

# Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Present:**

Cllr Britton (Chairman), Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Thompson.

**Apologies:**

Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Farrell

**In Attendance:**

Five members of the public. Cllr Dean

**Declaration of Interest:**

None offered.

**2015-04-01**

**Public Matters**

A villager expressed her support for the occupants of Bankswood stables and wanted to understand the parish council's position on the matter. Councillors pointed out that planning decisions are not made by the parish council but by Wakefield MDC's planning department. The parish council is asked to express a view on all planning applications and have invariably objected to any and all applications that involve change of use or building on green belt land. Accordingly the council objected to the retrospective applications for this site. In the event that a landowner is unhappy with the planning department's ruling he can appeal against the decision and we understand that this appeal had been made and refused. As a result the matter is closed. The parish council has no power to impact this decision.

Concerns about parking in Sotheron Croft were expressed. The councillors confirmed that they have looked at this issue on more than one occasion. Councillor Newton has spoken to individual car owners living in the street. Appeals have been made in the newsletter and parochial church magazine appealing for residents to think about potential issues with parking their cars. Inconsiderate parking is down to the car owners themselves and there are no laws being broken.

Dog fouling in the village was also raised. The council has asked the PCSO to focus on this matter and we understand that some dog owners have been asked to confirm that they have bags for cleaning up after their pets, and even been asked to return home to ensure they have them whilst walking the dog.

**2015-04-02**

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. These were approved as a true and correct record by Cllr Jackson and Cllr Wilkins.

#### **2015-04-03**

##### **Matters arising:**

Councillor Britton confirmed that the gardener had indeed been asked to re-treat the notice boards and has reminded him again.

Cllr. Britton was given authority at the previous meeting to spend up to £100 buying stone chippings to replenish the Tythe Barn area. Having purchased 1 ton and laid them the area looks magnificent and this was achieved well within the £100 budget.

As already reported the PCSO has been active on the dog fouling front and also issued some parking tickets for vehicles parking too close to the Philips Road junction.

#### **2015-04-04**

##### **Correspondence:**

Letter: Mr. Denis M. Newton has sent a letter formally resigning from the parish council, and confirming he would not be standing at the forthcoming election.

Letter: A letter has been received from the chairman of the speakers' advisory group at the House Of Commons reminding us that 2015 is an anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta in 1215 and suggesting that we might wish to consider organising some formal event to recognise the anniversary. Cllr. Dean pointed out that there would be a number of such events in Pontefract itself. It was suggested the council might note the fact within the Parish Council stand at the Feast & Fayre.

Letter: A letter has been received from Mr. Leon Long of Wentbridge updating the council on his attempts to improve exit and entry access points on the A1, including Jackson's Lane. The chairman has sent a reply supporting his actions.

eMail: Mr. Iain Barton of Fairways Court wrote expressing concern over the "earth works" at the golf club. Cllr. Wilkins replied to Mr. Barton and confirmed he has been in touch with Mr Allsop at the golf club and suggesting Mr Barton do the same. As a result officials of the golf club have met with not only Mr. Barton but also other residents and confirmed the current situation is a "work in progress" one and we believe satisfied all of the residents that the end result will not present any issues for them.

eMail: A copy of the transparency code for "smaller" authorities. The newly elected council will need to review the position following the forthcoming election as it requires more information to be published than is currently the case.

eMail: Invitation to review the planning application for the proposed T. K. Max distribution centre at the "Cross Point" site, Knottingley. This site is not within Darrington parish. No councillors attended.

Letter: Notification of acceptance of planning application for the gas fired power station.

#### **2015-04-05**

## Finance

There was no income in March.

One payment was presented for payment.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
09.04.2015	02-1516	Cheque No. 593	Mick Britton	Materials for Tythe Barn. Approval for up to £100 was passed at the last meeting.	£ 62.76	£ 10.46

Cllr Wilkins proposed and Cllr Thompson seconded this payment.

Cllr Stainer presented the overall figures for the financial year 2014-2015.

Balance at March 31 2015	£7,624.09
Balance at March 31 2014	£7,352.11
Expenditure for 2014-2015	£12,079.65
Income for 2014-2015	£12,351.63
Expenditure over budget for 2014-2015	-£194.96

### 2015-04-06

#### Planning matters:

##### Knottingley – Trinity Farm

A hybrid application seeking: Permission in full for a distribution building (Use Class B8) with a maximum floor space of 127,662sq.m and associated ancillary structures, car parking, landscaping and areas dedicated to construction activities (Phase One). Outline permission, with all matters reserved, over 10.7 hectares for employment development (Use Class B8) with maximum floor space of 55,500sq.m (Phase Two). | Land At Trinity Farm Grovehall Lane Knottingley.

It is understood this will be a distribution centre for T. K. Max.

No comment from Darrington Parish Council. This is not green belt land.

##### 10 Beech Crescent

Two storey extension to side and rear and detached double garage including associated alterations to driveway and surfacing.

Application has been approved.

West Park Homes, Darrington

Erection of a toilet and shower block.

Application has been approved.

**2015-04-07 Forthcoming Elections**

Cllr Wilkins confirmed that the closing time and date for prospective candidates for the Darrington Parish Council was 4PM on 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. He understands that there are more than nine people seeking election and so a formal election will be required. He has been given an indication that this will cost the council circa £2,000.

Following the election the first council meeting must be between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

**2015-04-08**

**Review of Standing orders and Financial Regulations.**

Having concentrated on the council's standing orders last month the financial regulations were reviewed at this meeting. Some minor modifications to Cllr. Thompsons suggestions were agreed by councillors and Cllr. Thompson agreed to present both the modified standing orders and financial regulations at the next parish council meeting for formal approval. In the event Cllr. Thompson is not re-elected he will pass on the documents to another member of the new council!

**2015-04-09 Reports:**

**School:**

Nothing to report

**Village Field:**

Nothing to report.

**Police:**

The PCSO has been challenging dog walkers to prove they have means of cleaning up if their dogs foul the area. Indeed some owners have returned home to bring bags back with them, and so he is being effective whilst in the village. However, all members of the council and indeed the public are urged to remain vigilant and challenge anybody seen not cleaning up!

**In Bloom:**

One of the planters in Estcourt Rod has been demolished! A resident phoned to state that he witnessed a Wakefield MDC grass cutting operative's mower hit the planter and cause the damage. Nobody from Wakefield MDC has been in touch to admit liability.

Councillor Britton has cut the trees back in Philips Lane. He has also planted laburnum in the gaps. The Brotherhood Garden Centre has donated the trees.

Councillor Britton has also repaired damage to one of the "Darrington" village signs.

**Gardening Club:**

Nothing to report.

**Church Wall repairs**

Cllr Britton has put in a concrete foundation. Cllr Jackson volunteered to assist Cllr Britton in rebuilding the wall and other parish councillors volunteering will be welcome!

Cllr. Britton has been in discussions with Rev. Judd to regarding the church's opinion on this project. They have asked for confirmation that an insurance policy is in place and that a risk assessment for the work be produced. Rev. Judd has confirmed the insurance policy exists and Cllr. Britton will produce a risk assessment.

**Newsletter:**

The next newsletter will be produced in May and will contain articles on the Feast & Fayre, scare crow competition, garden competition, Chairman's AGM report and repairs to the church wall.

**PCC Magazine:**

Suggested items include Sotheron Croft parking yet again, dog fouling on the field, and residents being exhorted to cut their hedges which stray over pavements.

**2015-04-10****Minor Items:**

None

**2015-04-10****Date of next meeting:**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 at 7.00 in the reading room.

Meeting closed at 9.05