

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 13th February 2020 7PM

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Tagger, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stones, Cllr. Stainer
Clerk – Ian Thompson.

Apologies:

Cllr Jackson, Cllr Smith, Cllr Jones (WMDC)

In Attendance:

Five members of the public were present.

2020-02-01 Declaration Of Interests:

None offered.

2020-02-02 Public Matters:

- i) A resident asked for an update on the collection of ideas from villagers regarding new projects. The chairman stated the list is not yet closed as we are still asking for ideas. Once the collection is complete a poll will be taken for the most popular. With regard to one of the suggestions namely “litter collection” the resident felt that she could personally collect the litter from the slip road for the northbound A1 as it bends onto the A1. The councillors stressed that under no circumstances should anyone, other than authorised personnel with appropriate warning signs and appropriate safety measures in place attempt this task. They pointed out that it is illegal for members of the public to pick litter at this point. The clerk told the meeting the Wakefield MDC’s “Street Scene operation” have said they will perform this task before the end of February. The clerk will monitor the situation and contact Street Scene in the event the collection does not take place.

ACTION IT

- ii) A resident reported that in the field adjacent to the village field he noticed twenty figures clothed in black searching the field! The chairman advised this was a police training exercise focussing on searching for forensic evidence.

2020-02-03 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting:

Cllr Tagger proposed and Cllr Stones seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record. This was unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising:

- i) Cllr Tagger was concerned that the chairman, single handed, had taken down the village Christmas tree and disposed of it He offered to assist in future years and thanked to Cllr. Britton for his work.
- ii) The bin opposite the Reading Rooms has been emptied.
- iii) With regard to cars parking on the pavement near Orchard Lane the situation has improved greatly following the intervention of a villager communicating with the owners.
- iv) No progress has occurred regarding the infrastructure levy. Cllr. Stones continues to monitor.

ACTION VS

- v) The planning application for an additional building at 18 Wentworth Park Rise has been withdrawn. The clerk, as instructed, obtained a copy of the deeds for this property and once obtained forwarded them to all councillors. The councillor's interpretation is that there are covenants in place preventing more than one residence and garage being built on the site and the area for which the application was made has a "no building to be constructed in this area" restriction. It also appears that walls, fences and vegetation on this land, in the open spaces should not exceed three feet in height. Currently the area where one should have a magnificent view of the church has many laurels in place, all with a height exceeding three feet. The clerk is asking for advice from the Society of Local Council clerks as how such covenants are "policed". However, Cllr Tagger believes that the planning department at Wakefield MDC has a responsibility to enforce this covenant. The chairman instructed the clerk to update Cllr Jones of Wakefield MDC on the situation and ask him to pursue the matter with the planning department.

ACTION IT

- vi) Cllr Stainer has submitted and had accepted the request for a 3% precept rise.
- vii) The defibrillator pads have been received and installed. A spare set was also obtained for rapid return to full deployment should the defibrillator be used.
- viii) The orchard tree pruning has taken place. There is still some ivy to remove from a couple of trees. Regarding the "dead tree" the visiting expert stated that this is the rarest tree and may recover and it should not be cut down. The chairman agreed that along with Cllr Stainer they would complete the work once the weather improves.

ACTION MB/PS

- ix) At an earlier meeting the parish council was informed by Wakefield MDC that "the approval procedure for attachments to street lighting columns has been

amended and a new section 178 licence is in force.” They stated that our supplier for the baskets and their contents, First Impressions, could take on the responsibility associated with such work provided that they satisfied Wakefield MDC that their working practices met Wakefield’s requirements. That process has been completed satisfactorily and we have received an email from First Impressions asking us to confirm that the parish council is happy for First Impressions to take on that responsibility. The meeting agreed unanimously that they are grateful to First Impressions taking on this responsibility and instructed the clerk to inform both First Impressions and Wakefield MDC of that position.

ACTION IT

- x) The overhanging bushes on Philips Lane. Cllr Jones previously stated he would pass on to Wakefield’s appropriate department for them to do the work. Cllr Smith has discussed the issue with the occupant of the private residence at the bottom of the lane and hopefully that will be done soon.
- xi) Cllr Stones has purchased a new “starter” for the excess tree lights to allow them to be used in future years.
- xii) The clerk has written to the secretary of the PCC and the church council will discuss the request from a resident for beehives in the old orchard. The PCC will discuss at their next meeting.
- xiii) Cllr Tagger raised the fact that the Tith Barn car parking surface needs replenishing with gravel. Cllr Britton said he felt there might be an issue with delivery of such material because of the narrow access though Philips Lane. Such a purchase would require discussion with the vendor regarding delivery. However, this area is the property of the church and once again their permission would be required for the parish council to undertake such work. The clerk was instructed to formerly write to the PCC for such permission.

ACTION IT

2020-02-04 Correspondence:

- i) Mr Martin Barnes from Wakefield’s Highways department has contacted us and is happy to come to the village to discuss our highways related issues. The meeting has been agreed for Thursday the 27th of February at 10:30 AM. Councillors Britton, Tagger and Stones along with the clerk will meet Mr Barnes. Cllr Tagger will contact the Kyte Hotel to book a meeting area there. A discussion took place regarding the topics to be discussed and they will include:-
 1. Accidents at the traffic lights. The clerk has a “freedom of information request” to Wakefield police asking for details they have for such accidents.
 2. The accuracy of speed measuring strips, how to handle the data and make decisions on what actions to take if speeding is found to be prolific.
 3. Advice on the siting of such strips.
 4. Issues regarding the three 7.5T restriction signs in Valley Road.

5. The “lay by” created by parking lorries on Old Great North Road
6. The litter on the bend approaching the northbound A1.
7. The “tactile paving” for partially sighted pedestrians at the hump across Estcourt Road near Estcourt Drive, giving the impression this is a safe crossing point.
8. The road narrowing on entry to the village from Marlpit Lane.
9. Jumping the traffic lights in Estcourt Road.

The clerk will advise Mr Barnes of these topics and suggested driving him around these areas just before the meeting – meaning the meeting will probably start at circa 10:45.

ACTION AT contact Kyte, IT contact Mr Barnes MB/AT/VS attend meeting

ii) The clerk also advised that it is Leeds Council and not Wakefield who “rent out” such strips. Leeds have advised that the cost would be £300 plus VAT for one weeks positioning. Leeds liaise with Wakefield MDC and ensure all is in order and place the strips into position, remove them and let us have the data. The clerk asked what the cost would be for two such sets of strips – one in Estcourt Road and one in Valley Road and was advised that as the same members of staff would be involved the cost would remain as £300 plus VAT for both sites. A decision on whether or not to proceed should follow the meeting with Wakefield and be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

iii) An email has been received from the town clerk of South Kirby regarding their VE celebration event. Cllr Tagger advised that a significant number of events are being planned as part of Pontefract’s celebrations. He has personally been asked to give a presentation on the Darrington air crash and so Darrington is being represented at this event. The meeting felt in general that the Pontefract celebrations will be more appropriate, and Cllr Tagger will distribute the link to the FaceBook site covering the event. The clerk will reply to South Kirby declining their offer.

ACTION IT

iv) An email has been received from “Keep Britain Tidy” informing the council of the forthcoming “British Spring Clean”. Council’s are encouraged to register as supporting the event and plan a litter pick by residents, ideally during the period of the event namely 20th March to 13th April. The councillors have arranged similar events in the past and believe it can only be effective with the support of Wakefield’s “Street Scene” department to provide bags and a means of collecting the filled bags and disposing of them. The clerk was instructed to register with Keep Britain Tidy and also contact Street Scene to see what support they could give us for such an event.

ACTION IT

2020-02-05 Finance:

The RFO (Cllr Stainer) reported that the amount brought forward from the end of December was £22,423.52

There was no income in January.

There were five items of expenditure:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
9/01/2020	22-1920	Direct Debit	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment	£1,104.17	£ 0
9/01/2020	23-1920	Cheque 796	Mr M Flaherty	Electricity supply for Christmas lights	£20.00	£ 0
9/01/2020	24-1920	Cheque 797	I Thompson	Clerk Training	£99.00	£19.80
9/01/2020	25-1920	Cheque 798	Darrington C of E School	Section 137 Grant	£70.00	£ 0
9/01/2020	26-1920	Cheque 799	M Britton	Printer Ink	£49.50	£8.25
			Total Expenditure		£1,342.67	£28.05

This left a balance of £21,080.85

There were five proposed payments in February for approval:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
13/2/2020	27-1920	Cheque 800	P M Stainer	Postage Stamps	£8.40	£ 0
13/2/2020	28-1920	Cheque 801	I Thompson	VAT for training course	£19.80	£ 0
13/2/2020	29-1920	Cheque 802	I Thompson	Fee for land registry	£7.00	£ 0
13/2/2020	30-1920	Cheque 803	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator Maintenance Agreement	£162.00	£27.00
13/2/2020	31-1920	Cheque 804	V. Stones	Christmas tree lights starter	£12.98	£2.16
			Total for Approval		£210.18	£29.16

Cllr Tagger proposed payment and was seconded by Cllr Briton and unanimously approved.

Cllr Stainer then reviewed the current position against the budget. Given the proximity to the end of the financial year he has made some assumptions. He has assumed we will not receive any infrastructure levy in the next month. He has also assumed there will be no spending on parish projects before April. After making these changes the forecast for the end of the financial year is circa £22,000. Some discussion then took place regarding this large amount and councillors confirmed their determination to identify projects which will be undertaken to benefit the parish and reduce the amount in the bank. The RFO raised a question as to whether or not there is a maximum sum relative to the precept that can be held. The RFO will check on this figure.

ACTION PS

2020-02-06 Planning Matters:

- i) Church Farm, Darrington
Agricultural Storage Building.
No further information was given.
Cllr Stones will investigate and report.
ACTION VS

- ii) 1 Applewood Gardens
Single storey extension to side and rear.
No further information is yet available and so the councillors cannot comment yet. The clerk was asked to go onto the planning site and see if a plan is posted.
ACTION IT

- iii) 7 Ash Tree Fold – application to chop down dead tree.
This is the dead tree at the junction of Valley Road and Ash Tree Fold. Not only has the application been granted but the tree has been chopped down!

- iv) 15 Sotheron Croft – Remove existing conservatory and build new larger conservatory. The planning authority’s statement is that planning permission is not required for this work.

- v) Grove Hall Lane, Knottingley
Demolition of timber office and construction of new workshop and office. This application has been approved.

- vi) 2 Beech Crescent Darrington.
Two storey extension to side.
This application has been refused.

2020-02-07 Reports:

School Report

Nothing to report.

Village Field

Nothing to report.

“In Bloom”

No report other than the discussion already reported.

Gardening Club

Cllr Tagger reported this month’s meeting was an enjoyable one discussing “snowdrops!”

Police Report

Cllr. Stones has not had a report from the police this month. Cllr Briton is aware of the “Spread at Darrington” having been broken into and petty cash stolen from the safe. Cllr Tagger also reported that an Audi car has been stolen from Beech Crescent.

Newsletter

Topics should include what we are doing regarding the suggestions for projects that will have been put forward. The Feast and Fayre committee will be anxious to publicise the next event and so a publication date of early May was agreed.

2020-02-08 Any Other Business:

Cllr Stones asked if the parish council would like to have a stall at this year’s “Feast and Fayre”. The chairman confirmed that would be required and signed the request form for the Feast and Fayre Committee.

Cllr Tagger reported that there is a survey taking place with regard to the plans being formulated to shape the future of Pontefract. Wakefield Council is now asking members of the public to take part in a consultation on the initial “master planning” work that has been completed and to share their views. Suggestions made include changes on Horsefair and potential improvements to some of the major roads in the town. He believes there is information in the library and on the council website. It was suggested, in her absence, that Cllr Smith should broadcast this opportunity on the appropriate Darrington Facebook pages. The clerk will forward details to Cllr Smith and ask for her to consider putting information on the appropriate Darrington facebook pages.

ACTION IT/FS

Date Of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th of March 2020.

The chairman closed at the meeting at 8:30 PM.