

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting
Reading Rooms

Thursday 9th January 2014

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chairman), Cllr Stainer, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Atkinson, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Newton, Cllr Hoyle, Cllr Wilkins.

In Attendance:

Cllr Loughran and six members of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr Farrell, Cllr Walsh

Declaration of Interest:

None offered.

2014-01-01

Public Matters:

None raised.

2014-01-02

Minutes of the last meeting:

Accepted by Cllr Stainer and seconded by Cllr Wilkins.

2014-01-03

Matters arising:

Inconsiderate parking on Sotheron Croft. This problem is still persisting and will be referred to the local PCSO's who regularly visit the area. Cllr Newton will talk to one resident who regularly parks opposite another resident's driveway. Cllr Newton will also provide Cllr Loughran details of the property ownership in that area. This would then help to develop a case to see if the situation could be improved if WDH were able to widen existing gateways and drives leading to their properties.

Urbanforum.org. Q &A website highlighting that the neighbourhood plan has to be in line with the WMDC Local Development Framework LDF. The council still needs further advice on this matter from the elected members.

The road sweeper, footpath sweeper, gully emptier and street scene had all been actively working in the area during the last couple of weeks.

Cllr Jackson confirmed that Knavesmire had agreed the same price as before to construct additional planters. He would now ask for a formal quote for a total of 6 planters situated on Marl Pit Lane, near the Kyte, Valley road, Wentbridge together with 2 no near Estcourt drive.

WMDC planning enforcement officer was now aware of the development of the graveyard and this was in line with the approved works. He was also aware of the development at the old allotments and would be issuing an enforcement notice to remove the caravan and other works as these are in breach of the sites approval.

2014-01-04

Correspondence:

Letter from Mrs McGill regarding litter from the lay-by on A1 south. This has now been cleared away by the Highway agency.

2014-01-05

Finance:

The 5% increase in precept for 2014/2015 has been applied for, but due to the way this is calculated by WMDC the percentage increase will appear to be in order of 6%. This is due to 7 fewer properties contributing to the precept this year compared to last year.

The balance at the end of December stood at £9,277.31

Four items of payment was presented for approval in January 2014

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
9.1.14	35-1314	Cheque 545	J Harper	Garden Maintenance	24.20	0.00
9.1.14	36-1314	Cheque 546	Elvedon Estate and farms	Christmas tree	642.00	107.00
9.1.14	37-1314	Cheque 547	WMDC	Christmas lights	95.00	0.00
9.1.14	38-1314	Direct Debit	PWLB	Loan repayment	1104.17	0.00
					1865.37	107.00

2014-01-06 Christmas tree:

The tree and the lights had been a disappointment this year, primarily due to the unsafe manner in which they had been installed and its closeness to the road and road signs. The tree had now been partially removed and all that remained to do was the disposal or re use of the trunk. For next year a smaller tree will be installed in the centre of the circular planter.

Approval was given for Cllr Britton to try and source 3 sets of battery operated lights at an approximate cost of £40 per set.

2014-01-07 Gardener/ Handyman:

There is no immediate requirement to fill this post but it was agreed that on an ad hoc basis there were elements of work that are necessary throughout the village that are not already being carried out by others. Cllr Wilkins to post on the notice boards and at the shop an advert for anyone interested in taking on this role.

2014-01-08

Planning matters:

Cllr Loughran declared an interest at this stage of the meeting due to her position on the planning committee and took no further stage in this part of the meeting.

Cllr Wilkins reported on a meeting he and Cllr Walsh had recently attended with Mr Thomson and Mr Jones of WMDC. This meeting had discussed the

- difficulty of making telephone contact on planning matters
- how the parish council reviewed the weekly planning lists and ways and phraseology to use when objections are made through the WMDC planning process
- the unapproved development at Bankwood Stables
- The council's concern that not all the planning conditions were being complied with or changes were made post approval.

On behalf of the council Cllr Wilkins reiterated that there are 3 main objectives to any development in Darrington and these are

- Where the old walls are being damaged in any way
- Where there is village infill
- Where there is development on the greenbelt surrounding the village.

Recent applications.

Willow beck Estcourt Road.	Tree works	Approved
Hillcroft Farm Estcourt Road.	2 storey extension.	Approved

New applications.

Hodgewood Farm Havercroft Lane erection of a wind turbine. This single turbine is close to other recent applications for this type of development and is a size that greatly exceeds the requirements of the farm. It was agreed that the council would initially object to this development on the grounds that a full environmental assessment of its impact on the area had not been carried out and that the development was within the green belt.

2014-01-09

Reports:

School:

Cllr Newton informed the council of the future need for staff changes and recruitment.

Village Field:

Dog dirt is regularly being deposited on the field and is not being cleared up by the dog owners. If "dog poo fairy" signs are available these could be displayed to try and reduce the frequency of this happening.

The feast and fayre for this year will be held on June 14th. The reason for the annual changes in the date is due to the work commitments of the organiser.

Police:

Damage to CCTV equipment on Philips Lane.

Reports of activity by a “dodgy white van man” have lead to the seizure of one uninsured van.

Further problems with fly tipping on Westfield Lane. Cllr Wilkins will report this to street scene.

In Bloom:

It was noted that bringing the feast and fayre forward in the month would have an impact on the look of the flower boxes.

Gardening Club:

Additional plants are still required for the tithe barn area. Seeding will be carried out in the spring. The look and content of the heritage boards is being developed and it is planned to involve the school in a review of the content in due course.

Newsletter:

The next newsletter will be issued in March.

PCC Magazine:

Items for the next magazine could include articles on the Christmas tree, the sad loss of the gardener, dog mess and graffiti.

2014-01-10

Minor Items:

The deteriorating state of the road near the traffic lights will be brought to the attention of the highways by Cllr Wilkins.

The question, will there be a scarecrow competiton in 2014? was raised.

2014-01-11

Date of next meeting:

The next PC meeting will be held on 6th February 2014 at 7.00 in the reading room.

Meeting closed at 8.45

Cllr Hoyle gave offered his apologies for this meeting