

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting
Reading Room

Thursday 8th November 2018

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Britton read out a resignation letter from Cllr Wilkins. He stated that with immediate effect due to increasing job pressures, and the associated overseas travel that will also be involved, he will no longer be able to fulfil his role as a councillor and clerk to the council.

Cllr Britton agreed to formally thank Cllr Wilkins for his many years of diligent service to the Parish.

Cllr Thompson agreed to take on as a temporary measure the role of Clerk with support from Cllr Smith until the next elections. These are scheduled to take place in May 2019.

In Attendance:

Four members of the public.

2018-11-01

Declaration of Interests:

None offered.

2018-11-02

Public Matters:

As there was no bonfire this year the question was asked as to where the money had gone from last year's bucket collections.

Cllr Hoyle stated that the scale of the bonfire in recent years has greatly outgrown the area available to safely manage the event. Plus there are fewer volunteers willing to help. He added that the village field is funded by several fund raising events throughout the year, namely the Feast & Fayre, Bonfire and 5 mile run. Profits from these events go into a general pot of money that is used to maintain the field and provide the associated equipment. On average about £2000 is required each year just to keep it up to its current standard. Plans are also in hand to carry out some major improvements to the play equipment. If in future years a bonfire is considered then the field trust would provide the money to organise this and put on a firework display.

2018-11-03

Minutes of the last meeting:

The revised minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and accepted as being a true record by Cllr's Thompson and Stones.

2018-11-04

Matters arising:

- Cllr Tagger is still waiting for more details of the proposed lighting changes from WMDC.
- Cllr Thompson is still waiting for more meaningful speeding data from WMDC.
- Likewise, Cllr Thompson is also awaiting a response from WMDC regarding the confusing weight limit signs across the village.

- Cllr Hoyle stated that he had had to cancel the community litter pick with WMDC as the article asking for volunteers in the newsletter hadn't been published in time. However, he did say that a partial clean up of Marlpit Lane resulted in 10 bags of rubbish being collected.
- The tithe barn information sign framework artwork has been completed and will be fitted to the signboard once that is in place.
- Cllr Stones has not attended any police liaison meetings so the parking issue was not raised. However, the local PCSO's called in at a recent coffee morning and had difficulty turning into Philips Lane due to parked cars so are aware of the problems.
- Cllr Britton has discussed with the resident at the corner of Wentworth Park Rise and Hillcroft Close the overgrowing vegetation.
- The damaged wall around the Darrington Hotel is now fenced off.
- The grass was cut near Stonehaven in Wentbridge. The exact location of the areas still being cut by WMDC needs to be identified.
- Cllr Stones has found out that the Christmas tree shaped lights erected on the street lamps in Featherstone are hired in annually. She will try to obtain more information for next year.

2018-11-05

Correspondence:

Letter received from Zoe Wilkinson offering presentations on victim support. It was not considered that the Parish Council would be an appropriate forum for this type of event.

2018-11-06

Finance:

Cllr Stainer presented the accounts for October. He reported that the balance brought forward from September was £29,567.99. No income was received and with the 5 payments made the balance at the end of October is standing at £29,188.00

Four payments were submitted for approval during November.

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
8.11.18	23-1819	CH 764	Memories by Mel	Artwork for the Tithe Barn Project	50.00	0.00
8.11.18	24-1819	CH 765	Wakefield Council	Annual Grass cutting contract	1141.01	185.67
8.11.18	25-1819	CH 766	CEO Printing Ltd	Printing for Tithe barn project	49.00	8.17
8.11.18	26-1819	CH 767	Deadline Digital	Air crash documentary Part 1	954.00	159.00
					2194.01	352.84

Cllr's Thompson and Hoyle approved the payments.

The forecast balance at the yearend now stands at £29,248.82. This sum assumes that a total of £12,000 would be received from the community Infrastructure levy and that payment for the defibrillator cabinet would soon be made.

Cllr Stones has recently been investigating the community infrastructure levy funding and has been informed that at this moment in time no additional monies have been received from the developers. Therefore, it is extremely unlikely that any additional monies will be received this financial year.

Cllr Tagger confirmed that there will be no more air crash memorial income.

Cllr Stainer will amend the budget to take these into account next month.

First impressions have provided an estimate of £3119.40 for next year's flowers this will be paid after 1st April 2019.

2018-11-07

Planning matters:

New applications

3 Park Avenue Darrington	1 st Floor extension to side and rear including a balcony	No Comments
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Existing planning applications

Cllr Thompson has reviewed the application for the development of a farm adjacent to the Kyte Hotel and was surprised by the lack on comments, he wondered if people were aware of a development of this size. He added that the location of the access on the slip road may no longer be a concern to the Highway Agency.

Cllr Smith agreed to post details of the application on the Facebook site.

Mr Markwell, of WMDC planning, has emailed asking if the Parish Council is still concerned about the illegal development at Bankwood Stables. This is to gauge local opinion prior to court action. Cllr Britton has sent back a strongly worded response in which he said that this development appeared to make a mockery of the planning system. Other sites within the area have submitted applications in greenbelt areas and complied with the law and were ultimately turned down, but by ignoring the law and building whatever it liked over an 8 year period Bankwood Stables appeared to be getting away with it. This was passed on the wrong message to developers.

2018-11-08

Funding for new play equipment on the village field.

Further to the request in October for financial assistance in the procurement of a 4 m activity climbing net on the field, Cllr Hoyle showed a mock up of apparatus where it will be situated. He has also letter dropped residents nearest the field and has had no adverse comments about the proposal.

It has been determined that any direct procurement of the play equipment by the Parish Council would place an onus on the council to own and maintain the equipment. The VAT rules are also unclear as the Parish Council could reclaim VAT yet the field trust as a charity cannot reclaim VAT.

Cllr Thompson has investigated the S137 funding formula and confirmed that. The parish council can make grants which in the opinion of the councillors will bring direct benefit to the area or any part of it or to some of its inhabitants. The grant cannot be made to a profit making organisation. The 1972 act specifically states "any charitable body" as being an appropriate recipient. The council may make multiple grants throughout a financial year but the sum total of the expenditure incurred must not exceed the value obtained by multiplying the number of residents on the electoral roll by a sum which will vary from year to year. Wakefield MDC website shows that the number of electors on the Darrington Parish electoral roll is 1,213 and the appropriate sum for the financial year 2018-2019 is £7.86 per head. Thus the sum total of Section 137 grants for 2018-2019 must not exceed £9,534.18.

Cllr Stones had already reported that the quantity of community levy funding that will be received this year will be less than the original budgeted sum. However, she did confirm that projects of this type were deemed by Wakefield MDC to be suitable schemes for community levy funding.

Cllr Britton made a proposal that a £3500 Section 137 grant should be made to help purchase the equipment.

Cllr Thompson counter proposed and Cllr Smith seconded a motion that a £3250 grant should be made. This was voted on and agreed.

2018-11-09

Reports:

School:

There is an exhibition of the air crash artefacts in the school. The carol concert in the Tithe barn area is scheduled for 4th December. The question was raised if Rev Judd was aware of this date having been chosen.

Village Field:

Work is scheduled to take place on the 18th November to reposition the goal posts and hopefully get the large hedge cut.

Police:

Nothing further to report.

In Bloom:

Cllr Stones and Johnson will visit the brethren and pick a Christmas tree. Subject to transport the day to erect this will be 1st December.

Gardening Club:

The next meeting is scheduled for next week.

Newsletter:

As Cllr Wilkins has now resigned it is assumed that the latest newsletter will not be published.

Drone:

Nothing to report.

2018-11-10

Minor Items:

Cllr Hoyle mentioned that a neighbourhood watch email was circulated last week the first for a very long time.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7.00 PM Thursday 6th December 2018 in the reading room.

Meeting closed at 8.40