



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

www.darleydale.gov.uk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Darley Dale Town Council held by Zoom on Thursday 26th April 2021

Present

Councillors Chrystal (Chair), Atkin, Daly, Dowling, Farmer, Oakley, Welch and Ward. Acting Clerk Ian Adkin and Acting RFO Peter Leppard were also present.

FC421/23 Apologies for Absence - Apologies were received from Cllrs Curtis. Cllr Long and Cllr Gardner were not present.

FC421/24 Variations to Order of Business - None

FC421/26 Exclusion of Press and Public – None in attendance

FC421/27 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 2021 as a true and accurate record.

FC421/28 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.

The Chair asked for clarification on whether Cllr Welch, as an allotment holder, could vote on the Community Garden and the Clerk confirmed that, since the two were not connected, Cllr Welch could indeed register a vote if required.

FC421/29 Public Participation – None

FC421/30 Community Garden Bank Account

The Clerk had circulated a paper setting out responsibility and ongoing budget projections for the Community Garden Project. The Chair invited Cllr Oakley to give Councillors a further update and explain why there was a request for the Town Council to open and run a bank account to support the work. Cllr Oakley said that the lack of a banking facility meant that the project was currently running 5 weeks behind schedule with grants, cheques and other donations waiting to be paid to the Project as a result. Cllr Oakley proposed a motion but councillors wanted to see more discussion before moving to a vote.



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Councillors expressed across the board support for the project but wanted clarification on several specific issues. Cllr Welch asked about Health and Safety management and the arrangements for managing and taking responsibility for the work of the Project Manager who had not been appointed by the Council. Cllr Ward called it a “fantastic project” but felt that the additional responsibility that the Council was assuming warranted more discussion. She was also concerned that the project might fail and leave the Council with future financial liabilities. The Chair responded to say that if sufficient external funding were not available then the project would close.

Several councillors and the Acting RFO raised the issue of the contracted Project Manager’s hourly rate charge which they felt was high even for a specialist role. Cllr Oakley agreed to raise this with the project team. The Chair reminded everyone that the priority at this stage was to consider the request for a Council owned project bank account and proposed a motion.

- It was RESOLVED that Darley Dale Town Council should facilitate a bank account for the Community Garden project with the understanding that if there was no external funding the project would close.

FC421/31 Date of Next Meeting

The next full council meeting was scheduled for 20th May 2021.