

## Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Virtual Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 7PM

**Present:** Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Smith (Vice Chair), Cllr Tagger, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stones, Cllr. Stainer, Cllr Jackson.  
Clerk – Ian Thompson.

### **In Attendance:**

Two members of the public attended.

### **2020-06-1 Apologies:**

Cllr Jones (Wakefield MDC)

### **2020-06-2 Declarations Of Interest:**

None offered.

### **2020-06-3 Public Forum:**

The two members of the public were from the same household and were aware of the Parish Council's request for suggestions from residents for ideas which they felt would improve the village. To this end they suggested a "village sign", similar to those often seen in East Anglia. These signs are much more than the name of the village but a pictorial representation, often colourful and of a cast iron structure allowing travellers to get a feeling for the history and ambience of the village. They also felt that perhaps the school could take a part in the design of such a sign and that a wide variety of such signs could be seen by "googling" the phrase "village sign". They suggested it would give residents a sense of pride in the village and set a precedent for other villages in the area. The chairman pointed out that we do already have a sign in the tythe barn which was indeed designed in conjunction with the school. The chairman suggested two signs would be required sited where the current stone signs are placed. An alternative suggestion was in the centre of the village in the area where the Christmas tree is positioned. After more discussion the mood of the meeting was positive and a more informed discussion will take place at the next meeting. The chairman asked all councillors to do what research they can online and distribute anything of interest to all colleagues.

### **2020-06-4 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting:**

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

### **2020-06-5 Matters Arising**

Cllr Tagger has posted notices at “strategic points” in the village giving more information as to dates of parish council meetings and advice on how to “attend”.

The clerk has returned the “service level agreement” to Wakefield MDC regarding their grass cutting service to the parish.

The RFO reported that the internal audit has been completed and all documentation is in place as is legally required. The clerk has forwarded all of the appropriate documentation to Mr Kelvin Wilkins asking him to put it onto the website as is also legally required.

The RFO is still awaiting a reply from the insurers to confirm that all assets are covered by the insurance policy. He reflected that a delay in replying was almost certainly due to the restricted working caused by the pandemic.

#### **2020-06-6 Gardener/Handyman:**

Cllr Thompson had, at an earlier meeting, raised the possibility of using Mr Nick Dyas as a contractor to perform grass cutting and other such tasks within the village. Following discussions including the chairman they have agreed a rate and the areas that would be cut. Mr Dyas then performed a “trial” paid out of these areas. The chairman reported that the quality of the work was excellent and provisionally agreed a workload of five hours per fortnight and sought agreement from the council. Councillors unanimously ratified the agreement. The clerk raised the point all contractors employed by the council must have public liability insurance. It is understood that Mr Dyas does have this insurance. Cllr Jackson confirmed that the original insurance documentation must be inspected by a councillor and a copy made and kept on file. Cllr Thompson agreed to pursue this matter.

#### **ACTION LT**

Cllr Thompson raised the point that the flower bed in Marl Pitt Lane adjacent to the Darrington sign, looks to have been prepared for planting, but the planting has not been done. The feeling was that First Impressions had prepared this area in exactly the same way as other beds for which they are responsible but “forgotten” to do the planting, or been prevented from doing it because of the Coronavirus situation. Cllr. Smith agreed to contact them to clarify. Some discussion then took place regarding winter planting options once the First Impressions displays has been removed.

#### **ACTION FS**

#### **2020-06-7 Finance:**

##### **To Receive and Approve Payments Due This Month:**

The opening balance brought forward from the end of April 2020 was £24,108.68.

There were no items of income in May.

There were four items of expenditure in May:

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
14.5.20	04-2021	Cheque 811	Darrington PCC	"Reading Rooms" hire for 2019-2020	£160.00	£0
14.5.20	05-2021	Cheque 812	Darrington PCC	S137 Grant Maintenance Of Village Clock	£104.00	£0
14.5.20	06-2021	Cheque 813	Came and Company	Local Council Insurance Policy *	£355.94	£0
14.5.20	07-2021	Cheque 814	Mr Thomas M West	Darrington.org.uk address 2020-2021	£55.00	£0
				Total Payments	£674.94	£0

\* Cllr Stainer is awaiting a reply from the insurers to confirm that assets are covered.

This leaves a balance of £23,433.74 – however, a bank reconciliation has revealed a different figure caused by First Impressions have not yet cashed their cheque for services.

There are four payments due in June:-

Date	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
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
				Total Proposed Payments	£203.12	£0

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

The review of the budget confirmed that the new gardener's services are perfectly affordable as current estimates confirm they fall within the budgeted figure. The RFO's current estimate for a year end figure is over £22,200.

### **2020-06-8 Planning Matters:**

#### **1. 7 Ash Tree Fold Ref:20/00092/FUL**

Porch to front and replacement boundary wall.

The clerk had circulated drawings of the proposed application to councillors earlier.

The councillors concluded "No comment",

#### **2. 4 Ash Grove Ref: 20/008844/TPO**

To crown, thin and drawback an elm tree adjacent to the property.

This was discussed at the last meeting.

Awaiting decision.

#### **3. Norwood, Carleton Ref:20/00770/TPO**

This was an application to fell an Ash Tree in “poor condition” and has been approved.

The clerk reported that this application had appeared as he searched for applications within Darrington Parish. However, the clerk’s map of the parish boundary was produced before properties on this relatively new road, off Tumbling Hills, were built. He reported that he queried this with Wakefield’s planning department who enter a post-code and are told the parish. He has asked Wakefield MDC for an “up to date” boundary map and awaits a reply. This is somewhat academic to the application as it has already been approved.

### **ACTION IT**

#### **2020-06-9 Proposed Project Update:**

Being aware that a resident had asked about a village sign, but not being certain that the resident would attend the meeting, this agenda item was added lest the request had not been put in person. The chairman reminded the meeting that all of the suggestions put in place so far required approval from other bodies within the village. The footpath across the village field requires approval from the “field Committee” and initial indications are that they will not support this. Other suggestions including bee-hives and benches in the old orchard require approval from the parochial church council who are not meeting currently. The barrier at the end of the back footpath requires Highway Agency support! Cllr Tagger has placed notices throughout the village which include requests for project ideas.

#### **2020-06-10 Reports:**

School – Cllr Tagger reported that the school has been open throughout to children of key workers. He reports that the risk assessment for opening the school further has been daunting but the planning and preparation has been exemplary. Re-opening further will be a huge challenge but he has confidence they will perform well.

Gardening Club – Once again Cllr Tagger has published a newsletter and widely distributed it.

Police – No communications have been received despite their being prompted.

Village Field – There are a number of reports that there has been a massive litter problem along with dog mess.

Newsletter: Deferred for the time being. Cllr. Tagger reported that he has included “news” items in his garden club newsletters and offered to add more in the next publication.

#### **2020-06-11 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.

#### **2020-06-12 Minor Items:**

The clerk reported that he would post the mandatory notice regarding inspection of the council finances before the 15<sup>th</sup> of June when the inspection period begins.

#### **ACTION IT**

Cllr Stones reported that a dangerous dog has been in the village on a number of occasions. On one of these occasions it attacked and severely injured a resident’s cat. The chairman reported that he encountered the dog on back lane whilst walking with his wife and had to chase it off after it adopted an aggressive pose. The police were informed at the time the cat was attacked and searched the village to no avail. The chairman stated this is a”999” issue should it be seen again. It has no collar.

#### **2020-06-13 Date Of Next Meeting**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 7PM.

The meeting closed at 20:10