. **Resolved.**
- £20,580 levelling up fund has been received, and the sum is ringfenced in the budgets.
 - 2024/5 project planning to start in April, based on budget forecasts.
 - Cllr Florence reported that £300 has been received from Elderberries, with thanks. There is £493.50 in the Strength and Balance fund, and Alicia's March bill of £184.50 is due. We have enough funding and contributions from class members to keep going until the end of May and hope to hear from Andrew Figgis re further funding in the next few days.
 - Cllr Miller proposed that DPC finance £375 towards a new defibrillator in the phone box, and £245 for defibrillator installation, totaling £620. Unanimous. **Resolved.**
We are very grateful to a local resident who is covering the remainder of the new defibrillator costs. Derek Hill also said that Watton Youth FC would be able to contribute to the defibrillator maintenance costs.

Action: to research defibrillator maintenance options and costs and report at next meeting (Cllr Miller and Clerk)

PCM24-03/07 Planning (Cllr Goodman)

- a. Planning applications

Datchworth Village Stores planning permission has been refused on the grounds firstly of materially larger development in green belt, and secondly on the grounds of aesthetics, size and design. The owner may be able to increase the size of the shop, but not by the amount he has already applied for. He may now appeal or submit a revised planning permission application.

- Two other recent applications – 97 Datchworth Green and 8 Whitehorse Lane – will be reviewed and commented on at the next meeting.
- Coltsfoot easement - an extraordinary parish council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd April at the church hall to which all concerned parties are invited to discuss the issues and options open to the council.

PCM24 03/08 Governance and Legal

- a. Plough Car Park update Cllr Florence stated we may need funds for legal advice and planning fees. We already have a budget for £5000 and Cllr Florence proposed and additional £3000. Proposed Cllr Florence, seconded Cllr Light, 8 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 objection (Cllr Groves). **Resolved.**

b. Land Registry

- We have been advised that all land to be registered must be given a value, or range of values. We understand that the green, when registered had a £0 value. An accurate amount is difficult, given they'll never be for sale.

Action: to ask Nockolds or Land Registry if a nominal £100 would be acceptable (Clerk)

- Easements – should they be registered with Land Registry? Clerk to ask Land Registry whether this is the responsibility of the grantor (DPC) or grantee (resident).
 - Despite there no longer being an imperative from the government to register land, and the target/deadline being withdrawn, Cllr Miller proposed that we proceed to register all DPC/common land in the parish. Unanimous. **Resolved.**
- c. Burnham Green Festival Cllr Miller proposed to grant permission for the festival provided that it is compliant with TENs license rules. Unanimous. **Resolved.**

PCM24-03/09 Annual Parish Meeting

Date set for Thursday 16th May.

Same format as before – refreshments, followed by open meeting.

Action: to book the village hall and to invite village organisations (Clerk)

Action: to consider nominations for Community Champions (All)

PCM24-03/10 Recreation (Cllr Norman)

- a. Nutcroft Play area – priority is a disabled roundabout and swings. We understand a donation of a bench may also be forthcoming – Cllr Norman to investigate.
- Levelling up fund is designated for car park resurfacing, a path and fencing in the Turkey Farm, though there may be some scope in reallocating this to different projects.
 - DPC to explore other grants for play equipment, and all to consider other options for development.
 - Scam briefing session (in collaboration with Digital Inclusion, the village hall and Citizen's Advice) was very well received with approximately 40 attendees.
 - Cllr Norman to research other talks and presentations that might appeal to residents.

Action: to pass on details for an NHS worker who presents on first aid and use of defibrillators (Cllr Wood).

PCM24-03/11 Environment – tree maintenance (Cllr Wood)

- a. All tree maintenance on Datchworth green has been completed.

- The splay on Bramfield Road at Bull's Green has been cut back at the request and satisfaction of a resident.
- The tree on the Roman Road will be maintained next week.
- The cricket club will repair the roadway to the sports club. Residents are responsible for maintenance and have been asked to repair it. DPC to fill in potholes in the road.
- Gill Lines has said works to the boundary of her land can go ahead.
- Trees/shrubs need felling on the path alongside the Rectory on Brookbridge Lane

Action: to advise who is responsible via the Footpath Officer at Herts CC (Clerk).

PCM24-03/12 BGJMC

- a. Noticeboard is now in situ behind one of the benches on hard standing. Welwyn parish clerk has Keys to the cabinets and can distribute to the Clerk and whoever else needs one.

PCM24-03/13 Clerk's report

- a. Coltsfoot parking – Clerk has replied to say highways are responsible for parking on roads and verges, police are responsible for highway obstruction and DPC is responsible for parking on common land.

Meeting Closed 20:10

Chair: Sara Miller _____

Date ___/___/___