

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 15th September 2017

Present:

Cllr Thompson (Chair), Cllr Britton, Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Smith, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Stones.

Apologies:

Cllr Johnson, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Wilkins, Cllr Loughran.

In Attendance:

Cllr Jones and 5 members of the public.

2017-09-01

Election of Chairman:

As Cllr Thompson has stepped down from his role as Chairman a new chairman will be required for future meetings. However, to follow the correct procedures Cllr Thompson would chair this meeting.

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Stones seconded a motion that Cllr Britton would take back the role of Chairman. He agreed but stated that for health reasons this would have to be on the basis of being a "lighter touch" than previous. Cllr Smith would remain as vice chair.

2017-09-02

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2017-09-03

Public Matters:

All matters raised would be covered by the main meeting.

2017-09-04

Minutes of the last meeting:

The July meeting revised minute's version 2 where reviewed. These were accepted as being a true record by Cllr's Britton and Stones.

2017-09-05

Matters arising:

- Cllr Thompson has removed the bike from the tree at the side of the A1 and this is now in his possession until the owner comes forward to collect it.
- WMDC have inspected the contradicting weight limit signs throughout Darrington and despite two reminders have still not yet reported back to the Parish Council on their proposed actions.
- Ponty Pets have agreed in principle to provide a number of dog poo bag dispensers that will be situated in appropriate locations throughout Darrington. Cllr Smith will pursue this matter.
- Cllr Tagger has been in touch with Claire Smith to discuss whether there is any likelihood of the Parish Council benefitting from any infrastructure levy funding received from the TK Maxx development. It would appear that this development

- was approved prior to the key date and would have been exempt from such a payment.
- The bank account signatories have not yet been amended. Cllr Thompson would forward the details to Cllr Smith for her to complete and return to the bank.
 - Bankwood Stables. Enforcement actions via the court are due to take place this month.
 - Tentative costs for an aluminium pole would be in the region of £600 plus a flag costing about £40. Consensus of opinion is that this would be worth pursuing further. Cllr Thompson would contact Sedgefield Town Council where he has seen a suitable flag pole. Cllr Britton would consider if there could be some form of bracing that could be incorporated into the Christmas tree planter to act as a support mechanism. It may also be necessary to obtain a certificate of lawfulness from WMDC.

2017-09-06

Correspondence:

- Email from Cllr Jones asking about the date of future meetings.
- Email from Cllr Loughran commenting on hazardous road conditions that can exist in Darrington. She also personally witnessing a near miss with two children on bikes oblivious to traffic hazards. The two boys in question have been spoken to and now realise the potential danger they put themselves in. Cllr Loughran also stated she would be contacting Yvette Coppers Office about the A1 upgrade.
- Letter from "The Library Theatre" offering their services to bring professional theatre into the outlying areas. They charge £255 per performance. In Darrington there is no venue suitable for such a performance. Cllr Stones suggested that the school may be interested and suggested that Cllr Tagger raised it at one of his liaison meeting.
- Wakefield District Residential Design Guide part 1, Implementation Plan, and consultation guides are now available for viewing and comments. Cllr Thompson will forward the email links to Cllr Hoyle.
- Pam Spreckley has asked why there is a delay in getting the minutes of the PC meetings published on the website. Cllr Britton explained that until these are approved at the subsequent meeting they are not made available to the public via the web site. It was also noted that the minutes for March 2017 do not appear on the website. Cllr Wilkins will update the website accordingly.
- Request from Darrington Mother and Toddler Group for a S137 grant of £100 to help cover their costs. Cllr Stones proposed and all councillors agreed to this request being paid.
- Letter from Mr & Mrs Glover. Subsequent to the earlier meeting with Cllr Thompson this letter confirmed that
 - The substation area had now been tidied up.
 - The hedge obstructing the Darrington sign had been cut.
 - Some of the potholes have been repaired by WMDC.
 - The area around the Darrington notice board is still untidy.
 - Street cleaning and drain clearing was still necessary due to straw, some of this straw is due to the wagons hitting branches on the trees near the Darrington Hotel.

Cllr Thompson would inspect this area and report if there were damaged or low hanging branches that needed to be cut.

2017-09-07

Finance:

Cllr Stainer confirmed that the external auditor had reported back that there were no problems with the accounts that he had submitted. Extracts from these now need to be posted on the notice boards and website.

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts for July and August. He reported that there had been income during the month of July.

Date	Income Source	Income stream	Amount
25.7.17	Darrington F&F	Donation towards defibrillator	1000.00
31.7.17	HMRC	VAT Refund	725.82
			1725.82

This left a balance at the end of July of £17,884.35

Two further payments were submitted for approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
17.8.17	18-1718	CH 724	Christopher Chambley	Gardening / maintenance	60.00	0.00
17.8.17	19-1718	CH 725	Christopher Chambley	Gardening / maintenance	261.00	0.00
					321.00	0.00

In the July meeting it had been agreed that if payments needed to be approved in August they could be done so without the full approval of the council.

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts for August where 8 payments required approval.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
14.9.17	20-1718	CH 726	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fees	120.00	20.00
14.9.17	21-1718	CH 727	Christopher Chambley	Gardening maintenance	108.00	0.00
14.9.17	22-1718	CH 728	Christopher Chambley	Gardening maintenance	100.00	0.00
14.9.17	23-1718	CH 729	Darrington Mother and Toddler Group	Section 137 Grant	100.00	0.00
14.9.17	24-1718	CH 730	Ian Thompson	Certificate of Lawfulness	96.25	0.00
14.9.17	25-1718	CH 731	Ian Thompson	Map for Certificate of Lawfulness	25.20	0.00

14.9.17	26-1718	CH 732	Christopher Chambley	Gardening maintenance	108.00	0.00
14.9.17	27-1718	CH 733	Vera Stones	Section 137 Grant	49.20	0.00
					706.65	20.00

Cllr's Hoyle and Britton approve these payments.

Cllr Stainer reported that the current year end balance now stood at £13,115.80

2017-09-08

Planning matters: Existing Applications

Hodgewood farm	Change of use to boarding kennels	Approved
Crosspoint	Retrospective approval of plant	Approved
4 Ash Grove	Elm Tree trim back of branches	Refused /Appeal
17 Beech Crescent	Cut back overhanging branches	Refused
Cotswold Estcourt Road	Double carport to front	Approved

Cllr Jones asked if the council considered that WMDC arboriculturist was being too overzealous when considering work on trees. Cllr Britton responded and said that the parish plan stated that wherever possible trees should be retained. The council did not make a comment on planning applications for tree work and relied on WMDC specialists to make the correct decision.

New applications

West Yorkshire Golf Club	2 Storey Outbuilding	Question asked if this was in greenbelt. WMDC planners would take this into consideration
The Barn Philips Lane	Use as a builders yard	Withdrawn
Darrington Parish Council	Replacing phone box and defibrillator	Awaiting decisions
Old Vicarage Wentbridge	Single storey extension to rear	No comments
8 Estcourt Drive	Horse chestnut to remove	No comments
Willow Beck Estcourt Road	Beech to trim	No comments
Hillcroft Farm	Discharge of condition 22	No comments

2017-09-09

Air Crash project:

Good progress made prior to the official launch on 18th September. Interviews organised with the last remaining resident, former owners of Dean and Furbishers and a WW2 rear gunner. Mid Yorkshire Golf course will make the club available to host a buffet lunch for participants. Plus there is the potential for the Battle of Britain Memorial flight flypast on the day.

2017-09-10

Defibrillator:

Cllr Smith agreed to take over this project from Cllr Thompson who had made good progress with this over the summer.

The certificate of lawfulness has been applied for and the council is still awaiting official confirmation of its approval.

If the kiosk is swapped with a "live charge out" BT will continue to pay the electric bill for the next 7 years. DC Transport BT's current contractors will be able to carry out all the necessary works. X2connect will probably be the supplier of a refurbished box and regularly work alongside DC Transport for this type of work.

Work is scheduled to take place in the next few weeks to change the phone box.

It is very doubtful that a road closure will be required that could delay the project.

Cllr Stones will circulate details of the defibrillator prior to this being ordered.

2017-09-11

Old Orchard:

WMDC are prepared to cut the grass 10 times a year in the old orchard at a cost of £347.20 per annum. Cllr Thompson has raised this with Rev Judd. However, Rev Judd cannot agree to this until this matter is approved by the PCC or a higher authority. Cllr Britton will discuss the matter further with Rev Judd. Cllr Smith would also like approval for memorial benches to be situated in the orchard.

2017-09-12

Highways England Matters:

Cllr Thompson reported that he has written to the Minister of Transport, met with Highways England, Yvette Cooper, Acting chief executive of WMDC and attended a meeting with Highways England in Darlington. The main concerns are grass cutting and general maintenance of the roundabout, embankments and slip roads in Darrington. Provision of an acoustic fence, poor air quality and the longer term plans for the A1 in the parish. Highways England's own documentation originally implied that they were committed to making the A1 in Darrington a smart motorway. This commitment seems to have been dropped from their latest publications. Highways England will be working on routes and plans that they will present to the Government in 2019 for inclusion in future highways spending plans.

2017-09-13

Reports:

School:

The date for the carol service/ light switch on has been fixed for Tuesday 5th December. Cllr Tagger to check if that is also acceptable with Rev Judd.

Village Field:

The village field committee have agreed to donate £1000 from the profits it made on the 5 mile run towards the cost of providing a defibrillator.

Further vandalism has taken place to the shelter roof. Excellent photographs of the perpetrators have been obtained from the local CCTV cameras and given to the local PCSO.

The bonfire is scheduled to take place on the 4th November more details of this will be available in due course.

Police:

Cllr Stones reported that 10 incidents have been reported by the police in the last month. These included 4 thefts from vehicles, 2 burglaries and 2 driving away without paying for petrol.

In Bloom:

Following the departure of the previous gardener/handyman a replacement has been found. He is being employed on the same terms and so far has done a very good job on all the work he has undertaken. Recently he has been asked to tidy up the Tithe barn area.

Gardening Club:

Nothing further to report.

Newsletter:

If the next magazine is scheduled to be delivered prior to bonfire night. Suitable articles for inclusion are

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Defibrillator update. | Cllr Smith |
| • Highways England A1 update. | Cllr Thompson |
| • Carol service/ light switch on. | Cllr Tagger |
| • Bonfire and smiley Sid. | Cllr Stones |

PCC magazine:

Although it is not known when the next scheduled newsletter will be produced when known an appropriate article will be written.

Smiley Sid:

The WMDC radar speed measuring device "Smiley Sid" will be available in our area in the near future. Cllr Stones agreed to act as coordinator. Mrs Glover, Cllr Loughran, Jones and Tagger have also offered their services.

2017-09-14**Minor Items:**

A collision on 2nd September next to the traffic lights has totally destroyed the bench. Cllr Stainer will try and obtain the police crime number and report this to the insurers.

2017-09-15**Town and Parish Council Liaison Group:**

The next meeting is scheduled for 10.00 AM on the 1st November.

Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting has had to be moved back by one week so that sufficient members can attend. This will now be held at 7.00 PM Thursday 19th October 2017 probably in the Spreadeagle as the reading room is already booked.

Meeting closed at 9.05