Darnhall Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARNHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2026 AT 6.30PM

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

PART A

1. **APOLOGIES**
   Apologies were received from Cllrs Strachan and Johnson.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   Cllr Williams declared an interest in the planning applications appearing on the agenda and agreed to leave the meeting when these items were discussed.

3. **MINUTES – 27TH JANUARY 2026 (PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)**
   To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th January 2026 be signed as a correct record.

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

   - Utilities – it was reported that Utility Aid had been approached
   - Work on the Village Hall – it was reported that phase one had been completed and it was also reported that funding had been received via Cheshire Community Action.
   - Village Hall – it was reported that Mellor Speakman had been contacted and will be invited to the next meeting.
   - Caretaker – the actions agreed at the last meeting had been passed on.
   - Website – it was reported that there have been issued with booking and that progress had been made with closing the old site. Will discuss at the next meeting.
   - Alarm – a copy of the contract had been requested and waiting for a response.
   - Speed Limits – no updates
   - Heating Systems – to ask for a remote control.

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

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

- Darnhall Dancers – performed at Frodsham recently.
- Let's Farm – it was reported that money had been received from the Winsford Decides process.
- Darnhall Show – to take place on the first Sunday in July.
- Afternoon Tea – to held on 17th May 2026
- Fundraising – meeting to take place on 22nd April 2026.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered the following financial items.

7.1 Ledger/Bank Reconciliation Statement (1.4.25-31.3.26)

The ledger/bank reconciliation statement for the period 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 was noted by Members.

7.2 Budget Monitoring Report and Receipts and Payments Summary (Quarter 4 – 2025/26) (Apr 2025-March 2026)

The budget monitoring report/receipts and payment summary to the end of quarter four (2025/26) (Apr 2025-March 2026) is presented to Members for note. Members noted that there had been a small overspend.

7.3 Authorisation of Payments

Members considered the following payments.

£408.42	Dr M Bailey – Clerk Pay – February/March 2026
£67.20	ChALC (2026/27 Membership)
£118.79	Cllr Richard Strachan (Reimbursement)
£96.00	PKF Littlejohn (2025/26 Audit Costs)
£5.00	Mellor Speakman (Licence – DVH)
£70.56	Re-Coded Solutions (M365 Package Renewal)
£120.00	Re-Coded Solutions (Website Domain Renewal)
£203.84	CWAC (Business Rates – Village Hall)

Please note that the following payments have been made since the last Parish Council meeting.

£47.00	Information Commissioner's Office (2026 Fees)
£65.52	ChALC (2025/26 Membership)

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

8. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered planning matters affecting the parish.

8.1 Planning Meeting

Members ratified the notes taken from the public meeting held on 24th March 2026 to discuss the two planning applications affecting the parish.

8.2 Planning Comments

Members are considered comments on the following planning applications.

- Land off Darnhall School Lane, 330 dwellings, 25/03686/OUT
- Land to West of Swanlow Lane, 190 dwellings, 25/03947/OUT

Members reviewed the comments which had been collated following consultation with the public and other stakeholders. It was agreed to amend the documents to simply ask that both are refused.

Members **RESOLVED** both amended documents and agreed that the Clerk submit them on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. DARNHALL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council considered matters relating to the Village Hall.

- Mellor Speakman – still awaiting response about a meeting (see earlier minute),
- Cleaning – it was reported that the windows had been cleaned by Let's Farm and asked for a new duster.
- Bench – it was asked who had donated the bench and it was reported that some funds from the Darnhall Show could pay for a new bench.
- Defibrillator – it was agreed to contact the previous Clerk to ask about ownership. It was agreed to approach a company to look after the defibrillator.

10. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's shared the following information.

- Peak Cluster Pipeline – the Clerk shared information on a ChALC meeting to be held on 30th April 2026.
- Date of next meeting – it was noted that the Clerk could not attend the scheduled meeting to be held on 19th May 2026. It was agreed to seek to hold the meeting on 26th May 2026.

11. SHARED INFORMATION

No items were shared by Members.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the date of annual Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 6.30pm (Darnhall Village Hall).

Meeting closed at 7.49pm