



Serving the People of Darley Dale

Darley Dale Town Council

The Whitworth Centre
Station Road
Darley Dale
Derbyshire DE42EQ
Town Clerk: Sian Bacon
Tel: 01629 735248

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Minutes of the Meeting of Darley Dale Town Council held by Zoom on Thursday 15th April 2021

Present

Councillors Chrystal (Chair), Curtis, Farmer, Gardner, Oakley, Long, Welch and Ward. Acting Clerk Ian Adkin, Acting Assistant Clerk Jason Hedley and Acting RFO Peter Leppard. Mel Lichfield (Events Manager) and Paul Taylor (Centre Manager) from the Whitworth Centre were present for item 7.

Before the meeting, attendees observed a minute's silence in honour of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

FC421/1 Apologies for Absence - Apologies were received from Cllrs Atkin, Daley, Dowling and Shell. Cllr Long raised the issue of Cllr Atkin's persistent absence from meetings. The Chair reported that he planned to meet with Cllr Atkin to discuss the matter.

FC421/2 Variations to Order of Business

- It was RESOLVED to move agenda item 16 (Finance) to follow item 6 (Public Participation).

FC421/3 Exclusion of Press and Public – Non-council attendees would be excluded from the Confidential section at the end of the meeting.

FC421/4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2021 as a true and accurate record subject to a date change and a sentence showing that Cllr Atkin had left the meeting shortly after it began.

FC421/5 Declarations of Members' Interests

- Cllrs Chrystal, Daly, Long, Oakley, Farmer Curtis & Welch have declared interests as members of the Whitworth Trust.
- Cllr Welch has declared interests as an existing Allotment holder and as an employee of DCC.
- Cllr Curtis has declared an interest as a trustee of the Derbyshire Federation of Mental Health.
- Cllr Atkin has declared an interest as Chair of Planning at DDDC.

FC421/6 Public Participation – None

FC421/7 Joint Council and Whitworth Event

The Chair invited Ms Lichfield and Mr Taylor to present their ideas for the event which they did by way of a short screen-share presentation. The theme was "Party In The Park" and the aim was to re-launch the Whitworth Centre and the Council following a difficult period. The date and times suggested was 21st August 2021 between noon and 6pm. The programme would include a BBQ, music, a



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comedian and a range of other activities aimed at all ages. As well as celebrating the best of the Whitworth and Darley Dale it was also an opportunity to generate some income for the Centre through food and drink sales and to gather contacts from the community. There would be a plaque unveiling ceremony for those who donated to the 2020 Whitworth crowdfunding drive. The total cost of the event had been estimated at £9450 with free entry to all.

FC421/8 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Chair offered condolences to HRH Queen Elizabeth on the passing of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. A formal letter of condolence would be sent once the official guidance on protocols had been received.

FC421/9 Report from Police and/or County/District Councillors

The bus shelter at the junction of the A6 and Greenaway Lane had been damaged on the evening of the 13th. Cllr Chrystal had attended and effected temporary repairs. It had been reported to police and an insurance claim was underway.

FC421/10 Finance

The Acting RFO talked through proposed payments, the budget monitoring and the bank reconciliation for April.

Payments to be made in April 2021

Payee Name	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
Employees	£678.82	Clerk
Employees	£1,045.94	Acting Clerk
Derbyshire County Council	£196.97	Clerk pension
HMRC	£541.69	PAYE
Peter Leppard Ltd	£516.00	Locum RFO Mar/Apr
Gary Lowry Window Cleaning	£90.00	Bus Shelter Cleaning Mar/Apr
Whitworth Trading	£882.00	Office hire
Whitworth Trading	£33.60	Duplicate keys
DALC	£150.00	Course fees
Rialtas	£432.00	Year-end accounts closedown
Personnel Advice and Solutions Ltd	£120.00	Specialist personnel advice
Total	£4,687.02	

Payments under Clerk's Delegated Powers

Forest Garden Centre	£192.00	Pond liner for Community Garden
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Expenditure - Community Garden Project

Service	Amount	Who
Markovitz Ltd	£62.40	Roofing felt, etc
Markovitz Ltd	£9.41	Hand nail plates
Markovitz Ltd	£8.78	Corner braces & nails
Total	£80.59	

- It was RESOLVED to approve the April payments as presented.

Councillor Reimbursements

Item	Amount	Who
Cllr Chrystal	£69.99	Fridge
Cllr Chrystal	£79.98	Kettle & coffee machine
Total	£149.97	

- It was RESOLVED to approve the Councillor reimbursements.
- It was RESOLVED to accept the budget monitoring for March.
- It was RESOLVED to accept the bank reconciliation for March.

On the year end arrangements Mr Leppard reported that there were no issues so far and that the End of Year reconciliation and AGAR were in hand and on track.

FC421/11 Update on the Whitworth Centre and Trading Matters

The Centre were routinely measuring customer satisfaction which was 90% plus. March was a good month and had finished well with the changes to lockdown rules. The Trust had received a £50k Lottery grant and work was progressing on installing LED lighting, restoring the heritage gates, benches, potholes and the porch of the Lodge. The café was operating outdoor seating and planned to open the indoor section in May. The Centre's arrangements for managing restrictions had been passed following an independent inspection and new "track and trace" arrangements were in place. The local MP had conducted a successful visit and the 5-year plan for the Centre and Park was almost complete. It set out three areas of investment – BAU and planned maintenance, special projects of between 10 and 25K and largescale projects representing substantial changes to the Park and Centre.

FC421/12 Update and recommendations from the Planning Advisory Committee

There had been no consultation requests this month and so the April meeting had been cancelled. At this point Cllr Farmer left the meeting while the Chair gave an update on the ongoing issues at Bent Farm. The latest application was due to be considered on the 20th and Cllrs Daly and Chrystal were due to speak against it.

Due to an error by the host Cllr Farmer was unfortunately unable to re-join the meeting.



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FC421/13 Climate and Environment Committee Chair's update

The April meeting had been cancelled as the main focus was now on the cross-council meeting being arranged to discuss Enthovens. The Clerk reported that to date two councils, Stanton and South Darley, had offered names and two more, Bakewell and Winster, had added it to their next meeting agenda. The Clerk's office had chased those who had not replied.

FC241/14 Update from Chair of Personnel Committee

The Chair had circulated a document listing essential policies and setting out the process for reviewing and updating them.

- It was RESOLVED to accept the proposal for policy update and review.

FC241/15 Community Services Committee Meeting update

The Chair had submitted a written note – the main points of which were:

All allotments at Church Road now let apart from one small plot. From 32 plots in 2020 the site now had 41. For the last two months, 50 children a week have been taking lessons in the Community Garden site and the Derbyshire Federation of Mental Health would start actively using the space very soon. The project team are approaching local charities and schools and are in active discussion with Ivonbrook House and South Darley Primary as well as Meadow View and other care homes in Darley Dale. The site itself now has a large pond which will soon have wheelchair access and Darley Dale in Bloom have volunteered to help weed and replant the flower beds and rockery. Work begins soon on establishing 2 large wildlife areas and planting a wildflower meadow.

The town's Bus Shelters have been inspected and are in need of refurbishment and repair. Once the Council have agreed the budget for Bus Shelters for 21/22 the Clerk will schedule the work.

The Chair asked the Cllr Oakley to talk about the financial arrangements for the Community Garden and in particular the request for the Council to set up a project bank account to support the work. Councillors expressed some concerns about the detailed arrangements and the Clerk reported that he has asked the fund-raising team for a breakdown of roles and responsibilities to use as a basis for some form of Memorandum of Understanding. After some discussion it was agreed to call a meeting to discuss this issue in more detail.

- It was RESOLVED to convene the Council for a meeting to discuss banking arrangements for the Community Garden project on Monday the 26th of April.

FC421/16 Allotment rents for 21/22

The Community Services Committee had endorsed a proposal for setting the 21/22 allotment rents which brought the charging models at the two sites into line based on plot size. All money would be reinvested into the allotments and the Council would be seeking suggestions from all plot-holders.



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- It was RESOLVED to standardise rent across both sites at 21p a square metre, to allocate one allotment at Oddford for use by Greenaway Workshop free of charge and to set the minimum charge for pigeon coops at Church Road at £25

FC421/17 Annual Council Meeting

The Annual Council Meeting was scheduled for May and everyone would be required to resign their existing committee roles. While stressing that councillors could ultimately apply for any role, the Chair made a plea for a degree of continuity in the membership of committees so that initiatives and work already underway could continue without too much disruption.

FC421/18 Committee Structures and membership

The Clerk reminded everyone of the commitment to review the Committee structure implemented in November after 6 months and the Chair asked that this be added to the May agenda.

FC421/19 Correspondence received

The Clerk's office had been dealing with some questions from residents around the rise in the precept and had provided a breakdown of the additional expenditure to each. In all but one case this had been accepted and the correspondence closed. The children of year 3 at Churchtown school had written in to thank the Council for their financial help. The children reported that they had enjoyed planting strawberries and potatoes and had all gone on a "mini beast hunt".

FC421/20 Matters arising from Town Meeting - None

FC421/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be on the 26th April specifically to discuss banking arrangements for the Community Garden project. The next full agenda meeting would be on Thursday the 20th of May.

FC421/22 Confidential Personnel

The temporary arrangements for the Clerk's office were working well though with induction and other pressures Cllr Welch asked for approval to increase the hours for the temporary clerk.

- It was RESOLVED to set the acting assistant clerk's hours to a maximum of 15 hours a week.

Similarly, the Acting RFO was doing a good job and Cllr Welch set out a forecast of hours up to the end of May.

- It was RESOLVED to set the hours for the locum RFO to a maximum of 10 hours a week until the end of May.