

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 8^h February 2018

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Smith, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Stones, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Thompson, PCSO Davenport (Part)

Apologies:

Cllr Hoyle and Wakefield MDC Cllr Jones

In Attendance:

7 members of the public

2018-02-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2018-02-02

Public Matters

Nothing was raised.

2018-02-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and otherwise accepted as being a true record by Cllrs Jones and Stones.

2018-02-04

Matters arising:

- Mrs Morrell has not reported the extremely bright lights adjacent to the school as they are significantly less obtrusive since building work there ceased.
- Cllr Britton has sent a card to "The Brotherhood" thanking them for their generous help with Christmas Trees for the village.
- Cllr Stainer has raised a cheque for Mr. Flaherty to contribute towards electricity costs incurred when his domestic power supply was used to power the lights on the Tithe Barn tree during the Christmas period..
- There are issues with Wakefield MDC refuse collection in that bins associated with the "Reading Rooms" are not always emptied. The bins are amongst those allocated to the church which has others situated close to the church itself in the Tithe Barn area. Cllr. Britton explained that in previous discussions he learned that the church has charitable status and bins for the church itself were emptied at no charge by the authority. However, they class the "Reading Rooms" as a business and as a result they require a fee before these bins will be collected. Cllr. Britton intends to discuss this issue with any Wakefield MDC councillor attending a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- The old orchard may well contain some "ancient" varieties of apple tree and arborist Mr. Richard Brown has been in touch with Cllr. Britton and offered to visit the orchard and identify the varieties. Cllr. Britton will encourage him to do so.

- Mr. Geoff Thornton, the gentleman offering to assist with traffic speed measurement in the village, has agreed to contact Wakefield MDC himself to obtain written confirmation that they have no objections to his laying cables across the road and installing ancillary equipment on the pavement. He will report back to Cllr. Britton.
- Mr. Michael Dawson, a nephew of one of the Dean family tragically involved in the 1942 air crash in the village, thanked the Parish Council for their offer of assistance in repairing and perhaps enhancing or replacing the headstone of the grave within the churchyard. However, he proposes to manage the process himself by employing local monumental masons Lancasters.
- Cllr Johnson attended the Parish Council liaison meeting in Wakefield on the 7th of February. She reported to that meeting that planning related update emails to our Chairman and Clerk seem to be more intermittent recently and have no Darrington entries. She was advised to email Elaine Blezard at Wakefield with more detail. Cllr. Johnson agreed to do this herself and ask for Darrington applications for the last two months.
- Cllr Johnson also raised the issue of non-enforcement of planning decisions at the liaison meeting. Many other attendees from a variety of parish councils at the same meeting confirmed they too had examples of non-enforcement. As a result the chair of that meeting agreed that a planning department representative would be invited to the next liaison meeting on the 25th of April.
- Cllr Johnson reported on Wakefield MDCs "Get Online" facility whereby one can raise questions of the authority online directly. This facility will issue a reference number which can be used for tracking progress of one's query.
- Cllr Johnson also reported that the liaison meeting advised that Pontefract hospital's A&E department would cease to operate on the 9th of April. The facility will be downgraded to an "urgent care" facility. "Urgent Care" is for minor non-life threatening issues. Cllr Johnson agreed to try to arrange an official to visit either the Monday morning coffee morning or a parish council meeting to present on this new situation.
- Cllr. Johnson reported that Wakefield MDC will assist risk assessment generation for event planning if requested to do so.
- Cllr Johnson confirmed that the next Parish Council Liaison meeting will take place on the 25th of April and that items on the agenda will include data protection, and hopefully include a planning department representative, and information on the "community infrastructure levy".

2018-02-05

Correspondence:

- Mrs. Morrell has sent details of the names and contact details for police and PCSOs associated with the village. They are:-

PC Ian Heaslip ian.heaslip@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

PC Nichola Dodson nichola.dodson@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Andy Davenport andy.davenport@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Mark Wilde = mark.wilde@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

- The chairman has received a letter from Mr. Peter Boyes, the “Systems Director” at Dovecote Park. Mr. Boyes reported that he had received a complaint that one of their lorries had gone through the village along Valley Road rather than use the agreed route using Hovercraft Lane and Leys Road. He confirmed that he would stress to all drivers that they must use route. He also discussed the danger to cyclists at the bend on the road between the Dovecote entrance and Darrington and asked if this bend was in Darrington Parish Council’s area. He also asked for assistance in trying to get Wakefield MDC to properly repair the potholes in Havercroft Lane and to ask for street lighting to be added to that road. On these points Cllr. Thompson stated that he had never seen a Dovecote lorry using Valley Road and thought such incidents must be rare, and that hopefully Mr. Boyes re-iterating the rules to the drivers would have the desired effect. The meeting agreed that the “County of North Yorkshire” sign is the border between Wakefield MDC and Selby Council’s territories and that the bend was indeed in Selby district. It was agreed that Cllr. Wilkins would contact Mr. Boyes to let him know the appropriate person within Wakefield MDC for him to contact directly. Mr. Boyes also offered to support any projects Darrington Parish Council is or will be running.
- A copy of a letter from Mr. Brian Watkinson to Wakefield MDC describing issues with walking his dog at the “Long Plantation”. Unfortunately nobody at the meeting knows where the “Long Plantation” is located. The meeting concluded this is indeed a Wakefield MDC matter and that having noted the contents of the letter no further action is required.

2018-02-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts for January 2018. He reported that the opening balance at the end of the month stood at £20,691.48

Two potential payments were submitted for approval:-

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
8.02.18	36-1718	CH 741	Community Heartbeat	Purchase of defibrillator.	2,130.00	355.00
8.02.18	37-1718	CH 742 Debit	Mick Flaherty	Christmas Lights Power	30.00	0.00
					2160.00	355.00

Cllr Britton proposed and Cllr. Smith seconded approval for this expenditure. It was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Stainer then reviewed the current budget versus “actual” situation. The meeting concluded there were no issues.

2018-02-07

Planning matters:

Wentbridge House Hotel – modification to reception doors and windows. No comment.

A photograph was produced showing building materials and evidence of footings having been prepared at Bankwood Stables. This is despite their having been told to dismantle existing structures. Cllr. Tagger will write to Wakefield MDC planning department to report the situation.

2018-02-08

Defibrillator:

Cllr Smith has spoken yet again to the red phone box supplier who has assured her it will be installed within the next two weeks. The defibrillator itself will not be shipped until payment is cleared. Cllr. Stainer has already been authorised by the council to make a payment for the defibrillator as soon as he is presented with an invoice. Cllr. Stones also stated that it was imperative that the electrician provides a “certificate of installation”. Annual support for the defibrillator is £135 per annum for a four year contract. The support contract not only gives cover for issues with the defibrillator but also a supply of pads as and when needed. Two pads are used whenever the defibrillator is used. The meeting unanimously agreed to take out such insurance for the four year period.

2018-02-09

Air crash:

A presentation regarding this event has been given given by Cllr. Tagger and other committee members at a recent “Reading Rooms” coffee morning. The estimate for the first design pass for the commemorative sign is £345 plus VAT and includes the art work. The Parish Council will not be asked to fund the buffet at the Golf Club for VIP guests. The possibility of obtaining funds from Wakefield’s “Community Chest” is being explored.

2018-02-010

Reports:

School:

Nothing to report

Village Field:

Nothing to report

Police:

PCSO Andy Davenport introduced himself and reported that his “patch” includes Darrington along with Pontefract South, Wentbridge and East Hardwick. He advised regular visits to the “Action Fraud” website (<https://actionfraud.police.uk/>) for information about scams. A current scam relates to persons posing as bailiffs presenting themselves with fake IDs requesting payments for a non-existent debt. Details are available on the website and he suggested a reference should be on the Facebook page. Cllr. Smith asked specifically what course of action could be taken against youths causing problems

as has happened in the village recently. The officer told the meeting that the first action would be that the miscreant and a parent would be invited to a meeting at which an ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract) would be discussed and hopefully signed. Failure to attend such a meeting could result in sanctions including loss of local authority housing tenancy. Continued anti-social behaviour can result in a "Civil Injunction" with fines or even detention.

When asked what members of the public can do to help he stressed that photographic evidence and vehicle registration numbers are extremely useful in helping track down individuals.

Cllr Tagger raised the question of anti social parking and PCSO Davenport stated that parking that caused an obstruction was something on which PCSOs could and would legitimately act, however, any specific charges (if the person parking refused to comply with a request) would have to be made by a PC.

Cllr. Thompson raised the recent accident which put the traffic lights out of action and demolished the adjacent seat. This is the second such incident in a few months and Cllr. Thompson will write to Wakefield MDC to ask what actions can be done to reduce the chance of such incidents happening in future.

PCSO Davenport hopes to attend future meetings of the parish council and to present crime figures for Darrington Parish.

In Bloom:

Cllr. Stainer reported that he would present an invoice from First Impressions for approval at the next meeting, but which would not be paid until the next financial year.

Gardening Club:

The next scheduled meeting will be on Valentines day with a quiz. The Kyte as always continue to be very accommodating.

Newsletter:

Nothing to report

PCC magazine:

Nothing to report

Drone:

Nothing to report

2017-12-13

Minor Items:

Cllr Thompson reported that his presentation to the Ladies Group entitled "Parish Councils in general and Darrington PC in particular" was well received.

As has been discussed at earlier meetings "new builds" in the area duplicating current Darrington street names is a recipe for confusion. Indeed, Cllr. Tagger could potentially be disenfranchised as he has received letters from Wakefield MDC stating he is not registered to vote, even though he has registered – postcode confusion with duplicate street names to blame.

Cllr. Stones reported that the flashing speed sign just before the traffic lights when entering the village from Carleton continues to not work.

Cllr. Stone reported significant potholes in Wentbridge Park Rise.

Date of next meeting:

7.00 PM on the 8th March in the reading room. The meeting closed at 8.45 PM.