

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting

20th May 2021 7pm

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chairman), Cllr Smith, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Stones, Cllr Tagger, Cllr Thompson

In Attendance:

No-one

Apologies:

Cllr David Jones WMDC

1. Public Forum

None

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

April Minutes were amended to include the figure for the final balance for the end of the financial year of £34,381.50 then proposed by Cllr Britton as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and seconded by Cllr Stones. There was no dissent.

3. Matters Arising

- a. **Website Content** – Cllr Tagger had sent Tythe Barn documentation – Cllr Smith asked for a summary of the project to upload onto the website. The A1 info is still outstanding and after discussion it's agreed Cllr Tagger will provide summarised histories for A1 noise, pollution and re-routing. Cllr Stainer noted that the annual signed financial documents need to be put on the website before the 1st July 2021.
ACTION AT & FS
- b. **Salt Bins** – Cllr Britton confirmed that a new bin had been purchased, and with the Spread landlord's permission, located in the car park of the Spread Eagle pub. Cllr Jackson pointed out that WMDC had replaced the damaged salt bin at the bottom of Wentworth Park Rise.
- c. **Village Benches** – Cllr Britton confirmed he had asked the Vicar/Parochial Council for permission to put benches in the Orchard, but was still awaiting a reply. Cllr Smith shared a picture of the bench that she and Cllr Britton had chosen and ordered since the last meeting (of which 12 had been ordered – 7 for the village field, 4 to replace benches in the village and one spare), and also confirmed a picnic bench had been ordered for the field. She asked for permission to order 2 more dog waste stations and a moveable bin for the Orchard. Cllr Tagger proposed and Cllr Jackson seconded the purchases with no dissent. Cllr Tagger raised the issue of installation and whether this should be carried out by Parish Councillors or contractors. After discussion it is agreed that Cllr Jackson will seek some contract quotes for the job after which the decision can be made. Cllr Smith is to send Cllr Jackson the

information received about the fixing kits.

ACTION FS & JJ

- d. **Milners Lane & Footpaths** – Cllr Britton is still to visit the library when he can.

ACTION MB

- e. **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. Still outstanding. Cllr Britton confirmed that he and Cllr Smith had been to the bin that had been complained about, and lowered it so it was no longer visible above the complainant's fence and it would be monitored again.

ACTION DJ

- f. **Speed Survey** – Cllr Smith confirmed that she had sent the original data to Cllr Britton on her receipt of it. The accident that occurred the previous week in front of New Row Cottages was thought to be related to speed and/or a medical episode so may provide some extra weight to our argument for speed restrictions in that area. Cllr Smith was still to request the data from the most recent speeding strips placed on Valley Rd. She was also still to contact Cllr Jones re his pursuance of the issue with the wording on the weight restriction/speed limit signs at the start of Valley Rd as they appeared to misunderstand what we were asking for.

ACTION FS

- g. **Bankswood** – Cllr Tagger confirmed that Yvette Cooper's office now had all the documentation he submitted before the local elections. He expressed his disappointment that no other villagers (closest to the site) were willing to make the complaint, which in turn would allow clear breaking of planning law to be broken without consequence. He believes the documentation he has submitted will be scrutinised by Cllr Cooper's office and forwarded to the Shadow Planning MP who can advise how to progress the issue with the government and until that happened he would continue to pursue the matter.

ACTION AT

- h. **School Shed Request** – Cllr Tagger had received the formal request and forwarded it to Cllr Smith who had forwarded it to Cllr Stainer who confirmed he had received it. Cllr Britton proposed it should be agreed and Cllr Jackson seconded with no dissent.

ACTION PS

- i. **Payment to resident on Philips Lane** – Cllr Britton confirmed he had a payment of £25 which is now on the list of payments to be approved at this meeting.

- j. **Darrington Playgroup** – Cllr Smith confirmed she had contacted them to confirm they would be receiving a cheque shortly. Cllr Stainer had not received a copy of the request and so hadn't actioned it. Cllr Smith to send him and Cllr Britton asked that it be put down as an agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION FS

- k. **Garden waste clearance on Valley Rd** – Cllr Britton confirmed that the brushwood whilst dumped, was off the pavement, under the bushes and biodegradable and therefore didn't cause a problem.
- l. **Roadside Frame Removal** – Cllr Smith confirmed she and the resident had chased and it had now been removed.
- m. **Delph House** – Cllr Smith confirmed she had submitted the Council's objection to the proposal as requested.
- n. **Police Speeding Data** – Cllr Stones had requested the data but was still awaiting a reply – she will chase.
- o. **Notice Boards** – Cllr Britton confirmed he had completed the one at the top of the village and would do the other when he got chance. Cllr Thompson noted that during refurbishing of the notice board, the advert for the skip hire company who helped us clear the Tythe Barn area had gone missing. She would send a new one to Cllr Britton to put up again.

4. Village Furniture & Signs

Benches already discussed in Matters Arising. Cllr Stones explains that having contacted Planning at Wakefield, she had been told that we shouldn't in fact be looking to install a bus shelter as that was the remit of Highways and the Bus Company. Cllr Britton pointed out that we were putting up a village shelter at the site of a bus stop, so we could just apply for planning permission as discussed previously.

ACTION FS

5. Correspondence

- a. Cllr Smith read out a thread of correspondence which had begun with a complaint from a villager about whose dog a complaint had been made at the previous meeting. The thread included some complaints about what she believed had been said at that meeting. Cllr Britton had gone through the minutes and recording and confirmed that there was nothing that could have offended and that whatever she had heard had been said at the meeting had in fact been embroidered. It was agreed that no further action should be taken.
- b. Cllr Smith read out a letter from a resident complaining about the loud music from the Spread Eagle on the 25th May. Cllr Britton had also had issue with the volume and had chosen to go and talk to the Landlord himself. There was no request for action from the resident, so it was agreed that Cllr Smith would reply and confirm that his complaint had been noted.

ACTION FS

6. Finance

The RFO (Cllr Stainer) confirmed that the amount brought forward from March was £34,381.50 and that there was one item of income in April – the precept of £13,044.02 which is now paid in one go rather than two..

There were 4 items of expenditure:

| APPROVED | ITEM | METHOD | PAYEE | REASON | AMOUNT | VAT | TOTAL | CUM TOTAL | VAT CUM |
|----------|---------|------------|---------------|--|--------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 15.4.21 | 01-2122 | Cheque 847 | D Dyas | Gardening/maintenance | 176.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| 15.4.21 | 02-2122 | Cheque 848 | M Britton | S137 grant - litter picking equipment. | 71.49 | 0.00 | | | |
| 15.4.21 | 03-2122 | Cheque 849 | Avril Jackson | Gardening/maintenance - Plants | 36.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| 15.4.21 | 04-2122 | Cheque 850 | P M Stainer | Stationery - Lever arch file and divider | 7.97 | 1.33 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 291.46 | 291.46 | 1.33 |

This left a balance of £47,134.06 – Cllr Stainer acknowledged that this sounded like a lot but would come down very soon with invoices due to be paid for village benches etc of around £12,000.00.

Payments to be approved for May:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 20.5.21 | 05-2122 | Cheque 851 | D Dyas | Gardening/maintenance | 176.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 06-2122 | Cheque 852 | Came and Company | Local Council Insurance Policy | 584.06 | 0.00 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 07-2122 | Cheque 853 | Streetmaster | Bench furniture for village | 9,513.60 | 1,585.60 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 08-2122 | Cheque 854 | Woodberry | Picnic table | 366.00 | 61.00 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 09-2122 | Cheque 855 | Mick Flaherty | Electricity for Christmas lights | 25.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 10-2122 | Cheque 856 | Mick Britton | Salt bin | 119.95 | 19.99 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 11-2122 | Cheque 857 | Carter and Jackson | Printing of new sletters | 275.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 12-2122 | Cheque 858 | Mick Britton | Materials for Notice Board restorator | 44.66 | 7.45 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 13-2122 | Cheque 859 | Mick Britton | Masks and gel for PC meeting | 3.00 | 0.50 | | | |
| 20.5.21 | 14-2122 | Cheque 860 | Darrington CE Primary School | S137 grant - school reflective garder | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 12,107.27 | 12,398.73 | 1,675.87 |

Cllr Tagger proposed these payments be made and Cllr Jackson seconded and there was no dissent.

The RFO forecast a balance for the end of the financial year of £24,635.54.

Cllr Stainer expressed concern at still not receiving an invoice from First Impressions but Cllr Stones had spoken to them recently and they assured us we hadn't been forgotten, but they were particularly busy with council work.

Cllr Stainer explained that our Internal Auditor is going to be moving out of the village and so asked for all Cllrs to have a think if they know anyone in the village who might be interested – it's a relatively small job but needs a financial background.

He also confirmed that the VAT claim he made has already arrived in the bank and will show on next month's accounts.

7. Planning Matters

None

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

School: Cllr Tagger said the school had had to send a class home due to Covid, but it wasn't anything they're concerned about it.

Gardening Club: Cllr Tagger expressed his praise for Mrs. Jackson for the work she has done improving the Tithe Barn area, following the work done by another resident and was grateful that our thanks had managed to be included in the Village newsletter. Issue 15 of the newsletter went out recently. He had been up to the Kyte Hotel, and met the new part-owner who he said was keen to support not only the Club meetings when they re-start, but also the village and the Parish Council. Cllr Tagger had mentioned it was difficult for some less mobile villagers to access the hotel due to the 3 steps, and the owner said that if the Parish Council would be prepared to manage the job, he would be happy to bear the cost. Cllr Britton suggested it be put on the agenda for the June meeting.

ACTION FS

Village Field: Cllr Stainer confirmed there was currently little activity as the Feast & Fayre won't take place due to the late lifting of covid restrictions. Cllr Britton commented that it will again be sadly missed.

Newsletter: Cllr Stones confirmed that Cllrs would be receiving the newsletters the next day for them to deliver.

• Minor Items

Cllr Stones mentioned an article on Facebook about a man who had been travelling towards Darrington from Willow Park and had been harassed by two people in a car who got out and were very threatening. He managed to escape via the ginnell. It was agreed that would be a matter for the police.

Cllr Britton asked for someone to take charge of finding a contracting company to install the benches when they arrive. Cllr Jackson agreed to do so. Cllr Smith agreed to forward the fixing kit information to Cllr Jackson.

ACTION JJ & FS

○

Cllr Britton asked if the Parish Council would cover the cost of some plants for the Old orchard to plant between the trees – he estimated about £50 worth. Cllr Stainer was happy to put the cost against the Gardening & Maintenance budget. Cllr Britton also warned he might ask for help in planting them.

ACTION MB

○ Cllr Thompson mentioned that the gardener had mentioned that when the planters are emptied, the contents (primulas) were just thrown away, when they could be

used elsewhere in the village. She asked if she could tell him to take what he could – Cllr Britton said it needed liaising with First Impressions when they were due to empty them, but there were no objections from councillors. Cllr Stones agreed to contact them to ask.

ACTION VS

- Cllr Tagger asked to mark the recent death of a villager, who did an awful lot of work for the village and for the Parish Council, writing many, many letters to WMDC on varying issues.
- Cllr Stones asked for details re the new post office opening times in the Reading Rooms, which Cllr Britton confirmed would be either 9am or 10am to noon on Tuesdays beginning next week he believed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the 17th June at 7pm again in the Spread Eagle pub.

Meeting ended at 9pm