

Minutes of Darrington Parish Council Meeting
Spread Eagle
Thursday 21st March 2013

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr Loughran, Cllr Dean and six members of the public.

Apologies:

Cllr Farrell, Cllr Hoyle and Cllr Walsh

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Britton reminded the council that at the previous meeting he had asked what councillors thought about his interest on the Reading Room Restoration Working Party. The decision at that meeting had been that it was not felt that Cllr Britton's involvement required him to make a Declaration of Interest. Because this did not require any action it was not recorded in the minutes. Upon reviewing that decision Cllr Britton, having taken further advice from Cllr Dean, who suggested that if there was any doubt it was always better to make a declaration, has asked that the last minutes be amended to note a 'Declaration of Interest' regarding his involvement with the Reading Rooms restoration Working Party'.

Cllr Dean suggested that we might be advised to follow a new directive (Guide Lines & Standards) that has been issued by Bernadette Livesey.

2013-02-01

Public Matters:

Details and discussion of public matters where left until later in the meeting.

2013-02-02

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting where not ratified and approved due to the statement made by Cllr Britton.

2013-02-03

Matter arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere:

Cllr Jackson stated that all the new planters had been built and finished, with just the need for planting. All the old stone planters had been cleaned. Cllr Britton asked that Cllr Jackson pass on our expression of thanks to Knavesmire Building Contractors and the local resident who had cleaned the old planters.

Cllr Dean suggested a speed limit of 50mph to the motorway as it passes over Darrington.

Cllr Britton Stated that after communication between the WMDC that there is no distinction between general waste and dog waste and that all bins will be emptied by WMDC

Mr Morrell stated that regarding footpaths across his land, he was broadly unopposed to access to his land, but stated that in the near future he would be planting the area and hoped that people would not walk where it may cause damage to crops. He also stated that anyone taking dogs near his stock should have them on a lead.

The situation regarding parked vehicle on Sotheron Croft has improved lately after the police talked with some of the local residents. However there is still some concern with regard to Emergency vehicles having clear access. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of residents in our next newsletter.

2013-02-04

Correspondence:

Cllr Atkinson stated that he had been in touch with WMDC regarding the increase in the 'precepts' for an explanation of the increase and was awaiting a reply.

The Village shop has made a request that a new post box is positioned outside their shop, this was agreed by the meeting that it was a good idea, however if this should lead to the loss of other post box's it would be a cause for concern. Cllr Wilkins was to investigate the matter further with the Post Office.

A resident of West Park, Vivian McGill has again complained about excessive litter caused by HGV drivers. It was noted that the Highways Agency is responsible for cleaning the litter from this stretch of the A1.

The recent planning application by Bankwood Stables has been refused and that the planning enforcement officer will ensure that the enforcement is upheld.

The old bus shelter, has been removed and no plans to renew it by the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport. It was suggested that we might hold some form of fund raising to build a new one for the users of the bus stop.

The committee of the Reading Room Restoration Working Party have written to us with an expression of thanks and an acknowledgement of our donation.

It was noted that the state of the roads through the village was a cause for concern and this was being looked at by WMDC Highways who had recently been through the village marking the road areas for repair.

It was noted that the tethering of horses had started to become a problem throughout the area, however it was considered that this was not a matter for DPC as it was outside our jurisdiction

A letter had been received from Ms Cooper who stated that she will continue to work on our behalf regarding the intentions of what or will not happen with the A1 motorway in the future,

2013-02-05

Finance:

Cllr Stainer confirmed that the balance at the end of February stood at £8.256.03

Four payments were presented for approval in the month

Date	Item	Payment method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
21.03.13	49-1213	Cheque 508	Hopkins Turner	Room Hire	10.00	0.00
21.03.13	50-1213	Cheque 509	J. Harper	Gardening/ Maintenance	304.50	0.00
21,03.13	51-1213	Cheque 510	Knavesmire	New Planters	2575.00	429.17
				Total	2.889.50	429.17

Cllr Wilkins proposed that this was accepted and Cllr Jackson seconded this proposal. All agreed.

Cllr Stainer reported that he had received a letter from WMDC regarding the localisation of council tax support. Due to the reduction in local services and the loss of income from vacant properties WMDC were proposing to increase the grant to the council by £767. Cllr Stainer reported that as the precept had already been applied for he did not intend to reduce it in value to take account of this payment. (This item is carried over from the previous minutes)

Precepts. After discussion regarding this matter it was suggested that DPC send a letter of complaint to the office that deals with increase.

Should the local press be in contact with any member of the DPC for a reason why the increase is at 11% we will tell them that DPC only asked for an increase of 3%.

2013-02-06

Planning Matters:

Darrington Quarries: Application for an extension to their facilities.

Tree Tops: Application to fell trees to the property.

Grove Hall Farm: Conversion of house into two flats.

Honeycutt Great North Road: Provision of a further 4 stables, tack room and exercise area. Approved.

The issue of increased flood lighting or security lighting was still an issue.

Wentbridge Hotel: Ornamental garden ornament constructed from artificial stone.

10 Estcourt Road: Thinning of trees to allow more light into garden and house.

There were no comments upon any of these applications.

Hillcroft Farm: Residential development outline planning has been applied for 9 houses. All dealings reference this application is being dealt with via the land agent acting on behalf of the family.

Several members of the public present at the meeting have already made objection to the outline plan for the proposed development.

It was decided that DPC object to the application on 3 points.

- 1 That the proposal would increase the strain upon existing road infrastructure.
- 2 That the proposal may involve encroachment upon green belt land.
- 3 That the addition of 9 family homes would increase the competition for places at the school.

2013-02-07

Reports:

Scarecrow Competition:

The 'Scarecrow' competition will be held in the week before the 'Feast & Fayre' Cllr Britton stated that Mrs Avril Jackson and Mrs Cath Britton had volunteered to organise all things appertaining to this year's Scarecrow Festival. The theme for this year is to be 'Nursery Rhymes' Miss Mel Oates has offered to design and print the posters and flyers and Cllr Newton will try and get the school involved as last year.

Reading Room Restoration.

The group has recently been successful in obtaining a grant toward phase 1 of the refurbishment and work is scheduled to start in the summer when there will be least disruption to the users of the building.

School.

Nothing to report.

Field.

The new gate to the entrance on Philips lane is to be fitted

Police.

There have recently been 3 No thefts in the village, 1 car and 2 properties. There have also been reports of strangers to the village acting in an unusual manner.

In Bloom.

The planters are still to be paid for and that the efforts of early planting the boxes are starting to show through.

Gardening club.

Cllr Tagger said that the club is trying to get young persons interested in gardening and in doing so the 'Village Shop' has agreed to let young gardeners use the planters

outside the shop to plant up their flower displays. It was suggested that this can be funded by a donation from DPC. Cllr Tagger also informed the meeting that a talk by Bob Evinson on the history of the Gardening Club would be given in the near future.

Newsletter.

Cllr Wilkins is now collating articles and news events for inclusion in the May issue of the news letter.

PCC magazine.

Cllr Britton will write a short article concerning the precepts.

2013-01-09

Minor Items.

Mr Ian Thompson, who currently acts on our behalf as auditor expressed his concern with certain legal issues that may arise, due to him not being able to prove that he is competent to carry out this work. He stated that should he would wish to carry on he would like to be able to indemnify himself against any legislative or legal problems that may arise in the future.

Meeting closed at 21.15hrs

2013-01-10

Date of Next meeting.

7.00 p.m. On Thursday the 11th April 2013