

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 10th March 2016

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Smith.

In Attendance:

5 members of the public.

2016-03-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2016-03-02

Public Matters:

Concern was raised about

- The piles of soil on the village field. Cllr Hoyle explained that this was the start of the work to provide a concrete play surface under the basketball hoop.
- Philips Lane. Cllr Hoyle explained that this work had been carried out by the farm primarily to improve their access to the farm house. He was of the opinion that further work was still required to provide and lay additional stone along this section of the road.
- Marl Pit Lane potholes. Cllr Wilkins confirmed the WMDC Highways were aware of the problems. They have plans to surface dress the section of road between Ash Grove and Spittal Gap Lane, and are looking at options to fill in potholes near the traffic lights.
- Closure of old great north road. This is being closed to allow resurfacing of the north bound carriageway of the A1. Noise reducing surfacing materials will be used.

2016-03-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed .The financial payments table had been omitted from these minutes but the financial report covering payments had been referred to, and this was deemed to be adequate for audit purposes. These minutes were approved as being a true and correct record by Cllr Stones and Cllr Wilkins.

2016-03-04

Matters arising:

Cllr Tagger was asked to fill in a declaration of interest form for declaring an interest in the gardening club s137 grant in February.

The financial payments table had been omitted from the January minutes but the financial report covering payments had been referred to. Cllr Smith needs to sign the amended copy of these minutes.

Inconsiderate parking leaflets have been made available from the fire service. These will be placed on the windscreen of specific cars that regularly cause problems.

The problem of parking on verges was debated and this option is sometimes the lesser of 2 evils, on some of the narrow roads. The PC has no authority to ask anyone to move a car. However, the local PCSO is prepared to contact residents if there are any major problems. The parking leaflets may improve the situation.

The age concern cloth recycling collection in the reading room has been a success.

Cllr Stainer has completed the request for a stall at the Feast and Fayre. Cllr Stone and Smith will start to plan the stall and would welcome any ideas.

The notice boards still require work to maintain them. Only one quote has been obtained to date to do this work and this is from a third party that had a connection with a councillor. Cllr Britton was concerned that this may be construed by some as being malpractice if they were automatically given the work. Cllr Stones will try and obtain further written quotes for the work. Cllr Stainer confirmed that in the parish councils financial regulations 3 tender's were only required for contracts worth more than £5000.

2016-03-05

Correspondence:

- Email. Jenny Earley regarding overgrowing hedges near the "willows" Carleton Road. This was deemed not to be a major problem at the moment, and was a perennial problem at numerous locations throughout Darrington. Further reference will be made in the PCC magazine and if the situation deteriorates the responsible individuals will be contacted.
- Email. Cllr V Stones. The scarecrow competition workshop will be held on the 4th June. The theme for this year is film characters.
- Email. WMDC giving notice of the Community Infrastructure levy neighbourhood spending briefing session on the 15th March 2016. Cllr Johnson may attend this and report back at the next meeting.
- Odour log. One further incident has been reported to the farm and was responded to.

2016-03-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer reported that the balance at the end of February stood at £13,052.29

Two payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
11.3.16	34-1516	CH 623	Andy Tagger	S137 grant to gardening club	100.00	0.00
11.3.16	35-1516	CH 624	Vera Stones	Funding for Scarecrow competition	100.00	0.00
					200.00	0.00

In order to obtain a discount one further payment would have to be made before the next meeting and would be funded out of the 2016-2017 budget. This was also submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
4.4.16	01-1617	CH 625	First Impressions	Hanging baskets and planters	3340.66	566.78
					3340.66	566.78

Cllr Britton proposed and Cllr Wilkins seconded these payments.

In the budget summary Cllr Stainer had assumed that no further bills would be issued for gardening or legal fees, but he would receive an invoice for the room hire before year end. If this was the case the forecast end of year balance stood at £12,852.29

It had been previously agreed in principle in December that if there was a substantial end of year balance some of this would help to pay off the outstanding £25,829.77 cost of the street lights from the Public Works Loan Board. Cllr Stainer will make enquiries to the PWLB about paying off £6000 from the balance and £2500 from the 2016-2017 budget.

Cllr Stainer confirmed that Ali Bowen is prepared to carry out the internal audit and he will send her a letter of appointment.

2016-03-07

Planning matters:

8a Ash tree Grove. Tree trimming. No comment, leave to WMDC tree specialist.
2 Estcourt Drive. Tree trimming. Split decision by WMDC.

2016-03-08

Reports:

Old Orchard

Two working days have been organised on 13th March and 19th March to start rebuilding walls, sorting stone and other heavy manual tasks.

School:

Work has recently taken place to clear and re develop the wild garden. The gardening club have been asked to contribute advice and support regarding the planting of this area.

No progress has been made on the procurement of the Tithe Barn Information board. Cllr Britton informed the council that a property in New Row Darrington was being used for a garden makeover TV programme. Cllr Tagger and other members of the garden club who were present at the meeting expressed an interest in being involved in this project.

Village Field:

As previously stated work is ongoing on the construction of a hard standing area for basket ball. Plans are also being made to erect some adult outside gym equipment. Plans for the Feast and Fayre which will be held on the 18th June are now well advanced.

Police:

15th February 2016. Rear door broken and property stolen from a property on the great north road.

7th and 8th March 2016 vehicles broken into and tools removed.

In Bloom:

The invoice has been received for this years planters and the hanging baskets. The planters have now been cleared of the old plants, just leaving in the spring bulbs. First impressions are aware of the Feast and Fayre date and all planting work will be completed prior to that.

There is a good show of daffodils this year in the verges, despite them being cut down early last spring.

Gardening Club:

Plans are being made to transplant some of the snow drops along Marl Pit Lane. The garden club is considering running an open gardens trail this year. It will take place at the same time as the scarecrow competition in June and will incorporate the same idea of using a map of the village for visitors to follow. Cllr Britton asked Cllr Tagger to consider the public liability insurance implications and look at writing appropriate risk assessments.

PCC Magazine:

The problems associated with overgrown hedges are the main concern this month.

Newsletter.

This is scheduled to be produced mid may. It could include the chairman's annual report, village field, scarecrow competition, open garden trail, Feast and Fayre and the ongoing problems with dogs, hedges and parking.

DRONE. A1 noise.

This has already been referred to in public matters.

2016-03-09

Minor Items:

Cllr Stones confirmed that the recent activity on Marl Pit Lane was nothing more than the local farmer importing compost that would be spread on the adjacent fields.

Cllr Johnson confirmed that she would on a regular basis update the notice boards once they had been repaired.

2016-03-10

Date of next meeting:

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

Meeting closed at 8.30