

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting
Village Reading Rooms

Thursday 12th May 2016

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chairman), Cllr Smith, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Stones, Cllr Johnson,.

In Attendance:

Cllr Jones together with 11 members of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Stainer

2016-05-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2016-05-02

Public Matters:

No further matters arose

2016-05-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved as being a true and correct record by Cllr Smith and Cllr Johnson.

2016-05-04

Matters arising:

- Cllr Johnson confirmed that the Telephone box has now been cleaned.
- Cllr Stones confirmed that the repairs to the notice boards had been completed and passed on an invoice for £80 to Cllr Wilkins for Cllr Stainer.
- Darrington resident Mr.Capon offered to volunteer his services to cut the grass on the verges on Estcourt Rd from the traffic lights down to the bottom of Southeron Croft. His offer of help was accepted with huge appreciation.
- Cllr Stones has spoken to the PTFA regarding the possible re-introduction of the Walking Bus, but was told little progress had been made and that we ought to contact the school direct. Cllr Tagger agreed to make contact and report back at the next meeting. The issue of inconsiderate parking on Phillips Lane at school opening time was discussed and it was agreed that all needed to be vigilant in looking for registration numbers of offenders. Cllr Jones explained that WMDC were drafting a letter to all local council offices, the Chief Executive, The Service Director for Education and the Highways Agency proposing Parking Restrictions around schools and offered to add Darrington School to the list of schools included, which was accepted. Cllr Stones hadn't yet replied to Mr. Bristow's original letter but agreed to do so.

- Cllr Wilkins confirmed that WMDC have now been informed that following Cllr Farrell's resignation, there is now a casual vacancy that needs to be filled.
- It was confirmed that the communication of planning applications appears to have resumed as normal.
- As expected, no progress has been reported regarding Bankswood Stables but is expected in June.
- Cllr Tagger explained that he had met with Michelle Wraith at the school and that content for the Tithe Barn notice board had been agreed including quotes from the children which were collected. Cllr Smith had already produced a variety of layout examples which he would circulate for consideration. He stressed it was unlikely that the board would be ready in time for the Feast & Fayre, but would be in place in time for the Carol Service in December.
- Cllr Tagger has submitted the article for the PCC magazine
- Cllr Tagger confirmed that he and Cllr Stainer had visited the new recycling plant at South Kirkby and were enthused about what they'd seen (which he shared with the audience) and encouraged others to visit too.

2016-05-05

Correspondence:

- An open letter from Cllr Hoyle was read out, offering his apologies and stating that having looked at the stone by the field backing onto Spittal Gap Lane he'd realised it was too hard to access for use on the Orchard. The letter also communicated his view that unless we had any other projects to spend money on, the money we'd discussed using to pay of the PWLB loan early ought to be used to do that and reduce our monthly payments, but that he would go along with the majority decision.
- A letter from Keith Lawrence was read out highlighting the continued issue of litter in the village, particularly in the bus stop opposite the Darrington Hotel, and asking for the new issue of Roadwork companies appearing to leave their materials, signs etc at work sites too. Cllr Wilkins hadn't noticed but agreed to go and have a look and get back to Mr. Lawrence.
- A letter from Rob Doherty from Ripon Farm Services explained he was planning to put in another planning application but wanted to meet with us on Wed pm first to discuss. Cllr Stones is going to contact him to arrange.
- Email from Cllr Jones confirming he'd completed his actions from the last meeting. He verbally confirmed that after investigation, it was evident that proper processes had been followed by the people who'd put in the planning application for the new building at the bottom of Southeron Croft.
- Tesco Bags of Help funding letter forwarded by Cllr Wilkins – potential funding available for things we could want to do or improve. Deadline for this year is 3rd June so not likely we can do anything this year, but will bear in mind going forward.
- Letter from David Walker to Cllr Celia Loughran cc Cllr Wilkins querying why repairs to the potholes on Marlpit Lane appear to have been completed for the whole length of the road EXCEPT the worst section just before the traffic lights in Darrington. We await an update!
- Email from Ian Glass highlighting the fact that there have been local children playing on the equipment in the field during school hours, and asking if the

school has a new caretaker to whom this can be reported. Cllr Stones has the new Caretaker's number and will forward to Ian.

- Enquiry via Facebook Page from a lady unable to attend the meeting, asking for the problem of the pig smell to be raised again. Cllr Tagger updates the group on the changes to the reporting process and highlights that there appear to be approximately half the occasions reported this year compared to the same period last year. It was stressed that Peter Batty has been and continues to be extremely proactive and helpful on this matter, always responding immediately to reports and doing whatever is within his power to do to minimise the problem.

2016-05-06

Finance:

Cllr Wilkins reported that the balance carried forward from March 2016 stood at £12,852.29, that we'd received half our Precept (£6,147.62), and that we'd spent £3,345.56 on In Bloom and a small stationery payment to Cllr Stainer, leaving a balance of £15,654.35

Eight payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
12.5.16	03-1617	CH 627	Came and Company	Local Council Insurance	276.49	0.00
12.5.16	04-1617	CH 628	PCC Of Darrington	Room hire – PC Meetings 2015/16	176.00	0.00
12.5.16	05-1617	CH 629	PCC Of Darrington	PC page in Church News magazine	50.00	0.00
12.5.16	06-1617	CH 630	PCC Of Darrington	Maintenance of church clock	104.00	0.00
12.5.16	07-1617	CH 631	Thomas M West	Domain & Webpace	50.00	0.00
12.5.16	08-1617	CH 632	PM Stainer	Printer Ink	20.00	0.00
12.5.16	09-1617	CH 633	Philip Maw	Repair of notice boards	80.00	0.00
					756.49	0.00

Cllr Britton proposed and Cllr Smith seconded these payments.

Forecast balance for end of March 17 is £12,510.14

Cllr Wilkins Talks through his conclusions having looked into the pros and cons of us using £8.5k to reduce the future payments to the PWLB. Essentially if we do pay them £8.5k now, the saving over the remaining 17 years (as it cannot be shortened) only amounts to £899.24 i.e. £52.89 per year.

Cllr Britton stated that this resolved the moral issue the Council had felt it faced in potentially passing on a large debt to a future council.

Cllr Tagger points out that 2 questions arise:

1. Whether to use the money to pay some of the loan off
2. Whether we invest it elsewhere

Cllr Britton proposed we not pay any of the loan off as the benefit was not significant enough. Unanimous agreement was gained.

Cllr Britton proposed that we work towards building up our funds to a level that could (if a future council chose to) clear the debt altogether.

Cllr Tagger voiced concern and instead proposed that the money be used towards current council projects.

It was agreed that the Responsible Financial Officer would be asked to look into the pros and cons of both as well as investment options and report back in June

2016-05-07

Planning matters:

Darrington Quarry	8 Wind Turbines	Scrapped
Trinity Farm, Knottingly	Various	No comment
32 Southeron Croft	Single Story Extension	No comment
West Park Homes	New site office	No comment
5 Hillcroft Close	Ancilliary Building	Passed**

** This application has twice been objected to by DPC. Cllr Smith to contact Cllr Jones to ask for clarification on what grounds it was passed i.e. which of our objections were overruled.

8A Ash Grove	Beech Trimming	Split Decision
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2016-05-08

PC Vacancy:

Cllr Wilkins updated the floor on the PC Vacancy – We are following due process. The deadline for election requests is the 16th May and we understand that a qualifying request has already been made. Following that date we expect to receive the necessary documentation to allow us to continue due process, which needs to be completed with 60 days of the Election Request being received by WMDC.

2016-05-09

Reports:

Old Orchard

One more day of workgroup needed to clear stones from ground around the trees where the rotivator can't reach. Date will be decided at soon to be arranged committee meeting, and request for help will be published on DPC FB page.

Seeding can then begin and walls are almost complete. Cllr Smith will ask Cllr Hoyle for suggestions re removal of graffiti on back wall, otherwise a professional firm will need to be engaged. Lady in attendance asked if there would be disabled access. Cllr Britton explained this wasn't possible due to the plan to have sheep grazing the land required it to have lychgates. However if any disabled access was needed and we were notified we would happily arrange to have the larger gate opened.

School:

Cllr Tagger offered the school the services of the Garden Club to give advice and possibly plants for the new wild garden.

Village Field:

Forthcoming gym equipment will apparently be placed at the far end of the field near the hedge on the suppliers advice that it shouldn't be placed next to the childrens' play equipment.

Police:

No news

In Bloom:

Orders have been placed and we await the arrival of the baskets

Gardening Club:

Cllr Tagger explains the open garden festival that will be held over the period of 19th -26th June, and that he is currently in the process of printing posters.

PCC Magazine:

Cllr Wilkins asked if anything we wanted to promote this month. Cllr Smith will submit article this month.

Newsletter.

Cllr Wilkins took us through the draft content of the newsletter. Cllr Stainer has proof read it and so it will now be sent for printing.

DRONE. A1 noise.

Already discussed in AGM.

2016-05-10

Minor Items:

Cllr Tagger raised concern (following the difficulties the school had experienced when their web site company went bust) over whether the QR Codes for our relevant sites would be affected. It was agreed they wouldn't be as they are simply links to URLs we own regardless of who provides sites for us.

Cllr Stones stated that Mr. Cook had offered to cut the grass in the Tithe Barn, but Cllr Britton had already done a few days ago. Mrs. Cook suggests that Mr. Cook will check on it in a week or so.

2016-05-11

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting in the reading room will be held at 7.00 PM Thursday 9th June 2016.

Meeting closed at 9pm