

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Meeting Reading Room

Thursday 11th October 2019

Present:

Cllr Britton (Chair), Cllr Smith (Vice Chair), Cllr L Thompson, Cllr Stones, Cllr Stainer, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Tagger (Part Time), Wakefield MDC Councillor Loughran (part time), Clerk – Ian Thompson

Apologies:

None.

In Attendance:

2 members of the public.

2019-10-01

Declaration Of Interests:

None offered

2019-10-02

Public Matters:

None offered

2019-10-03

Minutes Of The Previous Meeting:

The chair asked if they were a true and precise record. Cllr Thompson proposed and Cllr Stainer seconded their being correct. There were no dissenters.

2019-10-03-1

Matters Arising:

- i) The clerk had been requested to contact Cridling Stubbs parish council to ascertain who did their grass cutting and to enquire as to whether or not Darrington could use the same person. He reported that a Cridling Stubbs resident did their work but wasn't prepared to go further afield. He had also been asked to obtain an estimate from Wakefield MDC. The area involved is the section from the Kyte Hotel alongside the slip road as far as the Darrington Hotel. The quoted price is £288.96 for strimming this area but leaving the cuttings behind. To cut and remove is quoted as twice this figure namely £577.92. The meeting assumed this was per cut but the clerk was asked to confirm this with his contact at Wakefield. The clerk confirmed that these costs were for "next season". The chairman reported that he has recently bought a trimmer and is prepared to use it in the near future for what, hopefully, will be the last cut of this year. Various councillors volunteered to assist.

ACTION IT/MB/ALL

- ii) Cllr. Stones has contacted Wakefield MDC regarding the infrastructure levy. She awaits a reply.

ACTION VS

- iii) The clerk has contacted West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Metro) regarding the options for installing a bus shelter on Estcourt Road westbound adjacent to the Darrington hotel. He asked under what circumstances the authority would themselves install a bus shelter. Their reply was that fifty passengers a day would be required to begin a discussion on their doing so. For a parish council-initiated installation of a shelter there are three options available. The parish council could buy and install a shelter themselves – second-hand prices estimated to be circa £4,000. Alternatively, the parish council could buy a new shelter from Metro along with a contract for them to install and clean it. That would cost circa £13,000 with a five-year maintenance contract. If they supplied a second-hand shelter the price would be approximately £8,500 for the five years. Given that there is no sign of the infrastructure levy coming through, which would be the funding of such a project and which would compete with others, the councillors decided to await the arrival of the levy and at least now know what this option would cost as they consider all potential projects..
- iv) With regard to lorries parking on the northbound slip road, just north of the Kyte hotel and thus stripping the verge of grass and also creating significant litter alongside this “parking” place, the clerk contacted Highway England and their reply, from their contractor A-one+ is summarised below:-
- a) The A1 itself is a “clearway” where parking is not allowed.
 - b) If the slip road is a clearway then parking will not be allowed.
 - c) The author of the email does not know if not the slip road is a clearway and advised asking the police for clarification!
 - d) Litter collection is the responsibility of the district council.
 - e) They are aware that there is a planning application for a farmhouse between the Kyte and the place where lorries are parking. Should planning permission be granted they believe that there is a strong possibility that the planning authority will insist on kerbing and putting bollards in place to keep a clear line of sight for vehicles exiting the farmhouse.
 - f) There is a “de trunking” order in place which will ultimately give full responsibility for the “two way” stretch of the slip road to be the responsibility of Wakefield MDC. However, we are advised this could take many months to take effect.

The councillors spent some time considering this issue. A proposal to ask for a litter bin was put forward but dismissed on the grounds that not only would it encourage such parking but also any council wagon parked to empty the bin would itself cause a significant hazard with vehicles coming off onto the slip road where the speed limit is 60 mph. Cllr Stones stated she would ask her police contact about the “clearway” question. Cllr Loughran volunteered to raise the subject with Wakefield MDC and asked the clerk to forward the appropriate emails to her and ask them for advice on how we should proceed.

ACTION VS/IT/CL

- v) With respect to the field with an open gate just off the southbound slip road after the Ripon Farm Services roundabout Cllr Smith has contacted the estate agent who agreed to contact the new owner of the field to point out that the gate was smashed and hopefully it will then be repaired.
- vi) After discussing the dead tree at the junction of Valley Road and Ash Tree Fold the clerk was instructed to ask Wakefield MDC for advice. The request resulted in an email from their arboricultural officer stating that the tree was on private land with a tree preservation order in place. However, he did state that he had passed the details to the council’s arboricultural section to “carry out enforcement action” – which the meeting presumed meant “cutting it down!”
- vii) The clerk confirmed he had sent a response to Wakefield MDC advising them that the councillors believe the current location of the polling station is appropriate and indeed the only site within the village. Wakefield have issued a document listing those areas where a move has been requested. Obviously Darrington is not included in the document.

viii) With regard to removing the chair@darrington.org.uk email address the clerk has seen an email from Mr Kelvin Wilkins to the provider but this has not yet happened as a test email sent this morning was not returned as “no such address” – and so we must assume the matter is in hand. The clerk will send a second test just before the next meeting.

ACTION IT

ix) With regard to the clerk being asked to confirm that the village is in line to borrow “Smiley Sid” – the traffic speed measuring device, he received an email from Wakefield MDC stating that “unfortunately the elected member (of Wakefield MDC) decided against purchasing a “Smiley Sid” for your area so this has fallen through. This came as a surprise to Cllr Loughran and she requested a copy of the email to pursue within the Wakefield Council.

ACTION IT/CL

2019-10-04

Correspondence:

- i) A letter from charity SCOPE who raise funds by placing textile recycling containers at strategic locations. They asked if we had one already in the village. Councillors were uncertain – knowing there are two recycling containers within “The Spread’s” car park. Cllrs Britton and Stainer will investigate and report back to the clerk. The only suitable location locally would be in the pub car park and the charity would need to liaise with the landlord. The clerk will reply to SCOPE once the current situation is clear.

ACTION MB/PS/IT

- ii) The clerk to Notton parish council emailed us as they are planning to install a defibrillator in Wooley. The clerk replied giving details of our installation and offering a reference visit.

- iii) An email from “Friends Of The Earth” exhorting Darrington to become “green” and linking a website giving more information. Cllr. Smith asked for the email to be forwarded to her and she will review the options.

ACTION IT/FS

- iv) A sales email touting lamp-post illuminated decorations, primarily Christmas trees. They are solar powered and apparently many local parishes display them at Christmas. Trees are rented, not sold, and cost circa £100 per tree. The budget is only £200! Wakefield are meticulous about inspecting lamp posts for weight and charge for assessing the situation. Cllr Stones will contact the vendors and estimate the costs – but the consensus was not in favour.

ACTION VS

- v) Keep Britain Tidy have sent an email regarding dog fouling. They claim that dog messing increases at night because owners are less likely to be seen not doing the right thing. They have a £250 package consisting of 10 A3 “glow in the dark posters”. The councillors were not impressed by the claims and decided not to pursue this matter.

2019-10-05

Finance:

Cllr Stainer, the RFO, presented the financial figures for September.

The balance brought forward from August was £16,243.15.

The second precept payment of £6332.05 was received during the month.

There was neither expenditure in the month nor any payments requiring approval for October 2019.

Consequently the balance to be taken over into October was £22,575.20

Date		Detail	
31/08/2019	Brought forward		£16,243.15
11/09/2019	Wakefield MDC	Precept Payment	£6,332.05
30/09/2019	Expenditure		£0
30/09/2019	Resulting Balance		£22,575.20

Cllr Stainer reviewed his budget figures and explained that currently the major “unknowns” are the requirements for, as yet, unidentified parish projects and the uncertainty surrounding the “infrastructure levy”. He is also reducing the gardening and monthly budget figures on a pro-rata basis as we struggle to find anyone to perform these tasks. He confirmed that the council finances are in good shape and his current end of year estimate is a figure of £21,775.03, but added the rider that this assumes we do get some infrastructure levy.

2019-10-05

Planning Matters:

- i) 19/01238/FUL Distribution warehouse building (maximum floorspace of 48,381 sq. metres) including associated access and landscaping. (Land at Trinity Farm).

The councillors took some time to consider this application. An initial concern was it is bound to generate even more heavy goods traffic on the saturated A1 going through the heart of the village. Equally the fact that this is Phase II of the original application, the councillors suspect that this may well lead to further phases, every one of which will get closer to our “small agricultural village in a rural setting”. We fear that with further development the village will be overshadowed by distribution and industrial units destroying the cherished ambience of the village. Whilst not actually formally objecting to this second phase we would strongly object to any further developments which threaten the nature of our village. The clerk was instructed to make such a comment on the planning application website.

ACTION IT

- ii) 19/02060/FUL Grove Hall Lane Demolition of timber office, construction of new workshop & office, and the installation of a new entrance lobby to existing premises.

After some discussion the councillors agreed “no comment” was applicable to this application.

2019-10-05

Christmas Planning:

i) Cllr. Stones confirmed she would go to the Brotherhood's location to choose our trees. It was decided that she should choose two trees – one of eighteen feet for the main display and a six foot one for the Reading Room. Cllr. Stones volunteered to ask the vicar if he would like one for the church. She will liaise with Mr Philip Morrel, as without the use of his trailer we will not be able to transport the trees to the village.

ACTION VS

ii) The subject of "lights on the tree in the "The Tythe Barn" site was then discussed. Last year, because of a lack of volunteers no lights were put on this tree. Given the weather proofing features of the lights it was agreed that they should be installed but left in-situ for future years. The chairman asked for volunteers to help him install the lights. They will meet at 11:30 on Monday 14th of October. It is hoped that Mr Lafferty will, once again, generously agree to his electricity supply being the source of power for the lights in December, with power from the church being an alternative. Cllr. Stones also informed the meeting that the "Field Committee" could certainly raise volunteers should they be needed, but the meeting felt comfortable that those members attending on Monday would be able to see the job through.

ACTION MB/ALL

iii) Cllr. Stones suggested that the "old orchard" with its incumbent tree would be ideal for such a display. However, electricity for such an installation could be problematic and the chairman agree to investigate the possibility. The meeting agreed more lights could be purchased if it appears to be a viable project.

ACTION MB

iv) The chairman then proposed investigating the feasibility of putting an additional tree at the end of Valley Road. A source of power for such an installation would need to be found. Cllr Stones knows people living at the end of Valley Road and will ask them. Cllr Smith will put a proposition about a tree in that location on the appropriate Facebook pages to measure response and potential volunteers for power. Alternatively, solar powered or battery lights could be used, although the council's experiences with such lighting was not judged to be a huge success!

ACTION VS/FS/MB

v) Cllr Tagger informed the meeting that the school have requested that Tuesday 3rd of December at 6PM be the date and time for the carol service. Refreshments would be made available in the school itself after the service. Despite the chairman offering his PA system Cllr Tagger felt that the equipment he used last year would suffice.

2019-10-06

Reports:

i) School Report

Cllr Tagger confirmed he would be accompanying the “school trip” to the Houses Of Parliament on the 21st of October.

ii) Village Field

No report.

iii) Police

Cllr. Stones presented the crime report as sent to her by the police:-

“Crime stats September 2019

6th Sep – theft from motor vehicle, car park Darrington Hotel x2

9th Sep – aggressive male at Darrington Hotel, arrested for public order

16th Sep – burglary residential, hole cut into garage door on Hillcroft Close, nothing taken

18th Sep – suspicious males on driveway looking into vehicles on Valley Road. 2 white males, one wearing black trousers with black jacket and white writing on with greying hair, the other wearing grey bottoms and black jacket stocky build with reddish/ blonde hair. Got into a white transit van BK60 KNW with Elite Property Management written on the side.

25th Sep – theft from motor vehicle at Kyte Hotel”

iv) In Bloom

No report

v) Gardening Club

Cllr Tagger reported on the previous night’s meeting of this popular club. The theme of the meeting “all things vegetable” produced an interesting and informative discussion. He also reported that the group is still running on the funding from two or three years ago – thanks to the generosity of the Kyte Hotel in donating the use of a meeting room and simply asking for voluntary donations for teas and coffees.

vi) Newsletter

Cllr Stones asked the chairman for a contribution on the current state of play, hopefully for the 1st of November. She will approach Mr John Hoyle for a village field entry. She plans to include the police provided “community alert” documentation. She may well include a flier from “Community Heartbeat”. Hopefully the newsletter can be produced and distributed before the carol service.

ACTION VS/MB

2019-10-07

Any Other Business:

i) Cllr Tagger reported that he was “quite heartened” by discovering what Wakefield Planning department had been doing with respect to the ongoing issue at Bank Wood stables. He stated that they have been doing more than we had thought. As a result of our complaint he has been “kept in the loop.” His suggestion was that he would draft an email along the lines of “thank you for the detail but what happens next?” The meeting agreed he should draft such a missive and circulate for approval before sending it.

ACTION AT

ii) Cllr. Tagger reported that the “air crash memorial” video viewing at the golf club was well attended. The golf club “did the event proud” with their facilities including dressed chairs, two screens and a superb sound system. The video itself is of high quality and was well received. There were circa thirty requests for copies of the DVD. Cllr Tagger will explore possibilities for producing these DVDs plus copies for all councillors. Initial production estimates are £1 per copy. The chairman proposed a budget of £80 and this was accepted and agreed by the meeting. This hopefully will produce enough copies to satisfy current and future demand. Given a misunderstanding over copyright ownership of some of the included material within the video, the acknowledgements section has had to be changed. This has been done and the latest version is available on “YouTube”. Cllr Tagger will distribute a link to all members.

ACTION AT

iii) Cllr Tagger reported that there is a survey taking place about the future development of local towns. Members of the public are invited to respond to questions on the “Pontefract and Castleford” web site, where 40 questions have been asked. Cllr Smith suggested putting the link on social media. It is:-
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKjjHuHjnGyV0wE3jmuNbfr8hFxDAuQDYnPIroL2ZHC2et2A/viewform>

ACTION FS

Date of Next meeting: Thursday November 14th 2019 at 7PM

The meeting closed at 20:43.