

Minutes of the Darrington Parish Council Virtual Meeting

18th March 2021 7pm

Present: Cllrs: Britton (Chair), Smith, Jackson, Stainer, Stones, Thompson, Tagger and Cllr David Jones (WMDC) joined around 8pm

In Attendance: None

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

None and none offered

2. Public Forum

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

February Minutes were proposed by Cllr Stones as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and seconded by Cllr Thompson. 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** – Cllr Smith confirms that they had been found, circulated and put on the new website. Cllr Thompson queries whether Ian Thompson had made the amendments referred to in previous meetings and whether those amendments were included. Cllr Smith was almost certain they were, but all agreed to ask Ian if we met in passing

ACTION ALL

- c. **New Clerk Update** – Cllr Smith explained that following a number of conversations it had been decided that the best way forward would be to have one person as Clerk rather than splitting responsibilities between willing councillors. The proposal is to design an advert for a volunteer Clerk, send to councillors for approval, then get it on the relevant FB pages, emailed to subscribers and posted around the village, before also being included in the newsletter when it goes out in April. All agree with no dissent. Cllr Tagger queries whether any specific rules re role detail need to be followed – after discussion it is agreed that if anyone wants to investigate, they are welcome to but the majority believe there not to be any need. Cllr Thompson believes the best association to join is the YLCA – all agree that she can go ahead and join on the Council's behalf at a cost of around £353. Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Thompson with no dissent.

ACTION FS/LT

- d. **A1 Pollution** – Cllr Tagger had circulated response he'd received from Highways England. They seem to be stating that monitoring showed no issue, even though

monitoring had stopped when Jn32a opened. Cllr Tagger has posed this question to them and we await a reply. Cllr Tagger suggests that Cllr Smith send the response from HE to Martin Glover who raised the issue.

ACTION AT/FS

- e. **Salt Bins** – Cllr Britton purchased the salt bin for North Lodge Lane which is now in place and full of grit. He had contacted WMDC asking whether we were allowed to provide and install one on Applewood Gardens following a request from a resident, but no answer has yet been received. Not urgent now as unlikely to have more ice now until next year, so Cllr Britton will keep us posted.

ACTION MB

- f. **Village Benches** – Cllr Britton asks for suggestions from Councillors as requested at the February meeting. Cllr Stones suggests outside the old farm shop/before the old chapel. Cllr Smith suggests the bottom of Havercroft Lane – there's an existing rotten bench with a bin right in front of it. Her suggestion is to replace the bench and move the bin a little to the side on the grass verge. She had looked at the bottom of Sotheron Croft and was fairly sure that anything there would cause a line of sight problem. Cllr Thompson raised the bench that used to be outside the vicarage, and was updated about the accidents that had happened there that lead to councillors agreeing not to have one there again. The old bus shelter at the lights was also discussed. Cllr Britton agreed to have a look to see how much work would be needed to spruce it up a bit as whilst it's not unsafe it is looking a little neglected. Cllr Tagger made the point that we had plenty of money, and that it might be an idea to replace it altogether having seen the ones in the brochure Cllr Smith had sent out – Cllr Smith suggests that matching shelters would be nice and confirms that she has found out that planning approval would be needed for providing a new shelter at the bus stop outside the Darrington. Cllr Stones agrees to make planning applications for the Shelter outside the Darrington pub, and whether one would be needed to replace the one at the lights. Cllr Smith offers to do a recce of benches to identify those that are looking tired/rotten so they could be considered for a 'group' replacement. Cllr Britton suggests we make the topic and agenda item for next month by which time we should have more info on planning and exactly what we're looking to replace/provide. Cllr Tagger comments how disappointing it was again that we hadn't been able to gain permission from the Church to be able to put some benches in the orchard. Cllr Britton explained that the parochial church council hadn't been meeting, but when they did again we would write to them again.

ACTION VS/FS/MB

- 5. **Defibrillator** – Cllr Britton hasn't been able to repair the glass panel but will endeavour to do so as soon as possible.

ACTION MB

- 6. **Milners Lane & Footpaths** – Cllr Britton isn't able to research the path locations until the libraries open which should hopefully be in about a month.

ACTION MB/DJ

- 7. Litter Picking Eqpt** – Cllr Britton had ordered and supplied the litter picking eqpt for Judith Fisher as agreed, but it had cost around £80. He'd been up Westfield Lane shortly afterwards and saw they'd done a great job of clearing bags worth of rubbish already. Whilst he had offered to pay for the eqpt himself (thinking it would be around £20), having paid way more than expected asked if he could request reimbursement. Cllrs Tagger and Thompson had concerns whether supplying eqpt made us liable in any way, as groups they'd been advised to have insurance etc. Cllr Smith makes the point that the reason why insurance would be needed was because they WERE formal groups. Cllr Smith suggests that Cllr Thompson gain some advice from the YLCA as soon as she joins on behalf of the PC. All are happy for Cllr Britton to be reimbursed so he will present his invoice to Cllr Stainer.
- 8. Horses** – Cllr Smith confirms she spoke to Sally Wilson from Darrington Stables who was happy to talk to her liveries to ensure they weren't using the ginnel. She also contacted Stapleton who didn't think their riders rode in Darrington but did have issue with Darrington walkers trespassing over their land. Cllr Smith offered to help buy publicising the issue on our FB pages if they sent her detail of which land was accessible and which not, but she hasn't yet received anything.
- 9. Garden Waste** – Cllr Smith confirmed she'd added a post to the FB page asking people to dispose of their garden waste properly i.e. not in a way that might block Back lane path. Cllr Britton had been up there and noted that most of the waste is bio-degradeable so will rot down eventually. Seems to be an accepted thing to throw their garden waste over the fence, but hopefully they will take notice when the newsletter goes out with the article highlighting the problem.

Cllr Britton also raised the need for the councillors to discuss the dog poo bins which he, Cllr Stainer and Mick Allard had erected the previous week. All 3 bins have been well used already and there is no dog waste on the path at all. Both he and Cllr Smith had received communication from a Gareth and Jane Blackburn whose garden fence joins Back Lane and in front of which one of the bins had been installed, stating their disappointment and asking for it to be moved as they didn't want to see the bag dispenser above their fence and were worried about flies and smells over summer. They had also posted their issue on FB. Cllrs Britton and Stainer were surprised as someone claiming to live there had come out and happily chatted to them whilst they were installing the bin but hadn't expressed any concern. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would reply reassuring them that the visible bin was only for bags and not for poo, and that the actual poo bin further down the pole was well sealed and shouldn't cause a problem with sell or flies, but if it should ever become a problem to contact us and we will move it. Cllr Britton makes the point that the FB post made by Darrington Community page praising the bins had received 44 likes and only this one objection. *Cllr Jones joined the call and raised the issue of collection, Cllr Smith agrees to empty as volunteers she had had been for the orchard. Cllr Stones suggests we ask the council when they're due to collect the dog poo from their own supplied bins, so we could ensure the bags we'd collected were there. Cllr Britton explained that the original plan had been to put one of the bins in the orchard, but as the parochial church council hasn't been meeting we haven't been able to gain permission to do so. After discussion it is agreed that Cllr Jones will ask the Council for a sizeable bin to go outside the orchard which they would then empty regularly (and Cllr Smith would ensure the PC supplied bins were emptied into it regularly)

ACTION DJ

- 10. Speed Survey** – Cllr Smith confirms that the Allerton Bywater rd has got a school on the road which is why they managed to get a 20mpg restriction, so we're back to needing to let Highways know where we want the speed strip to be placed. After discussion it is agreed that we would request it to be put between the A1 bridge and Havercroft Lane. Cllr Britton also brings up the issue with the sign problem regarding weight limits. Cllr Jones hadn't received the images Cllr Britton had posted to him, but they showed the inconsistency – that in one direction it mistakenly indicates that HGVs can go down there, and in the other direction the signs correctly state they can't. Cllr Jones initially suggests he will request a sign survey to ensure they're all appropriate, but Cllr Britton pointed out that that is exactly what they had done 3 or 4 years ago and failed to spot the problem then. Cllr Jones offers to go and look himself, and Cllr Britton offers to join him.

ACTION FS/DJ

- 11. Spittlegap Lane** – Cllr Smith confirms she was going to contact Kate Batty again about the complaint but had a note from Mr. Stocks confirming it had already been cleared.
- 12. Bankswood** – Cllr Britton asks for clarity on whether the WMDC Planning was still investigating the original complaint that what the owners had built was illegal, or whether it had been dropped. Cllr Tagger confirms that his understanding is that they were planning to pursue it, but because of the amount of outstanding complaints and court delays they weren't sure how they could do so. This was why Cllr Tagger took it to the Ombudsman, but in order to progress that, we needed residents who lived nearer to the site to complain and pick up where we left off. Cllr Britton makes the point that the issue should be between the Council and the land owner. Cllr Tagger reiterated that clearly that approach wasn't going anyway, which is why he had written to the ombudsman, in the belief that if they upheld our complaint THEY would engage WMDC planning and hopefully have more influence than we have. Cllr Smith reminded everyone that the action on this point had been for Cllr Stones to contact the residents of North Lodge Lane to ensure they were aware that if they didn't pick up the complaint where Cllr Tagger had left off, it would fail. Cllr Stones confirmed she'd done this the day after the meeting and was also going to contact the Brotherhood who would also be able to uphold the complaint if they wanted to.

ACTION VS

13. Correspondence

- a. A letter from Darrington Junior School asking for resources to support outdoor learning in their reflective garden and outdoor learning area. They provided examples and coatings of different storage resources but had not factored in any possible delivery and installation costs. After discussion it is agreed that Cllr Tagger would tell the school to apply for a Section 137 Grant of up to £1000 (proposed by Cllr Tagger and seconded by Cllr Thompson) with no dissent.

ACTION AT

- b. A complaint from Clare Marsden about the sheepdog tied up at the bottom of Sotheron Croft – constant barking, possible danger to villagers and to the dog itself should it break free. Cllr Jones says that would need to be reported as anti-social

behaviour at the council and then with WDH. He forwards some detail to Cllr Smith re who to contact. Cllr Britton asks Cllr Stones to collate info and evidence re complaints to send to Cllr Smith to use in her communication to WMDC.

ACTION VS/FS

- c. A message from a member of the committee to improve and restore Ponte Park lake, admiring our new dog poo stations and asking for info re our suppliers, which Cllr Smith happily provided.
- d. A message from Sophie Morgan who has recently been made Chair of the newly formed PTFA at the school, expressing their desire to connect and work with us going forward, and asking for our permission and support for a village Easter Egg hunt. Cllr Smith had already replied that they wouldn't need our permission and would indeed receive our full support.
- e. A message from a Vic Louise requesting new play eqpt for the field. Cllr Smith sent her the email address for John Hoyle on the Field Committee.
- f. A few posts on FB pages praising the installation of the dog poo bins.
- g. A letter from Paul Hamby at First Impressions updating us on the progress of tests to lamp posts for hanging baskets, and asking us whether we still intend to go ahead with Xmas Tree decorations on the posts. All Cllrs were happy to go ahead as agreed last year. Cllr Smith will confirm with Paul.

ACTION FS

- h. Cllr Thompson asks for it to be minuted (as she is not the PC Clerk) that she has the authority to join the YLCA on behalf of DPC, which she does.

ACTION FS

- i. Cllr Tagger had received an invite for Parish Councillors to go to a VIP Show Round at the new leisure centre at Ponte Park. He will email all councillors who should reply if they'd like to attend.

ACTION AT

14. Finance

The RFO (Cllr Stainer) confirmed that the amount brought forward from January was £35,535.79 and that there was no income in February.

There were two items of expenditure:

#####	32- 2021	Cheque 838	Carter and Jackson Print & Design	Printing of newsletters	103.75	0.00
#####	33- 2021	Cheque 839	The Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual Defibrillator Support Cost	162.00	27.00

Total expenditure

265.75 27.00

This left a balance of £35,270.04

Payments to be approved for March:

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 Local Councils Associations	YLCA membership for 2021/22	353.00	0.00
TOTAL				888.54	21.73

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

The RFO forecast a balance for the end of the financial year of £34,554.54

Cllr Stones raised that we hadn't paid Mick Flaherty for electricity used, which had been agreed but not paid. Cllr Stainer says he requires an invoice so Cllr Stones will get one ready for next month.

ACTION VS

15. Planning Matters

- a. Chapel Hill, cottage on Valley Rd single storey extension had been approved
- b. 3 Estcourt Drive – T1 yew tree to crown and reduce had been approved
- c. 25 Beech Crescent – T1 lime tree various works – refused but alternative action given

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

School: Cllr Tagger had good meetings with the children and with the full school body of governors and commends the job being done and the character of the children.

Gardening Club: Cllr Tagger expressed thanks to Avril Jackson and Linda Thompson for the work done to tidy the Tythe Barn. Cllr Britton asked for those thanks to be passed onto Avril.

Nothing on any other reports.

17. 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 updated current items are:

- a. Parish Meeting and Annual General meeting
- b. Litter pick (Cllr Smith says she has registered DPC for the National Litter Pick Event this year and will forward info to other Cllrs as and when it is received)

18. Minor Items

a. Cllr Britton asks Cllr Stones to include thanks in the newsletter to litter-pickers in the village, and also to those who worked on the Tythe Barn.

ACTION VS

b. Cllr Stainer queries that we haven't received an invoice from First Impressions – normally we receive an offer of discount if paid by the 1st April. Cllr Smith agrees to chase when she contacts them re Xmas Tree decorations

ACTION FS

c. Cllr Britton asks for a couple of volunteers for this Sunday morning to help him trim some saplings in the orchard. Cllr Thompson agrees to help as she has had permission from the Vicar to plant a plum tree, so she can do that at the same time. Cllr Stones also says she'll be there if possible.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thurs 15th April at 7pm.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm