

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Virtual Meeting

22nd April 2021 7pm

Present: Cllrs: Britton (Chair), Smith, Jackson, Stainer, Stones and Thompson

In Attendance: Residents B & C (during Planning section only)

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

Cllr Tagger, Cllr Jones

2. Public Forum

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

March Minutes were amended then proposed by Cllr Britton as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and seconded by Cllr Stones. There was no dissent.

4. Matters Arising

- a. **Website Content** – Cllr Tagger providing content for A1 & Tythe Barn info pages is still outstanding

ACTION AT

- b. **Standing Orders & Regulations** – No-one had seen the previous Clerk but Cllr Thompson has been through them and discovered that they were indeed changed, but not officially adopted, so she proposed they be adopted and Cllr Stainer seconded with no dissent.

- c. **New Clerk Update** – Cllr Thompson had completed the application to join the YCLA and confirmed we had been members since the 1st of April.

- d. **A1 Pollution** – Cllr Tagger had circulated his response to Highways England as discussed. Cllr Smith sent the original Highways response to the resident who raised the issue. She received a reply (which she read out) which basically encouraged DPC to continue to work on the issue. Cllr Smith replied reassuring them that that would be the case.

- e. **Salt Bins** – Cllr Britton still has had no response from WMDC regarding the bin for Applewood Gardens, so suggested we purchase another bin ourselves, and ask The Spread landlord if we could locate it in the Spread Eagle car park, so residents can help themselves. Cllr Britton proposed, Cllr Smith seconded with no dissent

ACTION MB

- f. **Village Benches** – Cllr Britton had been to look at the shelter by the lights and said there wasn't much we could do with it other than flatten it and build another. It's not dangerous so all agreed to leave as is and monitor. He had also contacted the Church Warden who has agreed to ask the Vicar again whether we could put

benches in the Orchard.

ACTION MB

- g. Defibrillator** – Cllr Britton has repaired the glass panel, but had lost the receipt for the panel so wouldn't be claiming for it.
- h. Milners Lane & Footpaths** – Libraries haven't yet opened but will be shortly so Cllr Britton will contact them

ACTION MB
- i. Dog Poo Bins** – Cllr Jones had forwarded onto us the reply from WMDC explaining that the request for a large bin had been turned down, but he would continue to pursue the matter further.

ACTION DJ
- j. Speed Survey** – Cllr Smith confirmed that the strips had been installed already, but had since spoken to the gentleman who arranged in 2019 to have some installed for us. He didn't recall what had happened with the data and she couldn't remember. Cllr Britton explained that the strips had been placed too close to the lights and therefore hadn't shown there to be a problem. Cllr Smith said the resident had again offered to help should we need more data in the future.

Cllr Britton read out a confusing reply from WMDC re the signs on Valley Rd that we had queried. Again, Cllr Jones had stipulated that he intended to pursue the matter further as it seemed they had misunderstood our request, which was mainly to slightly alter the text on the signs so that they made sense, so Cllr Smith agreed to contact him and explain what needed to be said.

ACTION FS
- k. Bankswood** – Cllr Smith read out a letter received from The Brotherhood which confirmed that they would not be willing to make a complaint against the Bankswood Owners. Cllr Tagger has already stipulated that he would continue to pursue the matter and will no doubt update us in May.

ACTION AT
- l. Section 137 Grant Request from Darrington Jnr** – No letter has yet been received, so will revisit next month.

ACTION AT
- m. Dog Noise Complaint** – Cllr Smith confirmed she had contacted the resident and suggested she contact WMDC – the resident had confirmed she had done and was awaiting a reply.
- n. First Impressions** – Cllr Smith confirmed that she had contacted First Impressions, who in turn confirmed that the discounted invoice would be sent to us as soon as the lampposts were approved.

- o. Resident on Philips Lane** – Cllr Stones had been unable to contact him, Cllr Britton would also try to get hold of him.

ACTION MB

5. Village Furniture & Signs

Cllr Smith has sent a document to all Cllrs previous to the meeting showing benches in the village that needed replacing, as well as locations for possible new benches. Cllr Britton also confirmed that the Field Committee had been in contact explaining that they would be happy to allow us to put new benches or replace old ones on the field. After much discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Britton and Smith could go ahead and purchase 3 matching replacement benches for the village and the field (and if possible) a picnic table for the field, up to a cost of £10,000, with the aim (once planning permission had been gained) of also purchasing a new bus shelter with bench outside the Darrington Hotel. Proposed by Cllr Britton, seconded by Cllr Thompson with no dissent.

ACTION MB/FS

6. Correspondence

- a.** Cllr Smith read out a request for a Section 137 grant from Darrington Playgroup. All agreed this could be given. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Stones with no dissent.

ACTION FS

- b.** Cllr Smith read out a letter from a resident re the lampposts not working on Estcourt Rd. Cllrs noted that they had actually come back on the previous night, so no further action was necessary.

- c.** Cllr Smith read out a letter from a resident couple about fly tipping on the Rd up to the caravan park (she would reply asking them to report to WMDC), and some cut branches which need removing from the corner by the Valley Rd notice Board. Cllr Britton agreed to go and have a look at how large the waste was and we could decide from there how to dispose of it.

ACTION MB

- d.** Cllr Smith read out a letter from a resident explaining she couldn't take on the role of Clerk but thanking the Councillors for all the work we do for the village.

- e.** Cllr Smith read out an email from a resident explaining the interest and success in the litter picking eqpt, and asking us to chase removal of the last road sign frame, which Cllr Smith agreed to do.

ACTION FS

- f.** Cllr Smith read out an email from a resident couple asking when we would remove the dog waste bin. The issue is where we could move it to – the other side isn't an

option due to the machine that trims the hedges. Any further down the lane in either direction means they would be too far to carry full bags of waste. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would try and contact their neighbours to ask if any of them would be happy to have it behind their fences.

ACTION FS

7. Finance

The RFO (Cllr Stainer) confirmed that the amount brought forward from February was £35270.04 and that there was no income in March.

There were 7 items of expenditure:

#####	34- 2021	Cheque 840	D Dyas	Gardening/maintenance	272.00	0.00
#####	35- 2021	Cheque 841	M Britton	Rock salt	17.96	2.99
#####	36- 2021	Cheque 842	P M Stainer	Postcrete for Dog Bin Stations	97.00	16.16
#####	37- 2021	Cheque 843	P M Stainer	Printer ink	15.50	2.58
#####	38- 2021	Cheque 844	M Britton	Grit bin	129.98	0.00
#####	39- 2021	Cheque 845	P M Stainer	Bin bags	3.10	0.00
#####	40- 2021	Cheque 846	Yorkshire Councils Associations	YLCA membership for 2021/22	353.00	0.00
Total expenditure					888.54	21.73

This left a balance of £34,381.50

Payments to be approved for April:

#####	01- 2122	Cheque 847	D Dyas	Gardening/maintenance	176.00	0.00
#####	02- 2122	Cheque 848	M Britton	S137 grant - Litter picking equipment	71.49	0.00
#####	03- 2122	Cheque 849	Avril Jackson	Gardening/maintenance - Plants	36.00	0.00
#####	04- 2122	Cheque 850	P M Stainer	Stationery - Lever-arch file and dividers.	7.97	1.33
TOTAL					291.46	1.33

Cllr Smith proposed these payments be made and Cll Stones seconded and there was no dissent.

The RFO announced a final balance for the end of the financial year of £34,381.50.

Cllr Stainer confirmed we had received our whole precept and so had over £47,000 in the bank. He explained that we are no longer exempt from a full audit due to our income. It will cost around £120 and he aims to get the recording of that and signatures of approval at the next meeting. He reiterated that our reserves were greater than our precept, and that this would need to be explained. The fact we are about to spend a significant amount on the benches etc should ensure this is not an issue – will review in May.

8. Planning Matters

- a. 14 Estcourt Drive, fell T1 T2 Ash trees – approved
- b. Grove Hall request to erect an agricultural building for storage – approved
- c. 7 Ash Grove 1st floor extension to side – no comments agreed.
- d. 2 Beech Crescent, 2 storey extension to side – no comments agreed
- e. 3 Mill Hill Close, single storey extension to create annex – no comments agreed
- f. Delph House – Revised application had been shared. Resident B had joined the call and stated his remaining concern as the amended application didn't make any significant changes, and therefore no significant change to impact. Resident C who had also joined the call echoed the same issues and expressed disappointment in the lack of effort to reduce affect on neighbours. Cllr Britton read out a letter from Resident A (not in attendance) explaining their amendments and consideration they had undertaken. After discussion, Cllrs agreed with all points made by Residents B & C, and decided to notify WMDC planning that our objection still stood. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Thompson with no dissent. Cllr Smith agreed to make the communication before 28th April.

ACTION FS

9. Reports: School/Police/Gardening Club/Village Field/Newsletter

Police: Cllr Stones confirmed that a speed trap at the bottom of the village a fortnight ago, and caught quite a few speeders as well as confiscating one car for having no tax or insurance. Cllr Smith suggests getting the data from the Police as it may strengthen our case regarding speeding in the village. Cllr Stones agreed to police to ask.

ACTION VS

Newsletter: Cllr Stones still waiting on the Darrington Hotel and the Golf Club, and Cllr Tagger for their contributions, but other than that it's ready – she will chase. She had also contacted the Vicar about the possibility of having Tommy figures placed in the Orchard but would like them to be placed at the Church entrance for the duration of the VE celebrations but removed afterwards. Cllr Britton explains that isn't realistic as they're expensive and not designed for being repeatedly moved.

Nothing on any other reports.

10. Minor Items

a. Cllr Britton explained he'd noticed that the condition of the two village notice boards had deteriorated considerably and that he planned to restore them by sanding and painting if re-staining isn't possible. All Cllrs agreed.

ACTION MB

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be an AGM and needs to happen soon. Our next meeting date of 20th May is within time limits, but it is recommended to have a public i.e. face to face meeting. The Vicar will not allow use of the Reading Rooms yet, so Cllr Britton has booked the upstairs room at The Spread Eagle for 7pm.

We will hold the AGM first and remove the open forum from the monthly meeting.

All Cllrs agreed.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm