

DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST 2022 AT ST HENRY'S HALL DERWENT

Present: R Cottrill (Chair), A Robinson (RFO), W Middleton (website), J Gascoigne (Clerk); five parishioners; PC Carl Davies & PC Amy McKeever; Allan Reef STW

48/22 Apologies: Cllr G Woodhead, P Robinson, R & S Helliwell, K Birkinshaw, A Jolley

49/22 Declarations of Interest: None

50/22 Minutes of the previous meeting approved and signed

Agenda suspended to allow PC Carl Davies to address the meeting.

PC C Davies has been in post since April 2022 and since then has attended other Parish Council meetings and events to encourage crime prevention and awareness. He is liaising regularly with the rangers at Fairholmes in order to direct resources where most needed. He has requested civil enforcement officer presence to apply the PSPO (ban on fires in Derbyshire) because the PSPO has been put in place by DCC without any means of enforcement. PC Davies is aware of fires being lit near Hope Woodlands car park most weekends. PC Davies reported that speed cameras are only catching a few motorbikes that regularly use the Snake Pass as a speed track and was asked why the cameras could not be put in place at weekends, early mornings and evenings when most speeding takes place. He said that the cameras could only be stationed occasionally and therefore are not that effective. However, the more that incidents are reported, the more that resources will be directed to those areas. Regarding drones: there are very few laws governing them so it almost impossible to prevent owners flying them and thereby 'looking' in people's properties. If a member of the public damaged one then they could be prosecuted for damage to property. PC Davies is organizing drop-in sessions around the Hope Valley to enable residents to speak informally to the police. These are advertised on social media. Clerk to share PC Davies' contact details with parishioners.

Agenda suspended to allow Allan Reef STW to update the meeting on UDVRE.

STW are currently going through the process of reducing the number of options identified in the Initial Options Study to enable concentration on those that are most cost beneficial. These will be decided upon by the end of September.

Environmental studies are currently being undertaken. Some have been completed with more to come including walk about surveys.

The contract has been awarded for ground investigation and work will begin in September taking approximately seven weeks. This includes drilling bore holes (150mm diameter by 50m long into rock) and core holes (100mm diameter by 5m long into the dam faces) to ascertain the condition of the dams and dam walls. This work will take place at the same time as Forestry is closing the road from Fairholmes to Kings Tree for tree clearance.

There may be an aerial survey with drones or planes to make a record of water levels due to the dry summer. The Ladybower is currently 10m below the usual level.

All options around England are still being considered with decisions being made by April 2023 which ones will be taken forward.

All organisations which are involved and/or affected by the schemes are currently being consulted.

Parishioners asked about net bio-diversity gain. Allan Reef said that this could be exported to another area away from the Upper Derwent Valley. Councillors and Parishioners are most unhappy about this. Environmental schemes with which STW has been involved were discussed – the lack of joined up thinking and the failure of tree planting with associated loss of habitat in those areas. There was no confidence in the meeting that STW would create successful wildlife habitats in the Upper Derwent. Allan Reef said that he would ask the member of staff responsible for environmental matters to attend a future Parish Council meeting and he will continue to attend meetings.

Agenda resumed.

51/22 Matters arising: we are still awaiting delivery of cable for the broadband installation which is in short supply.

Shutting the gate onto Derwent Lane at Fairholmes. This is generally being kept closed overnight and there have been no complaints from residents.

52/22 Nothing to report

53/22 The UDVRE survey has not arrived. Chase up.

The Government responded to the petition to ban disposable BBQs.

Send PC Davies contact details to parishioners. Ask whether reporting incidents via his email means they become part of the official incident statistics.

54/22 The Snake Pass will be closed for one month from 26th September 2022 to enable drilling of core samples from beneath one road slip and into the bank below.

There will be no access for any vehicles across the drilling site. Residents east of, and including Gillott Hey, will only be able to access Hope Valley and those west of Gillott Hey will only be able to access Glossop. Vehicles can be parked at both sides of the drilling site and residents will be able to walk across to facilitate access. Cllr Gascoigne has asked DCC to ensure postal deliveries will not be interrupted. Hedges and trees have grown into the middle of the road and HGV's are hitting branches and driving more into the centre of the carriageway. Ask DCC to cut them back whilst the road is closed.

55/22 The website domain has been renewed for a further five years and hosting for a further two. Renewing the website should be carried out every five years, but this is very expensive and the current PC website is sufficient for our needs.

55/22 Finance

Councillors unanimously agreed to stay opted in to SAAA (smaller authority audit arrangement).

The Risk Register has been updated and is available to see on the PC website.

Electricity prices are likely to increase substantially but prices are too volatile to get a fixed price. Councillors agreed to wait for the market to settle down before asking for quotes. If the price increase is significant, then the cost of hall hire will be re-considered.

British Gas electricity	D/D	£25.84
VAT	Credit	£446.71

Balance at 5th Aug 2022 £5953.28

56/22 Date of next meeting 26th October 2022

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Cllr Jill Gascoigne
Clerk