

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Virtual Meeting

9th July 2020 7PM

Present: Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Tagger, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stones, Cllr. Stainer, Cllr Jackson.

Clerk – Ian Thompson.

In Attendance:

No members of the public attended.

2020-07-1 Apologies:

Cllr Smith – Apology offered and accepted.

2020-07-1A Declarations Of Interest:

None offered.

2020-07-2 Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

2020-07-3 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting:

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

2020-07-4 Matters Arising

- i) Required financial documentation for the previous financial year has been posted on the website.
 - ii) Public notices relating to public scrutiny of finances have been posted on the notice boards. However, in so doing the clerk reported that one of the “knobs” on the door of a notice board came away in his hand. The chairman reported that the notice boards are generally not in a good state and asked Simon to see if, in his expert opinion, they can be cleaned off and re-stained. Simon recommends rubbing them down, treating the “black” wood and painting them. The chairman has asked for a quotation for this work.
 - iii) Cllr Thompson has seen the original public liability insurance documentation of the gardener and sent a copy to the clerk who has filed the PDF.
 - iv) Cllr Stainer has not received an answer to his query regarding cover of assets from the insurance company
- ACTION PS**
- v) First Impressions have been reminded of their failure to plant some of the beds within the village. Cllr Stainer also reported that they have not presented the

cheque for their services which was sent to them at the beginning of April. Cllr Stones will contact them regarding the planting issue.

ACTION VS

- vi) The clerk reported that he has not received a reply from Wakefield MDC regarding the parish boundary but did report that the electoral roll shows No. 1 Tumbling Hill and numbers 1, 2 and 4 Norwood as being in the parish. No other properties in these two roads were listed. Cllr. Tagger questioned whether the assumption that the electoral roll and parish boundary always match up might not be true. The clerk was asked to contact Wakefield MDC to clarify the position.

ACTION IT

- vii) The chairman reported that not only have there been significant problems with litter and “dog mess” in the village field, he has come across similar issues whilst cutting the grass in the “old orchard”. He has been performing this task for a few years and it is only in the last couple of months, since coronavirus “lockdown” was implemented has he found such an issue in this location. He will discuss with Mrs Morell from the parochial church council to see if anything can be done.

ACTION MB

- viii) The “dangerous dog that was discussed at the last meeting has not been seen in the village since then.

2020-07-5 Village Sign Discussion

Councillors have reviewed sites which provide such signs. The chairman’s research has indicated prices of between £2k and £5k per sign depending on their complexity. Discussion took place regarding one or two signs being required along with potential locations - coupled with a desire to keep the existing stone village signs. In conclusion the councillors all supported the idea of this project. There was a feeling that vendors of such signs might well obtain planning permission, perform installation and alleviate any other potential issues based on their experience. The clerk was asked to contact a couple of vendors and find out more about their services.

ACTION IT

2020-07-6 Village Field Committee Request for Section 137 Grant

The only approach so far has been informal. The meeting concluded that a formal request was required from the chairman of the Village Field Committee along with details of how much they want and why. Cllr Stones will ask for such documentation.

ACTION VS

2020-07-7 Correspondence

Cllr Smith has received a private message on the council’s Facebook page relating to a flag pole behind the car park of the “Spread” which the sender feels is a “massive eyesore” and stating that it would be good to get the opinion of the Parish Council and the village community. After some discussion the councillors were mindful that they do not take sides in what is effectively a potential dispute between neighbours. The clerk

was instructed to send the complainant a copy of the “Rules For Flying Flags” documentation and ask that they launch an objection to Wakefield MDC planning department if they believe there is anything unlawful about what is happening and point out that the parish council has no jurisdiction in this area.

2020-07-8 Finance

The opening balance brought forward from the end of May 2020 was £23,433.74

There was one item of income in June.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Income Source</u>	<u>Income Stream</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10.6.20	HMRC	VAT Refund	£1,129.50

There were four items of expenditure in June:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
11.6.20	08-2021	Cheque 815	P M Stainer	Postage Stamps	£9.12	£0
11.6.20	09-2021	Cheque 816	P M Stainer	Printer Ink (Black)	£21.00	£0
11.6.20	10-2021	Cheque 817	P M Stainer	Printer Ink (Colour)	£13.00	£0
11.6.20	11-2021	Cheque 818	Mr N Dyas	Gardening/maintenance	£160.00	£0
				<u>Total Expenditure</u>	£203.12	£0

This left a balance of £24,360,12

The cheque paid to First Impressions has not yet been paid into their bank account and so in practice the a bank statement would show more in the bank. The figure above is what the balance will be once that cheque is cashed.

There are two payments due in July 2020 for approval, as circulated to councillors earlier.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
9.7.20	08-2021	Cheque 819	Wakefield MDC	Annual Grounds Maintenance	£1,159.02	£193.17
9.7.20	09-2021	Cheque 820	Nick Dyas	Gardening Services	£208.00	£0
				<u>Total Proposed Payments</u>	£1,367.02	£193.17

Cllr Britton proposed the payments be approved, Cllr Jackson seconded and the resolution for approval was passed unanimously.

The forecast for the end of the year exceeds £22,000.

With there being no meeting in August a proposal for the chairman and RFO to review and, if they feel appropriate, approve and pay any due invoices up to the September meeting. Details of any such payments will be brought to the September meeting for inspection. This has been the practice for many years. This proposal was passed unanimously.

2020-07-9 Planning Matters:

Details of the applications below had been circulated to councillors earlier.

1. 3 Estcourt Drive, Darrington. 20/01196/TPO

Two applications regarding trees at this address. A yew tree overhanging the road. A request to perform a crown reduction. A sycamore tree leaning into a neighbour's garden. A request to shape the tree and prevent it becoming top heavy and toppling.

The councillors concluded "No comment" and will respect the decision of the arborist within the planning department.

2. 16 Estcourt Drive, Darrington 20/01103/TPO

Requests to reduce height and width of a beech tree and fell an "unhealthy looking" tree.

The councillors concluded "No comment" and will respect the decision of the arborist within the planning department.

3. Chapel Hill Cottage, Valley Road, Darrington 20/01300/FUL

A single storey front and side extension and demolition of existing conservatory. After reviewing the application councillors agreed not to comment.

2020-07-10 Reports:

School – Cllr Tagger feels that the response to the coronavirus situation as been outstanding and believes their planning for the September re-opening is good. Attendance of key workers children exceeds 70%.

Gardening Club – Cllr Tagger has published a fourth newsletter and widely distributed it. Cllr. Stainer requested that he be delivered a hard copy so that he can file it. The gardening club have held their meetings at the Kyte for many years. However, that business is currently having difficulties and closed down. As and when the coronavirus situation improves and meetings are allowed a new venue will be required.

Police – No communications have been received. The police have temporarily closed the Pontefract office. Cllr Stainer reported a break in at Darrington Hall recently.

Village Field – No report.

Newsletter: Deferred for the time being. Councillors plan to publish one before Christmas.

2020-07-11 Carried Over Items

Given the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic restricting actions and projects that might otherwise be progressing these items are included in the minutes simply so as “not to forget them” when things return to normal.

The remaining items are:-

- i) Parish Meeting and Annual General meeting
- ii) Litter pick
- iii) Speed strips installation and data analysis
- iv) Report from Wakefield Highways covering crossing in Estcourt Road, Marlpit Lane narrowing, 7.5 tonne signs in Valley Road, Unofficial lay-by on slip road and litter on the slip road.
- v) Enforcement of regulations within deeds of property by Wakefield MDC planning.
- vi) Broken glass in telephone box housing defibrillator

2020-07-12 Minor Items:

Cllr Tagger reported that a new wood fronted building has been constructed on the “Bankswood” stables site. He has been in touch with Cllr. Elaine Blezard of Wakefield MDC whom he had contacted in 2018 and who at that time expressed an interest in helping enforce Wakefield’s planning committee’s decision. Cllr Tagger sought approval to pursue this matter. Councillors unanimously agreed. He will pursue this with Cllr Blezard and with the Wakefield MDC hierarchy.

ACTION AT

There has been a report of a new “illegal” building on the triangular piece of land between where the slip road onto the A1 northbound bends to access the A1 itself, the A1 itself and the one way stretch of slip road for those leaving the A1 to enter Darrington. It is presumed this land belongs to “Highways England”. Sheep have also been seen grazing on this land. No planning permission has ever been seen for any buildings on this land. Cllr Tagger offered to investigate this situation.

ACTION AT

The clerk reported that he has completed successfully the “Society Of Local Council’s” “Introduction To Local Council Administration” course. He will be conducting a review into the parish council’s practices based upon his new found knowledge.

ACTION IT

2020-07-13 Date Of Next Meeting

Thursday 10th September 2020 7PM.

The meeting closed at 20:30