

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 10th September 2015

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Cllr C Loughran, Mr P Batty and 6 members of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr Tagger, Cllr Farrell, Cllr David Jones.

2015-09-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2015-09-02

Public Matters:

Mr Thompson reported that a section of hedge needed cutting that obscured the Darrington sign near Carlton. He would arrange for this to be cut.

Overhanging tree branches near the A1 flyover also needed to be attended to.

Mrs Morrell thanked the council for the work carried out in the church grounds; she also said that the old "mounting step" was in need of repair. Cllr Smith agreed to inspect this.

At past meetings concerns had been expressed about the perceived increase in odour from church farm. Mr Batty explained that pig rearing had taken place in the village for over 60 years by several different farmers and at numerous locations. There were no more pigs now than 15 years ago. Over the summer he has spent over £100k to improve sludge storage. A planning application was also being submitted to replace and improve the existing pig housing units. Environmental Regulations now meant that farmers could only spread sludge during a small period of time during the summer months, where as the old rules allowed sludge spreading to be carried out at any time during the year. Obviously, this period of time now coincided with the time most people would be out in their gardens. Reviewing the odour log that he is being sent the majority of reports have occurred when sludge spreading has been ongoing and the wind has been in a different direction to the norm. Mr Batty agreed that he will talk to the Environmental Agency representative and invite him to attend a future meeting.

2015-09-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed. These were approved as a true and correct record by Cllr Stainer and Cllr Johnson.

2015-09-04

Matters arising:

Re treatment of the notice boards is still outstanding and these will now need to be sanded down and re coated. It was agreed that quotes would be sought to undertake this work.

Cllr Smith confirmed that the wall repairs at the Darrington Hotel have now been completed, and the manager has agreed to inform the brewery about any future repairs. Mr Thompson reported that some of the brick wall surrounding the pub was in poor condition but it was concluded that this was a private matter to be dealt with by the residents themselves.

Money from the sale of scarecrow maps was still at the village shop. Cllr Stones would collect this.

The answers to the Feast and Fayre parish council quiz were on the website.

Election results could be found on the WMDC website.

Tithe Barn information board will be discussed at a later meeting.

Tithe barn area the ropes have been repaired.

Planter jet washing in now completed.

Stolen/missing plants from the planters have been replaced.

The area around the Darrington sign that had not been planted earlier will be cleared and replanted next week.

PCC magazine article was not completed in time for the latest edition.

Rectory Farm Wentbridge. The planning application did not include lighting or large mirror walls.

2015-09-05

Correspondence:

- Letter A1 plus integrated highway services regarding the proposed work and closures of the A1 slip road.
- Email. WMDC noting the council's comments about the garage proposed on Ash grove.
- Letter. Ripon Farm Services advising the council that it was submitting a revised planning application for storage and offloading area.
- Email. WMDC confirming they were aware of the parking / offloading problems in the area around Ripon Farm Services and this came under the jurisdiction of the Highways Agency.
- Copy of the WMDC wind turbine practice guidelines
- Letter. Stratus environmental regarding the proposal for a solar farm near Darrington Quarries.
- Telephone conversation to Cllr Britton informing him that someone was in the church yard with a rifle. This turned out to be pest control organised by the vicar. Cllr Loughran indicated that WMDC had a pest control unit that could carry out this type of work.
- Email. Regarding the state of the footpath between Beech Crescent and Estcourt road. Some of the problems seem to be associated with private fences. Cllr's Stones and Johnson will investigate. Cllr Stainer will organise the removal of some old fence panels.

2015-09-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer reported that he had just received the external auditor's assessment of the accounts, and that there were no matter causing them any concerns. He then presented the monthly financial summary.

In July it had been agreed that any payments required in August could be approved by Cllr Stainer and Cllr Britton.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
3.8.15	15-1516	CH 605	Carter and Jackson	Newsletter printing	95.00	0.00
					95.00	0.00

This left a balance of £9782.92

Three further payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
10.9.15	16-1516	CH 606	John Cain	Gardening / maintenance	85.28	0.00
10.9.15	17-1516	CH 607	Paul Stainer	Postage	7.56	0.00
10.9.15	18-1516	CH 608	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit fees	120.00	20.00
					212.84	20.00

Cllr Britton proposed and Cllr Stones seconded these payments.

The forecast balance at the 2015-2016 year end stands at £6,458.52

No audit fee had originally been budgeted for but the costs could easily be covered by the lower than anticipated gardening costs. It was also confirmed that the PCC will now be invoicing for the room hire for the financial year and therefore will have to be paid in April 2016.

2015-09-07

Planning matters:

New applications

- Ripon Farm Services storage and off loading area no comment
- 6 New Row sun room extension to side no comment

Approvals.

- 6 Estcourt Drive tree removal Approved
- Hall Lodge Estcourt Road tree pruning Split decision.
- Rectory Farm Moor Lane Wentbridge Outdoor horse exercise area Approved
- 27 Beech Crescent tree pruning Split decision

Refusals

- 5 Hillcroft Close 2 bedroom house Refused

2015-09-08

Christmas tree and Christmas lighting.

The council will be providing a tree for Estcourt Road, one in the reading room and will utilise the existing tree in the Tithe Barn area. In the tithe barn area the adjacent resident is prepared to provide a power supply to the tree.

Cllr Wilkins will contact WMDC about their conditions for the utilisation of their power supply.

Cllr Stones will contact the Darrington Hotel about a potential contribution.

Cllr Britton will organise a working group to install cable ducting.

Cllr Stones indicated that low voltage LED lights for a 20 foot tree would cost in the order of £400.

WMDC have indicated that there may be money available from their budget to help provide trees in the area but this will need to be applied for.

2015-09-09

Clean up Campaign

Cllr Hoyle, Tagger, Johnson and Stones met with Darren Lacy of Wakefield MDC Streetscene to discuss the proposals. He was willing to get involved, and will be able to provide all the support we require he just requires the PC to define the scope of the work, date and number of volunteers.

Cllr Hoyle will contact Mr Lacy suggesting that 29th September is a suitable date. Once this date is confirmed Cllr Smith will put up a poster in the shop asking for volunteers.

2015-09-10

Reports:

School:

No report.

Village Field:

The date for this year's bonfire has been confirmed as 7th November.

Police.

Nothing to report.

In Bloom:

One of the planters on Estcourt road has been hit and partially destroyed. There is no indication of how this happened but if hit by a vehicle the vehicle must have been travelling on the wrong side of the road. Cost of repairs will be in the order of £50

Gardening Club:

The website has been updated with the results of the garden competition.

Old Orchard.

No progress has yet been made with the church. Cllr Hoyle reiterated that some of the residents closest to the orchard were concerned about the proposals and asked that all the near neighbours were consulted prior to work commencing. Cllr Britton confirmed that that would be the case and it was agreed an individual letter drop was the best initial response prior to the proposed undergrowth removal. Mr Batty indicated that he may be able to provide some assistance from the farm if the work was to be tackled towards the end of November.

PCC Magazine:

This will include the article on overhanging trees and bushes, and the recurring dog problems.

Newsletter.

Information for inclusion is required by the end of September.

2015-09-11

Minor Items:

Does the council need to produce a letterhead?

Cllr Wilkins said that he may not be able to attend all future meeting due of external commitments on Thursday. Cllr Johnson was asked and agreed that she could assist Cllr Wilkins with some of the actions and feedback that arise during the meeting.

2015-09-12

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 8th October 2015 at 7.00 in the reading room.

Meeting closed at 8.50.