

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 8th March 2018

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Stones, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Wilkins.

Apologies:

Cllr Smith, Cllr Johnson.

In Attendance:

Cllr Jones (part) and 4 members of the public.

2018-03-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2018-03-02

Public Matters:

None were raised.

2018-03-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and accepted as being a true record by Cllr's Stainer and Tagger.

2018-03-04

Matters arising:

- Cllr Britton reported that the bin collection from the reading rooms was still very sporadic. He will raise his concerns with Street scene and Cllr Jones.
- Richard Brown has visited the old orchard and in his opinion thinks that the trees are okay after their pruning. However, they are not likely to produce much fruit this coming year. He will visit the site later in the season to try and ascertain the variety. He stated that a government grant had been obtained by a local preservation group with the aim of trying to preserve old varieties of apple trees.
- Mr Thornton provided details of the recent traffic survey that had been carried out adjacent to the traffic lights. This indicated that there were a few incidents of speeds greater than 70mph, 25% of traffic was travelling over 30mph but the average speed was 26-27mph. The proximity to the lights would have had an impact on traffic speeds at this location. It would be an interesting survey to carry out at other locations such as Valley Road.
- The WMDC planning portal has been reviewed and no planning applications have been received in the past 2 months for the Darrington area.
- Cllr Wilkins has not yet been able to contact Mr Boyes, the Systems Director of Dovecote Park. He will provide him with details of the key contacts in WMDC to whom he should raise his concerns about the state of Havercroft Road and street lighting along the route used by the wagons.

- Cllr Tagger confirmed that the photograph of building materials at Bankswood Stables was for work on the permitted development of the old barn. However, there are still 4 outstanding enforcement orders on the other building and the caravan that have not yet been resolved.
- Cllr Thompson has written to WMDC after the latest incident at the traffic lights and asked them to look at the sequencing of the lights. Later in the meeting Cllr Jones was able to confirm that these lights were part of a greater study into traffic management problems in the Pontefract area.
- Cllr Stones has informed WMDC that the flashing speed sign on Carlton Road is no longer functioning.

2018-03-05

Correspondence:

Cllr Wilkins has been contacted by the developer of the houses at Hillcroft Farm, who told him that they were paying £113,000 to WMDC as part of their Community Infrastructure Levy charge (CIL). In the developers opinion he thought that the local community could apply for up to 25% of this money to spend on local infrastructure improvements. Cllr Stones agreed to contact WMDC to try understand the process and timescale.

Email. Mr Ben Rutter, informing the council of his local landscaping business.

The Keep Britain Tidy organisation asking if the council would like to register for a spring clean. Cllr Stainer will investigate this further.

Miss Walker thanking Cllr Thompson for his help during the recent bad weather.

Darren Evans suggesting that Estcourt Road received a better level of service from WMDC than Valley Road. He has been told to refer specific incidents to WMDC.

Telephone call from Mr P Brook regarding the street light adjacent to his property which moves in strong wind and hits the gutters. Clamping to the property may resolve this but could impact on the structural integrity of the lamp post. Cllr Wilkins will provide Mr Brooks with details of the street lighting team key contact.

Letter from Darrington Feast and Fayre asking if the council wanted a stall at this year's Feast & Fayre. Due to members commitments on that day it was felt that there would be insufficient help available to man a stall. Therefore the decision was made not to take a stall this year.

2018-03-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts for February. He reported that the balance at the end of the month stood at £18,581.48.

No payments were submitted for approval in March.

To obtain a discount one payment was submitted for approval in April prior to the next meeting.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
4.4.18	01-1819	CH743	First impressions	Hanging baskets and planters	3119.40	519.90
					3119.40	519.90

The council was informed that WMDC highways have decided that all the baskets and brackets have to be inspected and tested prior to hanging baskets being supported on the lamp posts. This will cost in total £945 at a cost of £45 per column.

All the councillors were annoyed by this decision as

- It was after the precept had been set for the following year and not budgeted for.
- Just prior to plants being ordered for this year.

Despite this set back the decision was made to go ahead with hanging baskets for the coming year and Cllr Britten and Cllr Thompson approved the payment.

Cllr Stainer reported that the forecast current year end balance now stood at £12,941.48. He had assumed that payment for the telephone kiosk would be before the end of the financial year.

2018-03-07

Planning matters:

New applications

Wentbridge House Hotel	Removal of door and amendment to entrance	Approved
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2018-03-08

Defibrillator:

The defibrillator has arrived but cannot yet be installed in the telephone kiosk as this has not yet been erected. In Cllr Smith absence the reason for this delay was not known.

2018-03-09

Air crash:

Cllr Tagger confirmed that the cost of the plaque would be £250 plus VAT, and would be erected on the wall of a property rather than being freestanding. Agreement has been reached with the golf club for room hire and buffet costs. A Fife newspaper has tracked down relatives of one of the aircrew but there are still other relatives to be located. Cllr Tagger asked if the council was prepared to hold money from donations to the event in its bank account. As this was initially promoted as a parish council project no one could see any reason why this could not be the case.

2018-03-10

Reports:

School:

Cllr Tagger stated that there was nothing to report. Cllr Hoyle said that work had now commenced on the extension of the school.

Village Field:

Nothing to report other than the Feast and Fayre planning is ongoing.

Police:

Despite Cllr Stones best efforts in contacting the police representative, once again there have been no reports passed onto the council this month.

In Bloom:

Cllr Stones has noticed that the bulbs in many of the planters appear to be missing, presumably dug out when the boxes were cleared in the autumn.

Gardening Club:

The last meeting included a quiz and the next scheduled meeting will be on the 14th March at the Kyte.

Newsletter:

Nothing to report

PCC magazine:

The latest edition of this did not include any items from the Parish Council, which was an oversight.

Drone:

Cllr Thompson reported that despite it being a year since Highways England reported that they were carrying out an acoustic survey no response has been received. A serious pothole on the north bound carriageway has been reported to them for repairs.

2018-03-11

Minor Items:

Cllr Britten asked for clarification on the general rules for S137 grants. These can be made to non profit making organisations where the benefit per parishioner is about £11. He also asked how much could be spent on a single contract without asking for 3 quotations. In Darrington Parish Council standing orders this is stated as being £5k.

Cllr Thompson asked if a professional email account could be set up for members to use rather than their own personal email when being used for council business. Not all members wanted this. However, Cllr Wilkins has previously had them set up for the chairman, clerk and financial officer and could set others up if required.

Cllr Thompson also expressed his concern that not all documents were scanned and stored centrally on a server. This item will be deferred until after the next PC liaison meeting which will be discussing parish council's legal obligations.

Cllr Stones commented on the good community spirit that was observed within the village during the recent snow.

Date of next meeting:

7.00 PM on the 12th April in the reading room. The meeting closed at 9.00