

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Virtual Meeting

17th December 2020 7PM

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

In Attendance:

None

1. Apologies:

None

1A. Declarations of Interest:

None offered.

2. Public Forum:

Nothing was raised.

3. Minutes of The Previous Meeting:

Cllr Stones proposed and Cllr Britton seconded the proposal that the November minutes are a true and correct record. There was no dissent.

4. Matters Arising:

i) Field Committee Section 137 Grant Update

Cllr Stainer, reported that having been granted, the timber bench has been rebuilt and the the new one installed. Two payments to cover the cost were ready for approval today.

ii) Highways England Matters

Councillor Smith read out an email from Ian Thompson (former Clerk) regarding his findings:

The Highways Department do own the triangle between the A1 itself and the slip road coming of the northbound carriageway where the illegal sheep are or were being kept along with the hut that has been constructed.

They do not own any of the other land including the area where the illegal sheep are moved to from time to time from the area already discussed. They do not own the land where those stables have been “put up” nor the land next to the A1 beyond it.

Councillor Britton confirmed everything that could be done had been done and it was now up to Highways England to address the situation if they wanted to.

iii) Dog Waste Stations

Councillor Stainer confirmed that the units were still in his garage awaiting better weather for installation. No installation instructions were included so Councillor Smith agreed to contact them to provide some.

Councillor Britton reassured Councillor Stainer that he knew where they needed to be installed and would be with him to direct him.

ACTION FS

iv) "Christmas Tree Update

Councillor Britton updated all about the issues experienced during erection of the tree i.e. the smashing of the pipe in which the tree sits. This needed to be replaced (supplied by Pete Batty) and was, but then followed issues with the electric supply – there was a fault underground. The only option was to surface mount the cables. The 240v supply and transformer is in the box. The cables on the surface are low voltage. Councillor Britton has covered the cables with a paving flag to ensure they aren't a tripping hazard. There remained electrical issues with the fuse tripping at every attempt to turn them on. The result is that the timer has had to be removed and the lights will have to remain on constantly. In the summer we can look at digging up the trough and replacing the cable. All expense (around £101) has been passed onto Councillor Stainer, and Councillor Britton hoped the cost would be approved (had he waited until now to have the spend approved the lights wouldn't likely have been on for many weeks.

Councillor Tagger pointed out that at the last meeting Councillors had agreed to rescind the right of the Clerk and Chairman to spend up to £500 without authorisation, and that had that been left in place the purchases would have been fine, but now appeared to be in breach of what was agreed.

During discussion it was agreed that the assumption had been that costs relating to normal maintenance and repair which had already been budgeted for, did not fall under this area as they are costs already accounted for and agreed as part of the yearly budget. Councillor Smith agreed to ensure the clarification was minuted and that it was listed as an agenda item for next month to be discussed further.

ACTION FS

v) Website update

Cllr Smith had sent links to the new website to councillors previous to the meeting and whilst it is unfinished, asked if all were happy for it to go live as is, in order to get something compliant out there, whilst she continued to work on it in the background. She had also emailed Councillors to ask for consideration of the cost of linking the site to the current Domain name (£3 a month + vat) which was unanimously agreed. No dissent regarding the site going live so Councillor Smith will action over the coming

week. Councillor Tagger asked about the ability to add to the site, and Councillor Smith reassured him that new pages could be created on demand no problem.

Councillor Smith asked for help with content for a history and update page about the AI issue – Councillor Tagger agreed to pull together a summary as best he could.

Councillor Tagger also going to send Councillor Smith all the Gardening Club minutes to add to the site.

ACTION FS/AT

vi) Wentbridge Verge Cutting

There has been no further correspondence on this subject and so can be considered dealt with for now.

vii) Newsletter

Councillor Stones informed everyone the Newsletters would be ready imminently and was just awaiting replies regarding who could deliver them. Councillors Smith, Thompson, Tagger and Jackson agreed to post as usual. Councillor Stainer preferred not to so his allocation would be split between others.

viii) Wentworth Park Rise tree ownership

Cllr Smith read out an update from Ian Thompson (previous Clerk) explaining that the deeds hadn't yet been requested (as an incorrect form had been completed).

Councillor Smith agreed to make a call/application to ascertain the owner of the tree. Councillor Britton shared his concern that the tree may be cut down if the new owner didn't want to maintain it, and so said if necessary, he would be happy to adopt it on behalf of the PC who could maintain it.

ACTION FS

ix) Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Deferred to January meeting

x) Clerk Duties

Councillor Britton explained that as Councillor Smith had agreed at the last meeting, tasks would need to be distributed between councillors in order to cover work normally carried out by the Clerk. Councillor Stones had raised the fact that the Reading Rooms were used on the 3rd Thursday of each month by the Thursday Group, so when we are finally able to meet in person again we would need to look at changing to the 1st or 4th Thursday if Councillor Smith is to be able to do the minutes. All agreed that would be addressed when the time came and that for now we would stick with the 3rd Thursday.

Councillor Smith reiterates her willingness to do agendas, minutes etc, but we needed one person to attend the basic Clerk Course and man the Clerk inbox dealing with correspondence. Councillor Britton asks for Volunteers, Councillor Stones agrees to consider and let the Council know before the next meeting.

ACTION VS

xi) First Impressions Invoice

Councillor Stainer confirms this had been received and paid last month

xii) Tythe Barn Clearance

Councillor Thompson explained that having looked at the site and what needed doing, the Gardener has explained the need for a skip for clearing rubbish away. There is indeed much rubbish there from previous clearances. She had spoken to Carole at the church who confirmed they were happy for us to have a skip there as long as it didn't remain there for long. Councillor Britton, being aware of all of this has already given the go ahead for the skip to be arranged so work could be completed. Concerns about navigating the skip into the area without damaging the historic walls were discussed but it was agreed that it could be done safely, but that as already mentioned it would need to be collected asap afterwards. It was agreed that should we only be able to fit a small skip in the area safely, a second one could be arranged – Councillor Stainer confirmed that the cost would be covered by the Garden and maintenance budget already agreed, of which there was still plenty to cover the likely costs, so all agreed to proceed.

xiii)Wentworth Park Rise Tree Height Enforcement

Councillor Tagger confirmed he'd emailed Dave Jones at WMDC including photos. He had also discovered that the owner of the tree is a relative of the electrician who'd done some work for him previously. He suggested talking to them directly via this person to see if the matter could be resolved without the need for WMDC intervention and agreed to make contact. Councillor Jackson made the point that the restrictions apply to all trees up that rd and that many are in breach therefore action could be applicable to many home-owners. Councillor Britton explains that orders applied to new houses built regarding height of trees generally had expiry dates which may now have been reached. Councillor Tagger points out that the main issue is with one property because of the fact it affects the view of the church. As the home owner is in poor health it was agreed that the best way forward was to offer to do the trimming for him – all agreed and AT to progress.

ACTION AT

5. Correspondence

Cllr Smith read out an email from a Martin Glover asking whether, now there had been a landmark ruling in London that a child's death was caused by road pollution, we had

ever looked at pollution from the A1. She explained that she had replied to Mr. Glover explaining that the topic had been an agenda item for many a year and that she was in the process of adding a new page to the website covering this history, and that she would let him know when the information had been set live.

We are one of the most polluted areas along the A1 corridor and within the country. Wakefield Met have a Duty of Care to Darrington in this area and Cllr Tagger is happy to contact them to see what they are willing to do now in light of this new development.

Cllr Britton explains that whilst it's been publicised that funding has been allocated to A1 Improvements, that money will go to Highways England rather than WMDC. Our concern is to be included in any discussions about this and Cllr Tagger will progress communications to ensure this is so.

ACTION AT

6. Finance

The opening balance brought forward from the end of October 2020 was £40,290.80

There were no items of income in November:-

There were three items of expenditure in November:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
12/11/20	19-2021	Cheque 826	JRB Enterprises	Three Dog Waste Stations	993.60	165.60
12/11/20	20-2021	Cheque 827	First Impressions	Winter flower beds & planters	1460.40	243.40
12/11/20	21-2021	Cheque 828	D Dyas	Gardening & maintenance	80.00	0
				<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>£2534.00</u>	<u>409.00</u>

This left a balance of £37,756.80

There were five items for payment requiring approval.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>
17.12.20	22-2021	Cheque 829	Simon Smith	S137 Grant – repair of village field bench	83.00	0
17.12.20	23-2021	Cheque 830	A Tagger	Printer Ink	43.99	7.33
17.12.20	24-2021	Cheque 831	John Hoyle	S137 Grant – New bench for village field	601.97	0
17.12.20	25-2021	Cheque 832	D Dyas	Gardening & Maintenance	48.00	0
17.12.20	26-2021	Cheque 833	M Britton	Eqpt for Xmas Tree Lights	101.90	16.99
				Total For Approval	£878.86	£24.32

Cllr. Stones proposed payment. Cllr. Jackson seconded and the proposal was passed unanimously.

The RFO went on to review his updated budget report.

The forecast balance for year end is in excess of £34,363.23

The RFO presented his proposed budget for 21/22.

The normal approach has been to accept precept increases in line with inflation, however given the current economic climate and the balance in the bank it wouldn't be appropriate to receive any increase.

Cllr Britton proposed that we accept a zero increase, Cllr Smith seconded and the proposal was passed unanimously.

7. Planning Matters

- i) Trinity Farm, Great North Rd, None material amendment, minor alteration to elevation – application approved
- ii) The Manassa at Carleton, 2 detached outbuildings discussed at last meeting – application approved
- iii) 17 Beech Crescent, Tree works – application refused

Cllr Tagger had circulated to Councillors before the meeting the decision he received from the Ombudsman regarding the Stage 2 Complaint about WMDCs activity on the continued, unapproved Bankswood Developments.

There was concern that response was from an Anonymous Investigator (not even a title provided), but essentially as the complaint was upheld it was seen as a positive result.

What was missing however, was any detail regarding what the consequences would now be for Bankswood i.e. what action would now be taken and within what timeframe, so Cllr Tagger will write back to clarify what the next steps will be that will actually finally enforce the restrictions that exist.

ACTION AT

8. REPORTS

- i) School – There had been a Carol Singing and gift giving event on Denby Crest which was very well received by residents. Cllr Tagger expressed his pride in the fact at how well the school had managed the Covid crisis, and that they'd had no serious impact, with some staff only having to isolate recently. Governors were delighted with the School's approach.
- ii) Gardening Club – Cllr Tagger has produced and distributed the latest edition of the monthly newsletter. He explained that it seemed that the Kyte Hotel was due to reopen as Gallimore's at the Kyte, and that he had emailed to express his delight and ask if the Gardening Club Meetings would be able to recommence.
- iii) Police – no report
- iv) Village Field – no report
- v) Newsletter – already covered

9. 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

10. Minor Items

i) Nothing offered.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 21st January 2020 at 7PM.

Cllr Tagger expressed concern re the lack of members of the public joining the meetings and ask how we were going to ensure people knew about the calls.

Cllr Britton reassured councillors that the notices were still being put up on notice boards, but Cllr Tagger pointed out that far fewer villagers would be out and about to see them

Cllr Smith offered, when advertising the new website on the DPC and Darrington Community Pages on Facebook, to highlight the date and time of the next meeting and encourage people to contact her for login details.

ACTION FS

The meeting closed at 20:40