

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting  
Reading Room

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Present:**

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Smith (Vice Chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stones, Cllr Jackson, Cllr. Stainer, Cllr D. Jones (WMDC) part time, Clerk – Ian Thompson.

**Apologies:**

Cllr Tagger – Double booked with another meeting

**In Attendance:**

Three members of the public were present.

**2020-01-01**

**Declaration Of Interests:**

None offered.

**2020-01-02**

**Public Matters:**

- i) The bin opposite the Reading Rooms is overflowing and has not been emptied today despite there being a scheduled collection.
- ii) A resident in Estcourt Road is putting bread on his wall which is falling onto the footpath.
- iii) Two cars are regularly being parked on the footpath on Estcourt Road adjacent to Orchard Lane.
- iv) The light opposite Greenroyd Farm was out last night. The clerk will report to Wakefield who he stated normally respond within 24 hours.

**ACTION IT**

**2020-01-03**

**Minutes Of The Previous Meeting:**

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

**Matters Arising:**

- i) Cllr Stones reported no change in infrastructure levy situation but will continue to check.

**ACTION VS**

- ii) After a disappointing response from Wakefield MDC following the parish council's request for spend measuring strips to be placed on Estcourt Road and Valley Road the clerk sent an email to Cllrs Loughran and Jones reflecting the council's disappointment to the request. Cllr Jones took it up with Cllr Morley

who said it was laudable that the parish council wanted to fund a solution to a perceived problem and as a result of his intervention the clerk has received an email from Wakefield's highways department with a contact and offering to review the situation. The clerk will call the representative and advise the councillors on the solution. He did also stated that a councillor now needs to take this project over. It's not within the clerk's area of responsibility to lead such tasks.

**ACTION IT**

- iii) Cllr Smith has not yet had an opportunity to discuss additional planting options with "First Impressions" and will do so soon. She asked for a copy of the November parish council minutes be sent to her and the clerk will send them to her. This will allow her to ensure she discusses all of the points raised in that meeting.

**ACTION FS / IT**

- iv) At the previous meeting the clerk was asked to obtain the deeds for 18 Wentworth Park Rise to see if there are any restrictions regarding the proposed building on the vacant plot. The clerk reported that he had telephoned the appropriate government department in Gloucester and they confirmed there are restrictions on the deeds. Those restrictions are dated October 1968. They were not able to view the restrictions and the only way to obtain the deeds is to send a written application with the fee of £7 and the reply will also be in a written communication. The clerk will advise councillors on the contents of the deeds once the document is received.

**ACTION IT**

- v) The clerk replied to the resident who had asked for a footpath across the village field thanking her for her suggestion. The clerk advised the resident that her suggestion had been passed on to the chair of the "Village Field Committee" and suggested she reinforced her request by putting her request onto the "comments" section of their website.

- vi) Cllr Smith has put the information from Selectra regarding winter fuel costs onto the Darrington Community Facebook site.

- vii) Cllr Stainer, the RFO, will submit the already agreed request for a 3% rise in the precept to Wakefield MDC following the signing of the appropriate documentation by the chairman. The chairman duly signed and Cllr Stainer will now submit the application.

**ACTION PS**

- viii) The clerk has formerly agreed the quote from First Impressions for the floral displays next year. The RFO has received the invoice and will present it for payment at the March meeting.

- ix) Cllr Stones has ordered new pads for the defibrillator. The current pads shelf life expires in February. Additionally, the door to the telephone box was jammed, due to swelling woodwork, and once reported was “fixed” immediately by Cllr. Britton.
- x) The clerk has ordered and received the Society of Local Council Clerk’s first training course.
- xi) Cllr Stones has given the RFO the £100 advertising fee from the Darrington for the last two newsletters advertisements.

#### **2020-01-04 Correspondence:**

- i) Mr. Brown, the expert who has previously visited the village to inspect and advise on the apple trees in the “old orchard” has written to say that he has recently visited the village and can report that the trees appear to be doing well. There is one dead tree. He advises that the trees would benefit greatly from pruning and has offered to supervise the process. He offered some dates. The meeting agreed the 1st of February. Cllr Smith agreed to reply to Mr Brown and co-ordinate arrangements for the event. Cllr Stones has a neighbour with a chainsaw and his assistance will be useful in chopping down the dead tree although that need not be on the same date.

#### **ACTION FS**

- ii) A letter has been received from the school’s headmistress asking for a Section 137 £70 grant towards refreshments for the carol service. This grant had already been approved at the previous meeting.
- iii) The clerk has received a notice from Wakefield MDC reporting that the approval procedure for the installation of attachments to street lighting columns has been amended. The email contained an attachment with application forms for permission to proceed with such installations. However, it is not immediately clear as to whether the form is to be completed wholly by the parish council or more likely by the contractor, in our case “First Impressions”. The meeting felt that First Impressions would receive numerous requests from their clients and asked Cllr Smith to liaise closely with them for advice on how to proceed. The forms must be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Darrington’s baskets are not removed and replaced between being furnished with new displays. The clerk handed a copy of the application forms to all the councillors but will email Cllr. Smith with all of the documentation and she will expedite the enquiry. Cllr Stainer was also asked to clarify the amount of public liability insurance on the council’s insurance policy.

#### **ACTION FS / IT..PS**

- iv) A phone call from a resident in Philips Lane who had been told by a delivery driver that he would not drive his vehicle up the lane because of overhanging vegetation. The resident had also approached the PCC and we were told that the PCC had replied stating it was the responsibility of Wakefield MDC and copied Wakefield MDC on that email. The PCC will forward that email to Cllr. Jones also.

### 2020-01-05 Finance:

The RFO (Cllr Stainer) reported that the amount brought forward from the end of November was £22,495.90. There was one item of income.

Date	Income Source	Income Stream	Amount
31/12/19	Darrington Hotel	Newsletters	£100.00

There were two items of expenditure:

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
19/12/2019	20-1920	Cheque 794	Carter Jackson	Printing Autumn newsletters	£99.75	£ 0
19/12/2019	21-1920	Cheque 795	P. M. Stainer	Printer Ink	£22.63	£ 0

This left a balance of £22,423,52.

There were five proposed payments in January for approval:

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
9/1/2020	22-1920	Direct Debit	Public Works Loan Board	Loan Repayment	£1,104.17	£ 0
9/1/2020	23-1920	Cheque 796	M. Flaherty	Electrical Supply For Christmas Lights	£20.00	£ 0
9/1/2020	24-1920	Cheque 797	I. Thompson	Council Clerk Training	£99.00	£19.80
9/1/2020	25-1920	Cheque 798	Darrington Primary School	Section 137 Grant	£70.00	£ 0
9/1/2020	26-1920	Cheque 799	M. Britton	Printer Ink	£49.50	£8.25

Cllr Stones proposed payment and was seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously approved.

Cllr Stainer then reviewed the current position against the budget. He has, once again, reduced budgeted figures for gardening maintenance as there were no payments made this month. There is significant uncertainty as to whether we will receive any infrastructure levy payments, but he has retained the figures in the budget. He once again stressed that project figures were no more than a rough estimate – the council continues to have not yet identified specific projects, so they cannot be costed! Given these “unknowns” his broad-brush estimate for the end of the financial year end figure is circa £23,000.

### **2020-01-06 Planning Matters:**

- i) Grovehall Lane, Knottingley  
Demolition of timber office, construction of new workshop and office, and new entrance lobby.  
Application has been approved by Wakefield Planning

### **2020-01-07 Post Christmas Planning:**

The chairman has already, single handed, removed the lights for the Christmas tree. He has also taken it down and cut into manageable pieces and disposed of at the council tip. He reported that only two thirds of the council's lights were used and there are some left which might be used next year on additional displays. However, they would need a "starter" to be used as a new string. Cllr Stones volunteered to cost such a "starter".

#### **ACTION VS**

### **2020-01-08 Reports:**

#### **School Report**

Nothing to report.

#### **Village Field**

Nothing to report.

#### **"In Bloom"**

No report.

#### **Gardening Club**

Cllr Tagger reported once again, an enjoyable, productive meeting with fourteen attendees.

#### **Police Report**

Cllr. Stones reported that the police had reported to her "no significant incidents".

#### **Newsletter**

No report.

### **2020-01-09 Other Business:**

#### **Potential Parish Projects**

Requests for residents to propose parish projects have been widely circulated. The chairman gave a list of current requests, although the requests for more continues to be

widely encouraged. He stressed that this is the current list and a more comprehensive one will unfold in the future. Cllr Smith will ultimately run a poll on popularity of requests on Facebook pages once the collection is ends.

- i) Currently the most requested item is a “litter pick”, particularly the A1 north access where the slip road bends through 180 degrees. However, this would be a dangerous undertaking and indeed any risk assessment would require either closing the slip or having significant warning signs in place and well beyond the acceptable risks for residents to be allowed to undertake. The clerk stated that he felt he had a verbal agreement with Wakefield’s “Street Scene” team to do perform the task and ask them if that was still on offer.

**ACTION IT**

- ii) A path across the village field – as discussed at the last meeting. A decision on this is the responsibility of the Village Field Committee.
- iii) Beehives in the “old orchard”. This would have to go through the parochial church council as they own the field. The clerk was asked to formally write to the PCC to seek their views on this request.

**ACTION IT**

- iv) Christmas lights on the lampposts.
- v) The erection of a barrier on back lane to prevent people walking onto the A1.

**Cllr Jones Report**

Cllr Jones of Wakefield MDC had at this point joined the meeting and actions for which he had previously volunteered support or new ones where it was felt he might be able to help were discussed.

- i) The department associated with distribution of salt are reviewing this year’s proposals and are expected to change them in future.
- ii) Milners Lane – the appropriate department within Wakefield MDC are still working on ownership and responsibilities.
- iii) Cllr Jones asked the resident who had discussed bird food to send details, including photos, to him for review.
- iv) The slip road illegal parking situation. “Highways” at Wakefield are certain it is a Highways England responsibility and are pursuing the matter on our behalf
- v) Cllr Jones asked for photographs of the vehicles parking on the pavement near the junction of Estcourt Road and Orchard Lane. Cllr Britton will provide. The chairman asked for clarification on whether or not this is illegal as the pavement is

very wide at this point and there is room for wheelchairs to pass through despite the parked vehicles.

**ACTION MB**

vi) With regard to the “Smiley Sid” situation Cllr Morley, by way of Cllr Jones sends his apologies for the tone of the email sent to the clerk. The Wakefield philosophy is that district council and parish council will work together on issues!

vii) If the bin outside the Reading Rooms is not emptied next week he asked for an email and he would put in a “members enquiry” request to the appropriate department.

**Date Of Next Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.**