

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 13th April 2017

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Smith, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Stainer.

Apologies:

Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Stones.

In Attendance:

PCSO P Dobson, Cllr Loughran, Cllr Jones and 6 members of the public.

2017-04-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2017-04-02

Public Matters:

All public matters would be covered by agenda items.

2017-04-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The revised minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. They were accepted as being a true record by Cllr's Tagger and Thompson.

2017-04-04

Matters arising:

- Cllr Tagger updated the meeting on the proposal to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the RAF bomber crash in Darrington in 2018. The RAF Association support the proposals and have suggested that the local branch be contacted for their support. A face book page has been created that will provide details of the incident and proposals for the day. The provision and positioning of plaques, or a road sign is still being reviewed.
- Cllr Hoyle reported that the old milestone had not yet been reinstated.
- Cllr Thompson attended the Town and Parish Council Liaison meeting on 15th March where the matter of election costs was debated. WMDC explained why it had taken so long to provide this detail. It is because they had been waiting for HM Government to provide figures. In due course Darrington PC is expected to receive a bill for £1971.89.
- Cllr Thompson informed the meeting that Highway England had used the quieter type of road surfacing when they recently resurfaced the south bound carriageway.
- Vegetation at junction of Estcourt Road and Sotheron Croft has been cut back.
- It has been confirmed that the paint used on the lamp posts on Valley Road was substandard and these will be repainted.

2017-04-05

Correspondence:

- The next meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Watch will be on 9th May 6.30-8.30 PM

- Mr P Siddall reported that hanging baskets had been stolen from a property on Wentworth Park Rise. It was also noted that plants had been taken from the planters in front of the shop.
- Highways England Strategic Roads event dates and venues. Cllr Thompson will attend the one that is scheduled to take place in Darlington. When it was suggested that he should be reimbursed for his travel he refused to accept any form of expenditure for attending this event.
- Email. Mr N Harvey informing the council that tractor's had parked outside the shop and blocked entrances. More seriously though they had left the engine running while the drivers went into the shop. Photographs have been sent to Church Farm for them to investigate and talk to the persons concerned. It was also noted that the bus stop, planters, verge and a road sign had been damaged on Estcourt road and this too may be from tractors. Cllr Britton will email PCSO Dobson the details.
- Vehicle weight limit signs on Valley Road have been shown to be totally wrong and contradictory. Cllr Thompson will bring this to the notice of WMDC highways and ask that the correct signs are erected.
- Mr Limbert reported that the footpath heading north from Estcourt Road to Back Lane is difficult to access due to overhanging trees. As these trees are on the side of the A1 Cllr Thompson will contact Highways England and ask them to prune them.

2017-04-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts. He reported that the balance at the end of March and subsequently the year end stood at £17,454.83

In order to obtain an early payment discount one payment has already been made in April as approved at the previous meeting in March.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
4.4.17	01-1718	CH 648	First impressions	Hanging baskets and planters	3119.40	519.90
					3119.40	519.90

Five further payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
13.4.17	02-1718	CH 649	PCC of Darrington	Room Hire PC meetings 2016/17	176.00	0.00
13.4.17	03-1718	CH 650	PCC of Darrington	PC page in church news magazine	50.00	0.00
13.4.17	04-1718	CH 651	PCC of Darrington	Maintenance of church clock	104.00	0.00

13.4.17	05-1718	CH 652	Mr James Robert Capon	Gardening maintenance	70.00	0.00
13.4.17	06-1718	CH 653	Thomas M West	Domain and web space	50.00	0.00
					450.00	0.00

Cllr Briton and Smith approve this payment.

Cllr Thompson raise his concern that despite the Parish Council opting for a zero percent increase in the precept for 2017/18 the bill from WMDC implies that there has been a 1.7% increase. Plus he identified other anomalies in the way other elements of the bill were calculated e.g. Adult social care 3% change instead of the 155% increase he had calculated from the previous bill. To date he has not had a satisfactory explanation from WMDC as to why this is so. One theory is that it may be due to less people contributing to the total sum in Darrington. Cllr's Stainer confirmed that the sum received from WMDC was the same as last year.

2017-04-07

Planning matters: Existing Applications

2 Hillcroft Close	Single storey extension to side and rear	Approved
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New applications

None received		
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Hillcroft Farm

It was brought to the council's attention that revised drawings and proposals had been submitted to WMDC planners by the developers. These can be seen via the WMDC planning portal. There have been changes made to roof heights, dormer windows but the proposal still shows 6 properties none of which incorporate any of the older building. Traffic and parking particularly those fronting Estcourt road was still a concern to some local residents.

Cllr Jones told the meeting that if an application was submitted that complied with planning legislation WMDC cannot turn it down. He also informed the meeting that a new housing bill was being prepared by the government ,and that this would encourage small scale builders to develop infill sites.

Councillors and the public were encouraged to review the revised drawings and if they saw fit to submit their comments to the planning officers. Cllr Tagger proposed that the local WMDC councillors visit the site to gain a better insight of the proposals.

2017-04-08

Defibrillator

Cllr Smith stated that she had received a quote of £4450 to remove the existing BT box and replace it with a refurbished box suitable to take a defibrillator. This price includes all the necessary electrical works and BT liaison but excludes the provision of a defibrillator. With £200 already donated and further money estimated to be in the region of £1000 due from the profits of the 5 mile run this project is still financially viable this year.

Cllr Stainer confirmed that he had made enquiries about planning applications and this was not required.

Members voted 5 to 1 in favour of replacing the existing box prior to purchasing a defibrillator. Cllr Smith will inform BT of our intentions and place an order.

2017-04-09

School Governor.

Cllr Tagger has been invited to fill a vacancy and become a School Governor. As an elected Parish Councillor and to follow due process as a governor elect Cllr Tagger requested the support from the other members prior to accepting this role.

Cllr Britton proposed and Cllr Thompson seconded a motion that Cllr Tagger had the full support of the Parish Council. All other members agreed.

2017-04-10

Reports:

Town and Parish Council Liaison Group.

Nothing further to report.

School:

Nothing to report.

Village Field:

Further damage has been reported to two items of play equipment. Both of these are as a result of rotting timber supports. A request has been made for these to be repaired as soon as possible.

Police:

PCSO Dobson confirmed that Pontefract was a relatively low crime area and Darrington had only a few problems. He then updated members of the latest crime figures for the area.

Recent incidents include

- Theft of fuel from the BP garage.
- Theft of tools from a van
- Theft of a car number plate
- Damage to a vehicle
- Public order incident on Denby Crest
- Crop damage by off road vehicles

In Bloom:

Nothing to report.

Gardening Club:

Cllr Tagger reported that he has been in contact with the manager of the Golf Club and that they will be helping publicise the open garden event via their social media.

Newsletter.

The next issue will be published towards the end of April and any articles would be welcome. Ideas to date are Chairman's annual report, Feast and Fayre, Scarecrow

competition, open gardens, changes in the precept and the air crash. This issue will be issued after the AGM.

DRONE. A1 noise.

Cllr Thompson reported that he had had a very successful meeting with the leader of WMDC Cllr Box, Andy Wallhead the interim chief executive and Matthew Morley who is the "cabinet" member responsible for transport and infrastructure. Here the Highway England's London to Leeds road strategy document dated March 2017 was discussed. This document identifies many problems with the A1 between Ferrybridge and Doncaster, and resolving these will have a profound impact on Darrington after 2020. At this moment it does not identify what those solutions may look like. WMDC are now fully aware of Highway England's proposals and accept that they will need to be involved in detail in due course.

It was suggested by Cllr Jones that Yvette Cooper was informed to try and get her involved in future proposals.

PCC magazine

Cllr Thompson agreed to write an article for the next PCC magazine by the weekend. A1 upgrades and the change in the precept were suggested as suitable articles.

2017-04-11

Minor Items:

PCSO Dobson reported that PCSO Guest would by the end of June be leaving the force. On behalf of the council and all those present Cllr Tagger asked that PCSO Dobson thanked him for his hard work and dedication during his time in Darrington.

2017-04-12

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 PM Thursday 11th May 2017 in the reading room. It will incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting and this will be followed by the regularly monthly meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.57

Cllr J Hoyle gave offered his apologies for the meeting in May.