

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Friday 11th December 2015

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chairperson), Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Stones, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Farrell.

In Attendance:

Cllr C Loughran and 6 members of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr Smith.

2015-12-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2015-12-02

Public Matters:

The christmas tree and lighting displays have received many positive comments.

2015-12-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. These were approved as being a true and correct record by Cllr Farrell and Cllr Johnson, with the following amendment being made in the public matters section.

Two of the road signs on Valley Road were obscured due to overhanging vegetation and action was to be taken by two of the local residents to clear them.

2015-12-04

Matters arising:

Odour log. A notice has been put on the notice boards informing residents of the process to follow to report an incident . Cllr Hoyle asked if the descriptors were the same as those used by the Environment Agency in their assessment. Cllr Tagger informed him that they were basically the same but odour problems were very subjective and what might appear to be bad for some residents would be acceptable to others. The notice will be posted on the website.

Cllr Stones confirmed that the Darrington Hotel had donated a prize of a meal for 4 towards the Christmas tree raffle that is being organised through the village shop.

2015-12-05

Correspondence:

- Email. WMDC regarding the legal responsibilities for the provision of Christmas trees and lighting. In Darrington the council was complying with all the requirements other than the provision of an emergency call out number. Councillors considered this to be very low risk and not necessary.
- Email. Simon Bristow regarding safety problems and parking issues at the junction of Philips Lane and Estcourt Road. Cllr Wilkins has reviewed this with WMDC highways

department. The provision of double yellow lines would take a considerable amount of time to implement and would be considered by WMDC as a very low priority. As most of the problems are associated with cars taking children to school, Cllr Tagger will contact the school and ask them to reinstate the walking bus. Cllr Loughran informed the council that from April civil parking wardens will be employed in the district.

- Email. Cllr D Jones suggested that a photo survey was carried out of the verges, planters and grave stones prior to next seasons grass cutting. As there has been numerous occasions when damage to the planters on Estcourt road has occurred, some of which was clearly the result of the grass cutters, Cllr Wilkins proposed and Cllr Stones seconded a motion that WMDC ceased cutting these areas and the work was carried out by the village gardener. This motion was approved by all except Cllr Farrell and Cllr Hoyle who opposed this motion.
- Email. H Crabtree congratulating the council on the provision of the tree and lights.
- Email. R Guest also thanked the council for the tree and lights.
- Letter. Ian Thompson regarding the lack of coordination and consultation between the council and the Highways Agency over issues connected with the A1. Cllr Wilkins informed the members that he will lead a working group made up of councillors and other interested parties to pursue this and try to develop a better working relationship with the Highways Agency prior to the next round of planned improvements to the road. He will report back this group's progress at future meetings.
- Email. Cllr F Smith giving an update on setting up a cold calling zone. She is now of the opinion that due to cost, time and lots of exemptions to this idea it may not be a benefit. Cllr Britton will discuss with Cllr Smith these exemptions and will include in a future PCC magazine, website and newsletter details of the cold caller Hotline.

2015-12-06

Finance: 2015-12-06-01

Cllr Stones has raised further sponsorship money of the Xmas tree lights from

- Major Floors £100
- Mid Yorkshire Golf Club £50
- West End Farm £50

She will thank all the contributors on behalf of the council.

2015-12-06-02

Cllr Stainer reported that with the recent income from donations and advertising the balance at the end of November stood at £14912.06

Five further payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
11.12.15	26-1516	CH 616	Wakefield MDC	Grass cutting	1052.86	175.48
11.12.15	27-1516	CH 617	Paul Stainer	Printer Ink	21.99	3.67
11.12.15	28-1516	CH 618	Vera Stones	Christmas Tree Decorations	12.75	2.13
11.12.15	29-1516	CH 619	Paul	Christmas	18.00	0.00

			Stainer	Tree		
11.12.15	30-1516	CH 620	Mick Flaherty	Electricity for Christmas tree	40.00	0.00
					1145.60	181.28

Cllr Hoyle proposed and Cllr Wilkins seconded these payments.
Cllr Stainer reported that he had revised the year end forecast and the balance now stood at £9,226.29

.2015-12-06-03

Cllr Stainer presented the 2016/2017 budget based on a 5% increase. With the lower VAT refund the expected income this will generate is £13,339.53.
As reported last month one of the provisos for increasing the precept by 5% was that the increase in the precept would be used to pay off some of the loan repayments. As there are also predicted savings on the 2016/2017 projects budget Cllr Stainer had budgeted for an additional loan repayment of £2400. Further payments could also be made if the reserve was reduced. Earlier payment of the PWLB loan will have a long term financial benefit for the council.

All councillors agreed to accept the budget for 2016/2017.

2015-12-07

Planning matters:

Church Farm. Removal and replacement of a farm building No comment.
Trinity Farm. Great North Road. Contractor's advertisement hoarding. No comment.
Tumbling Hill. Tree removal and pruning. No comment.
Bankswood Stables Valley Road. New cladding and provision of sky lights in an existing barn. WMDC planners and enforcement officer are aware of the current situation at this location and the parish council chose not to make any further comment on the new application.
Greenroyd Court Cemetery. Concerns had been expressed previously that as this site is not currently being used as a cemetery someone may in due course try to change the status of the site from a cemetery to a residential building plot. Advice from the planners deemed that this would still be an inappropriate development in greenbelt and would be unlikely to be approved.

2015-12-08

Christmas tree and Christmas lighting:

This has been erected but due to several severe storms has had to be straighten up. It is also suspected that the tree support in the planter has been damaged, and will need to be inspected when the tree is removed.

Lights will be turned off after the 12th night and the tree dismantled later at 10.00am on Sunday 17th January.

It was agreed to increase the donation for the power supply in the Tithe Barn area from £20 to £40.

2015-12-09

Old Orchard

Phase 1 Site clearance and erection of a fence is almost complete.

Phase 2 Rebuilding/ repairing walls and grassing the site is being planned.
Phase 3 not finalised but may include the provision of a power supply and grass cutting equipment.

2015-12-10

Carol Service

This was well attended and appreciated by all. Cllr Tagger has thanked the school for their sterling performance. In future years there should consideration of providing the children with a microphone.

2015-12-11 Reports:

School:

See above.

Village Field:

The bonfire area has now been cleared and reseeded.

Police:

There have been no recent incidents in Darrington, but within the surrounding area there has been a recent increase in thefts from vehicles.

In Bloom:

Orders are placed and all costs have been taken into account in the preparation of the 2016/2017 budget.

Gardening Club:

This still meets regularly and in the spring will try and recruit new members.

PCC Magazine:

This will include advice on dealing with cold callers and thanks to those who have contributed towards the tree.

Newsletter.

Nothing to report

2015-12-12

Minor Items:

Cllr Hoyle reported on his recent visit to the new state of the art waste recycling site at South Kirkby. This will once fully commissioned will reduce landfill, save WMDC money and provide fuel for the new bio fuel power station at Ferrybridge. What was apparent though was that WMDC still had a long way to go to educate people in the area on how and what to recycle.

Cllr Hoyle reported that stage 2 of the 2016 Tour of Yorkshire cycle race will be passing through the area on 30th April as they race through Pontefract into Wentbridge on the way to the finish in Doncaster. He wondered if there would be any interest in trying to advertise Darrington and Wentbridge to what could be a massive international TV audience.

2015-12-13

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7.00 in the reading room.

Meeting closed at 9.10