

Minutes of the Meeting of Darley Dale Town Council

Held in the Library at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale

on Thursday 16th November 2017

Present

Councillor M Mellor (in the Chair)

Councillors L Boardman ,E Faulkner, T Haynes ,M Hurford ,A Long, M Myers J Restrick, I Pasteur D Ward and S Wilson

Also Present

Town Clerk and 14 members of the public,

217/17 **Apologies of Absence**

No apologies

218/17 **Variation of Order of Business**

It was **Resolved** to move agenda items 18 Neighbourhood Plan and item 11 appointment of Vice Chair to follow after item 7 Planning .

219/17 **To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public.**

It was **Resolved** that in view of the confidential nature of this item the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, in order to discuss the following items 24 Whitworth Trading.

220/17 **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations.

221/17 **Public Participation**

There was a strong representation from local residents objecting to the St Elphins application for the construction of 4 residential care apartments. Four representatives spoke for approximately 3 minutes each, as prearranged with the Town Clerk and various points and objections were raised to the proposed development. Numerous points were raised, the salient ones relating to planning policy covered concerns regarding overdevelopment, potential flooding on the A6, Tree Preservation Orders, wild life issues including bat preservation and concerns at the application to build on a formerly refused site and one on which a marketing suite was positioned for 11 years, 6 of those without planning permission.

A member of the public queried the projects grant payable to the Whitworth. It was explained this was the same grant that had been in existence for many years to support the works of the Whitworth centre.

A request was made by a member of the public for a copy of the Whitworth Assurance Review. This was rejected as the document contains commercially sensitive information relating to the trading of the Centre. It was explained the findings would be discussed and recorded within this meeting.

A question was posed regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and the role the Town Council plays. It was explained the Plan is being produced by the working party which consists of members of the public and Town Councillors, Due to changes in personnel there are councillor vacancies on the group which will be addressed at this meeting.

222/17 **Report from Police and/or County/District Councillors**

None received.

223/17 **Planning**

Comments to be submitted to the District Council on the following applications.

| Application | Address | Proposal | DDDC Planning Officer | Comments |
|--------------|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| 17/00866/FUL | St Elphins Park Dale Road South Darley Dale Derbyshire | Erection of Four Residential Care Apartments | Helen Firth | Object Objection on grounds of overdevelopment on a site previously disregarded as a suitable development site and outside the originally agreed development area when the original site was agreed for residential |

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|---------------|---|---|-------------------|---|
| | | | | <p>development.</p> <p>The proposed site is clearly out of the original footprint of the school (the ropeline) which was the subject of the original planning consent therefore is considered to conflict with the Local Plan and Emerging Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>There are also nature conservation concerns regarding established trees, tree preservation orders and wildlife issues including roosting bats</p> <p>Highway/Water and pollution discharge are also of concern relating to previously experienced flooding in this vicinity on the A6 and discharge of "sludge"</p> <p>Concerns regarding the effects on the immediate area including proposed increased, density, layout, siting, design and external appearance of buildings, overlooked by adjacent properties , over shadowing, visual intrusion and landscaping.</p> |
| 17/01050/FUL | St Elphins Cottage Blind Lane Hackney Derbyshire DE4 2QE | Extension to existing agricultural building to provide an implement store | Gareth Griffiths | No Objection |
| 17/01026/FUL | Devonshire Court St Elphins Park Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 2RP | Erection of entrance canopy | Andrew Ecclestone | . No Objection |
| 17//01016/PDA | Nursery Farm Cottage Sydnoppe Hill Darley Moor Matlock Derbyshire DE4 5LN | Change of use of agricultural buildings to 2 dwelling houses (Use Class C3) and associated building operations | | No Objection |
| 17/01009/FUL | Abbey House Church Road Churchtown Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 2GL | Conversion and extension of outbuildings to dependent relative unit | Helen Frith | No Objection |

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|--------------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| 17/00990/CLP UD | Doone Cottage Ladygrove Road Two Dales Derbyshire DE4 2FG | 17/00990/CLPUD Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development - Domestic garage and driveway | | No Objection |
| 17/00946/FU L | 3 Buxton Terrace Sydnope Hill Two Dales Derbyshire DE4 2FN | Dormer window to front elevation | Andrew Ecclestone | No Objection |
| 17/01081/FU L | Heatherbrae, South Park Avenue, Darley Dale Derbyshire | Single storey rear extension | Andrew Ecclestone | No Objection |
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The following applications have been determined by the District Council.

| Application | Address | Proposal | DDDC Planning Officer | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 17/00905/FUL | 336 Bakewell Road Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3EF | Rear two storey extension | Andrew Ecclestone | Permitted with conditions |
| 17/00882/FUL | HillcroftHallmoor Road Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 2HF | Replacement single storey porch | Andrew Ecclestone | Refused |
| 17/00872/FUL | 1 Bridge Cottage Chesterfield Road Two Dales Derbyshire DE4 2EZ | First floor extension | Helen Firth | Permitted with conditions |
| 17/00823/FUL | HolmecroftSydnope Hill Two Dales Derbyshire DE4 2FN | Single / two storey extensions and alterations to access | Mr Andrew Ecclestone | Permitted with conditions |
| T/17/00111/TPO | The Beeches 4 Normanhurst Park Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 3BQ | Works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO 62 | Sylvia Gray | Permitted with conditions |
| T/17/00112/TPO | 5 Normanhurst Park Darley Dale Derbyshire DE4 3BQ | Works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO 62 | Sylvia Gray | Permitted with conditions |

Councillor Jason Atkins (DCC and DDDC) joined the meeting during the planning section. 12 members of the public left after the St Elphins planning application had been discussed.

224/17 **Appointment of Vice Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Mary Myers to the position of Vice Chair.

225/17 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chair expressed thanks to Andrew Creese and Jane Fearnley for all their hard work in producing the current version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was acknowledged that recently Town Council support had been limited due to personnel changes therefore the following was proposed.

-Proposal to re-establish and lead a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group which will include

- appointing a minimum of 3 Councillors who will be actively involved with this group to work alongside the Community members
- appointing a Chair to direct the work of this group
- to identify the next step in response to the response from DDDC

Councillors had taken advantage of meetings held with Andrew Creese and Jane Fearnley to bring them up to date on the Plan so far and the latest amendments required by DDDC

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillors Boardman, Long and Myers to join the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Councillor Myers was appointed as the Chair.

Councillor Myers will set up a meeting to identify the next step/action plan.

226/17 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19th October 2017 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

227/17 **Finance**

The Town Council considered the schedule of payments to be made.

The Budget Monitoring Report was received.

RESOLVED –That the schedule of bill payments detailed below be approved and the reports noted.

List of Payments made between 01/11/2017 and 16/16/2017

| Payee Name | Reference | Amount Paid £ | Transaction Detail |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Whitworth Trading | 3541 | 150 | Remembrance Service Tea |
| Whitworth Centre | 3542 | 2448.55 | First payment of project grant |
| Whitworth Trading | 3543 | 1181.26 | Office and Toilets Nov |
| Rialtas Business Solutions | 3544 | 90 | Year End May 2017 |
| Gary Lowry Window Cleaning | 33545 | 80160 | Bus shelter clean Oct |
| Royal British Legion | 3546 | 37 | poppy Wreaths |
| employees | 3548 | 258.26 | HMRC Nov |
| employees | 3549 | 399 | Salary |
| employees | 3547 | 333.2 | DCC Superannuation September |
| LM Creative | 3550 | 1465 | Community Voice |
| Wish Cloud Ltd | 3551 | 400 | Desk Top Computer |
| | Total | 7599.73 | |

228/17 **Town Mayor's/ Chairman's Announcements**

The Mayor extended her thanks to everyone who had helped and attended the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November., She commented how lovely it was to see so many people there, the youth uniformed organisations, Darley Dale Brass Band, the school children readers, religious leaders , a serving soldier and retired soldiers and how well the service was received by all.

Thanks were made to the Town clerk for organising such a successful event.

229/17 **The Whitworth Centre**

It was **RESOLVED**—that the following projects to be undertaken by the Whitworth Centre for this financial year will be eligible to draw down the Whitworth Project Grant (£10,000)from the Town Council.

- CCTV—to safeguard staff, public and the building
- Renovations to the lodge to maintain the 4*rating
- Refurbishment and essential works in the Crush lobby and downstairs kitchens
- Investment into sundry items to enhance the Events management provision (maximum expenditure on these items £1,000)

A Christmas weekend is being planned for December 9th and 10th , the Town Council Carol service will coincide with this event on the afternoon of the 10th commencing at 2.00pm.

230/17 Town Clerk's and Councillor's update of matters in hand

Issues arising for general information.

- Thanks have been emailed to all involved in the Remembrance Day Service
- Allotments 3rd & final rent letters to be sent with a 7 day return or allotments will be re allocated.
- Park Lane Benches, Go ahead to refurbishment off site given
- Footpaths/Minor maintenance Agreement with DCC, late application been agreed to
- Complaint regarding street lighting being turned off on Rycroft, adversely affecting a disabled resident. Councillor Atkin is supporting having the light turned back on
- The request for a bus shelter at St Elphins has now been formally requested and will be investigated by DCC as to the viability of 2 stops there.
- Promotion of `Training for Councillors
- Community Grants to be organised and advertised during November
- DDTC has been registered as part of the Snow Warden scheme with DCC and "free" grit ordered
- Grit Bin survey organized prior to ordering first grit/salt and possible grit bins
- Neighbourhood Plan meeting coordination
- St Elphins Planning Application coordination
- Remembrance Day preparations and event
- Advance notice of Christmas arrangements, Annual Town Council Service, planned to coincide with Whitworth Centre Christmas event on Sunday December 10th 2017

This year's panto is Jack & the Beanstalk, to be held on 20th December at 1.00 offers of help from Councillors will be appreciated.

The Town Clerk reported that the next meeting would be covered by a locum Debs Townsend.

231/17 New Councillors Update

A further application has been received from a local resident who has expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor. He has been invited to meet informally with Councillors on November 21st.

232/17 Update on DDDC review of Public Facilities

A discussion occurred around the future of the public toilets on Station Road and options were discussed, allowing the toilets to close, the Town Council to take them on or explore an alternative.

An article has gone into Community Voice to gauge local opinion as to whether they feel the toilets should be retained and paid for by the Town Council if the District will not continue to fund them. Concerns were expressed at the possible costs of taking on the toilets however it was felt it was preferable to defer any decision until public opinion can be gauged and a date is received from DDDC when our opinion is required by.

233/17 **Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies and Working Parties**

The committee of Darley Dale in Bloom is undergoing a change of personnel at the moment and it has been highlighted that the current Heads of Agreement has not been updated in a number of years which affects the funding of the planting.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Tim Haynes as the Councillor Representative for the Enthovens liaison committee.

234/17 **Twinning**

The Chair has received a request for the Chair of the twinning association to address the Council at the next meeting and for a discussion to occur regarding his proposals.

235/17 **Youth Development Update :**

Councillor Haynes reported back on a recent meeting with Jon Bradbury, Development Manager at DDDC, Councillor Mellor and the Town Clerk to discuss the use of the S106 monies currently held by the Town Council from the Old School Close development.

According to the legal agreement the monies cannot be used for the proposed woodland play area/gazebo at the school as the monies were secured to fund the provision of play space within the parish of Darley Dale.

A request was made to DDDC that the Town Council are involved in any future discussions on S106 monies which may come into the Town which was supported by Mr Bradbury.

It was mentioned an approach could be made to the developer to explore making a change to this condition

The Town Clerk reiterated the legal position and advised the correct use of S106 monies which would usually be the provision of a new equipped play area available at all times for local children or as an alternative the upgrade of an existing facility to serve local children at all times. She urged caution in disregarding this advice as the Town council could become liable for any costs relating to misuse.

It was agreed to continue the discussions regarding the use of this money and consider other proposals.

236/17 **Trim Trail**

Councillor Ward outlined an alternative proposal for use of the S106 monies for the introduction of a Trimtrail in the Whitworth Park. It was agreed that further information on this and the school woodland play area would be put into a Drop box account which Councillor Haynes and the Town Clerk will create for all Councillors to access the information to enable a fuller discussion on this at the next council meeting.

237/17 **Update on Financial Review at the Whitworth Centre**

The Town Clerk reported that there have been a series of challenges to the financial integrity of the Whitworth Centre in recent years. The latest being discussed and minuted at the February meeting (minute 041/17) of the Town Council which resulted in an investigation into trading matters being agreed to.

The time period was determined from the period since the last challenge in June 2013 minute 112/13 which stated that “after examining the accounts at the Whitworth centre they (Councillors) were satisfied that the Whitworth centre was in good financial health.

It was decided to appoint a firm of accountants to undertake the review and though concern was expressed at the July meeting of the use of public monies it was considered on balance to accept the proposal ,as by using a reputable local professional firm of accountants it will provide an external, transparent and objective view of the financial position.

The report was received in September and has been discussed with the relevant personnel at the Trust and the Council, questions arising have been raised and discussed with the Report author . Some of the queries arising were due to a difference in recording systems between different accountants and the Centre, different financial year ends and different budget headings allocations.

The Town Clerk talked through the report and then read from the report that had been prepared , reproduced below

Attention was drawn to point 4.5 in the report which clearly and unambiguously states that

4.5 Based on the procedures carried out, nothing has come to our attention which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, The Financial Statements have breached the requirements of

- ***To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act and***

- **To prepare accounts which are in accordance with the accounting records , comply with the accountings requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with he methods and principles of the Statements of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities.**

This statement clearly demonstrates that there have been no breach of the legal requirements as regards the financial dealings of the Whitworth Centre for the period 2012-2016

Furthermore the improved financial systems referred to in 4.1 and the appointment of a new firm of Accountants referred to in 4.3 serve to provide further financial reassurance as to the future management of the Whitworth Centre finances since 2016.

4.1 Due to changes in Trust Directors and Councillors over the years, a difference in the way that The Whitworth Centre is operated and managed has evolved, compared to earlier years

The current board of Directors has now taken responsibility to bring up to date the following

- The governance and legal obligations of the Whitworh centre Ltd
- To have a transparent policy of reporting
- The preparation of budgets and forecasts with a view to returning the Whitworth centre to profitability.

4.3 New accountants have been appointed in 2017 and a new approach has been taken in the preparation and presentation of the Financial statements.

It was **RESOLVED** from reading and considering the report that the Town Council should accept the report and adopt the recommendations referred to within it.

238/17 Correspondence/Information

Several email of thanks had been received regarding the Remembrance Day service including one from a lady who was taken ill at the event and wished to thank the first aiders, helpers and those who drove her home.

239/17 Public ParticipationPart 2

A question was raised as to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group. It was reported that the community members are Andrew Creese and Jane Fearnley and Councillors Mellor, Myers, Boardman and Long.

A further request was made by a member of the public for a copy of the Whitworth Assurance Review. This was again rejected as the document contains commercially sensitive information relating to the trading of the Centre. It was explained that the findings and recommendations had been outlined and sections quoted during the meeting.

240/17 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Council is to be held on Thursday 14th 2017.

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of this item the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, in order to discuss the following items.

241/17 **Update on Trading matters at the Whitworth Centre**

Councillor Ward presented the Financial report.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm