



**Datchworth**  
PARISH COUNCIL  
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF DATCHWORTH, BULLS GREEN, BURNHAM GREEN & HOOKS CROSS

**Datchworth Parish Council**

29th July 2025

c/o Datchworth Village Hall

52 Datchworth Green,

Datchworth,

SG3 6TL

**Present:** Cllrs Sara Miller, Charles Groves, Emma Norman, Andrew Wood, Mark Light, Pat Perry, Julia Florence, Michael Sims and Dean Goodman

Tel : 07938743424

**In attendance:** Andy Short (Clerk), County Councillor Ken Crofton and 1 member of public

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**Minutes of Datchworth Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 29th July 2025**

**Datchworth Church Hall at 7pm**

**PCM25-06/01 Apologies**

To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Marshall

**PCM25-06/02 Interests**

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

None.

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

Cllr Goodman - Datchworth Green car park.

Cllr Wood - Sports club

- c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

None.

**PCM25-06/03 Minutes**

To verify the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 24th June 2025 as a correct record.  
Unanimous.

## PCM25-07/04 Public Issues

Members of the Public and Councillors can raise matters of concern (15 minutes)

### a. Traffic Calming (Cllr Sims)

Cllr Crofton advised the council he had already made representation to HCC to be considered for traffic calming.

**Resolved** that Cllr Crofton will arrange an informal, on-site meeting with Hope Merriman to discuss the various options for Traffic calming in the village. Unanimous

### b. Drainage Watton Road

A quote has been requested to dredge the pond, DPC advised by Cllr Crofton that HCC may support with costs.

## PCM25-07/05 Finance (Cllr Light)

- a. **Resolved** to approve the monthly finance report - July payments. Unanimous
- b. **Resolved** to approve the Quarterly bank reconciliation. Unanimous
- c. Quarterly budget review acknowledged
- d. Date agreed for formal annual budget/precept meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Action:** Clerk to book suitable meeting room.

- e. Noted: 3 yearly Redecclaration of Compliance to pensions regulator.

## PCM25-07/06 Planning (Cllr Goodman)

### a. New applications:

13 Burnham Green Road - ground floor extension - ('permitted development').

### b. Decisions:

48 Datchworth Green - Extensions and alterations - approved - (DPC objection).  
47 Burnham Green Road - extensions and gates - refused - (DPC part objection).  
29 Raffin Green Lane – Outline planning for a 3 bed detached house refused.

### c. Knebworth Expansion:

Outline planning application for 200 new homes on land adjacent to Swangleys Lane and Watton Road (site KB4 in the local plan). North Herts. Council planning committee meeting was held on 17th July 2025.

Deferred for 2 reasons:-

- I. Transport assessment was carried out in Covid lockdown; therefore this is to be repeated.
- II. Explore the concept of a small mini roundabout at the bottom of Swangleys Lane.

n.b. The minutes do not reflect what was said at the meeting by the legal officer, this is currently being challenged.

d. Application for registration of adverse possession - 26 Orchard Road, Burnham Green.

That the content of the briefing note as previously circulated, be noted.

e. Coltsfoot Lane Easement matter.

- No response has been received to our letter of 13/6 to the developer.
- The working group have tried to make a direct approach to the developer but have been informed he does not want to discuss the matter and refuses to communicate further with either DPC or Cllr Goodman.
- On site work continues at a pace.
- No further contact from immediate neighbours.
- DPC have contacted Highways who are aware of the continued dispute and will not be authorising and constructing the dropped kerb until the dispute is resolved.
- A communication to the Council's insurers has been sent on 21/7 and this explains the matters of trespass.
- An email was received today, and Zurich confirmed that our case falls within the cover available under the policy and they can instruct solicitors immediately who will start considering the claim.
- Under the claim DPC cannot currently nominate its own solicitor (unless DPC cover the cost).

f. Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan.

- DPC was previously consulted at Reg 14 stage which is a pre-submission stage.
- At DPC meeting 30/1/24 we resolved to note its contents and write in support of the specific policy Improvement of Road safety and to align with the '20 is plenty' which aims at discouraging 'rat runs' through villages and enforcing 20mph.
- Current consultation on the Neighbourhood plan is now at Reg 16 stage and we have again been consulted and comments requested up to 1/9/2025.
- The road safety policy has transformed into Project 7(2) and retains its emphasis on '20 is plenty' specifically for the three areas of Welwyn village, Digswell and Harmer Green Lane
- There is no effective change to the policy and I suggest that in these circumstances no further action is needed and the status be noted.

## **PCM25-07/08 Governance and Legal (Cllr Florence)**

a. Datchworth Green Car Park Update

Car park work starts on 11<sup>th</sup> August with completion expected by end of September 2025.

Working group suggested an opening ceremony event.

**Resolved:** to spend up to £200 on the car park opening ceremony and the working group to meet and review the details. Unanimous

n.b. DPC have planning permission for a substantial noticeboard in the car park.

**Resolved:** to remove the dilapidated noticeboard on Datchworth Green and, in principal; place a new one in the Datchworth Green car park. Unanimous.

## PCM25-07/09 Recreation (Cllr Norman)

### a. Recreation proposals

Citizens advice have suggested dates of 7<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> October for workshop sessions on lasting power of attorney and energy efficiency

Datchworth Sports club are checking whether they have availability to host the event (6pm-8pm)

Cllr Norman proposed the idea of a 'thank you' party for helpful groups in the village.

Dates and further details to be advised.

Xmas lighting event date Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Cllr Groves offered to spray the play equipment and the DPC benches; he reported that he has already re-sited gym notice board post.

**Resolved** to spend up to £125 on materials for spraying play equipment.

**Action:** Cllr Groves to move two bins from Datchworth Green; one to Hawkins Hall Lane and another nearer to Datchworth crossroads.

Cllr Norman suggested DPC distribute a newsletter twice a year advertising village events.

**Resolved** to spend up to £50 for the newsletter leafletting budget. Unanimous

### b. Macmillan Coffee morning reminder. **15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

## PCM25-07/10 Clerk Correspondence

Resident requested information regarding Coltsfoot new dwelling.

A resident requested information on the Parish Council's position regarding the newbuild on Coltsfoot Lane. A letter was sent explaining the current position which was accepted.

Padel tennis.

Sports club representatives held a meeting with a local consortium who are carrying out feasibility studies on various locations to build self-service padel tennis courts. DPC are awaiting more detail on the outcome of the study.

### **Update on actions**

Cllr Wood has only received one enquiry from James Howe requesting further detail regarding the grass cutting contract.

**Action:** Clerk to provide map/drawing to detail areas which require grass and hedge cutting and chase Kirkhams for their quote.

A resident who wishes to remain anonymous has informed The Parish council that they are concerned 'Burnham house' is in breach of planning regulations. Cllr Perry has contacted East Herts planning department regarding this without success due to the anonymity requirement.

Cllr Croft suggested asking Cllr Stowe as a member of the East Herts planning committee to escalate on behalf of DPC.

Meeting close 21:00

Chair: Sara Miller \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_