Darnhall Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2026 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs M Sherry (Chair)
C Williams, G Higgs, R Strachan, and R Lee
Cllr Simon Boone (CWAC)
Dr M Bailey (Clerk)

PART A

1. **APOLOGIES**
   Apologies were received from Cllr Johnson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   There were no declarations of interest submitted to the meeting.

3. **MINUTES – 18TH NOVEMBER 2025 (PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)**
   To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th November 2025 be signed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**
   The following matters were raised by those present.

   - Village Hall – it was reported that there had been no response to requests for quotes for cleaning/work on the toilets. It was agreed to approach other potential suppliers.
   - Utilities – it was reported that Utility Aid had been approached
   - Work on the Village Hall – it was reported that phase one had been completed. It was reported that there had been a leak and that this had been repaired.
   - Village Hall – it was reported that Mellor Speakman had been contacted.
   - Caretaker – the actions agreed at the last meeting had been passed on.
   - Alarm – a copy of the contract had been requested.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
   There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
   The Chair presented the following report.

   - Mill Cottages – it was reported that people had moved in.
   - Fundraising – meeting on 4th February 2026.

7. CHESHIRE WEST COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Simon Boone attended the meeting and provided the following updates.

- Speed Limits – reported that he had been trying to get a speed limit for the past years. It was discovered that CWAC had wanted to implement a 40-mph speed limit. Cllr Boone informed the meeting that he had done work on surveying the area. He informed the meeting that he had funded 50% of the scheme. It will now go out to public consultation for 40-mph from the top of Hall Lane to the boundary with Cheshire East. Cllr Boone had spoken to some residents about this. Requested that the information is shared on social media and on noticeboards. Cllr Boone asked for a consultation plan and said that he would post information through doors. It was reported that the surveys had shown that the average speed is around 36.70 mph, but he wished to apply a temporary 30 mph area to see what the speeds would be under those conditions. It was said that information on this would be passed to Cllr Strachan. Cllr Boone stated that he wanted to review this after a year, once implemented. Members asked that 30 mph is considered all along the route. It was reported that the start date would be in the new financial year. Members agreed to the proposals.
- Planning – it was reported that there were two large scale applications in the area, and that this would be an opportunity for the Parish Council to make representations about the highway.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered the following financial items.

8.1 Ledger/Bank Reconciliation Statement (1.4.25-31.12.25)

The ledger/bank reconciliation statement for the period 1st April 2025-31st December 2025 was noted by Members.

8.2 Budget Monitoring Report and Receipts and Payments Summary (Quarter 3 – 2025/26) (Apr-Dec 2025)

The budget monitoring report/receipts and payment summary to the end of quarter three (2025/26) (Apr-Dec 2025) is presented to Members for note.

8.3 Budget Setting 2026/27

Members were asked to note the 2026/27 budget setting report. It was reported that this has been considered by Finance Committee at its meeting on 16th December 2025. Based on the conclusions of the Finance Committee, a draft budget was considered by Members.

Members were asked to **RESOLVE**: -

- That a new budget of **£10,635.00** be approved; and
- That Clerk is authorised to request a precept of **£9,370.00** from CWAC.

This was **RESOLVED** by the Parish Council.

8.4 Authorisation of Payments

Members considered the following payments.

£408.42	Dr M Bailey – Clerk Pay – December 2025/January 2026
£1,140.00	Jim Ashley (VH Grounds Maintenance)
£185.00	PDQ Landscaping and Building Services (VH Work)
£47.00	ICO (Annual Registration Fee)
£7,143.00	PDQ Landscaping and Building Services (VH Work)
£70.00	MWE (installation of hand dryer)
£6.00	Cllr Marjorie Sherry (Reimbursement – key cutting)
£13.50	Cllr Marjorie Sherry (Reimbursement – mugs for VH)

RESOLVED:
Members **APPROVED** the above payments – to be paid via online banking.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered planning matters affecting the parish.

9.1 Planning Committee

Members **APPROVED** the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th November 2025.

9.2 Other Issues

Members noted that planning applications had been received and dates for Planning Committee would be circulated. It was suggested that the agents for the applications could be invited to speak to the Council, and is the Council going to consult with the community. Members agreed to approach the agents and hold a meeting if necessary, and inform the planning case officer.

10. DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council considered matters relating to the Village Hall.

- Waste Collection – it was confirmed that the provider had been given a key for access
- Caretakers Report – the following matters were raised: -
    - Fire Door – a lock was requested for the fire door which enters the storeroom – agreed to put a new lock on there to allow emergency access for all users
    - Storeroom – requested a lock – it was noted
    - Gate – gate to stop the public entering the upstairs store was requested – it was noted that such a move would be expensive and alternative solutions to be explored. Also agreed to install a sign requiring no access.
    - Ladies Toilet – new light required – Cllr Strachan will action
    - Ladies Toilet – it was asked whether the bin should be removed professionally – Cllr Lee to speak to Caretaker about this issue.
    - Urinals – it was noted that these should be removed/repaired – it was **AGREED** to get costings – Cllr Strachan agreed to progress

- Floor – it was reported that repairs are required – Cllr Strachan to progress
- Window Blinds – it was reported that these need repairing and cleaning at the front of the building – this was noted by Members.
- Hand Dryer – now fitted
- New Heating Timer – this is an ongoing piece of work and is under investigation (to secure a remote control).
- Lights – it was reported that the bulb was not working – this was noted and will review
- Kitchen – it was noted that a window had been requested, but Members stated that there are insufficient funds available for this at the present time.
- Corridor/Porch – it was reported that these needed painting.
- Signs – it was noted that no smoking/vaping signs had been requested.
- Sockets – it was reported that two sockets were not working in the kitchen – this was noted and will be progressed
- Website – it was agreed to investigate a new name for the website address

11. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was noted.

12. SHARED INFORMATION

The following items were shared by Members.

- Defibrillator – it was noted that the defibrillator outside the Village Hall is not working. Cllr Lee shared information on possible replacements.
- Trees – it was requested that Members consider asking Darnhall Estate to undertake an urgent survey of trees along Hall Lane.It was reported that, in recent weeks, one falling tree had affected the highway and had to be cut back. It was requested that potentially dangerous trees are removed. Members **AGREED** to this action.
- Dates – it was **AGREED** to hold the next meeting on 14th April 2026. It was also **AGREED** to review dates for 2026/27 at the annual meeting in May 2026.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6.30pm (Darnhall Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 8.00pm