

## DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AT ST HENRY'S HALL, DERWENT

Present: R Cottrill (Chair), G Woodhead (Vice Chair), A Robinson (RFO), J Gascoigne (Clerk),  
W Middleton (Website)  
Robert Lorgan (MP), Cllr N Gourlay (DCC), Cllr J Collins (HPBC), 17 Parishioners, Allan Reef (STW)

27/22 Apologies – Cllr G & Mrs C Woodhead, Mr & Mrs Dalton (Snake Inn), Cllr C Farrell

28/22 No declarations

29/22 Minutes of the previous meeting approved

30/22 Election of Officers

Chair – Richard Cottrill	prop Cllr W Middleton	sec Cllr A Robinson
Vice Chair – Gary Woodhead	prop Cllr A Robinson	sec Cllr J Gascoigne
RFO – Anne Robinson	prop Cllr W Middleton	sec Cllr J Gascoigne

Agenda suspended to allow Mr Allan Reef to address the meeting regarding the Upper Derwent Reservoir Expansion Scheme.

The scheme, which is in partnership with Yorkshire Water, is in the very early stages of communicating with all stakeholders. Already briefed include National Trust, Bamford PC, Borough and County Councils, Wildlife Trusts etc. NFU yet to be briefed. Letters to householders have been posted.

By 2050 there will be a substantial water shortage in Britain - in the region of 3,500 million litres per day. Due to population increase projections and climate change, the government has requested implementation of schemes to address the shortfall.

Key dates: March 2023 – options decided upon. 2027 – construction to start. 2033 - schemes complete.

22 possible schemes are under investigation nationwide. STW are looking at six schemes, of which The Upper Derwent is one. The options within this latter scheme are :-

1. Raising the level of the existing dams by building higher dam walls. This would have implications for the road network which would need moving and new roads would have to be built.
2. Construction of a new reservoir uphill of the north arm of Howden Dam. This option would give the largest amount of water storage.
3. A new dam downstream in close proximity to the existing dams.
4. Excavation of existing dams to make them deeper.

Currently each person in Britain uses an average of 125 litres of water per day. STW are trying to educate people to reduce the amount of water they use through education and metering, targeting schools and industry as well as individual households. Mending leaks is ongoing and meters are being installed to try and find out where the leaks are. Despite the many questions asked by residents, there was no definite information about which scheme is likely to be decided upon and therefore residents have no idea about what this will mean for them. It was pointed out that by publishing this information the values of most properties in the Parish have been adversely affected, making them unsaleable. Residents are therefore extremely concerned about their homes, livelihoods, long term effect on property prices, the annual two million visitors who currently visit the dams and traffic problems. There was no information about the increase in HGV traffic or the routes they would take. There is already a 38% projected increase in traffic on the A57 if the Mottram by-pass goes ahead and the road is already unstable in several areas. Questions were asked about why more was not being done to reduce the amount of water used, why mending existing leaks was not a priority and de-salination. Residents felt that their real concerns were being brushed aside because the implementation of a national scheme to increase the storage of raw water has already been agreed. In addition, The Upper Derwent has very few residents and water is mostly moved by gravity rather than pumping, making it more suitable and cheaper to run than other dam systems.

Mr Reef agreed to keep the Parish Council informed of developments and also to attend future meetings.

Agenda resumed.

31/22 Matters Arising.

Some cracks in the A57 are opening up and new ones appearing.

HGV's are regularly using the Snake Road despite signs saying no vehicles over 7.5 tonnes except for access. Report to Highways.

The traffic lights are generally working well.

Cllr Gascoigne has asked Tom Ironmonger STW visitor manager for permission to plant a Queen's Jubilee Tree on the bus turnaround, opposite Crookhill Farm entrance, near Derwent Lane End.

32/22 Highways. Mr A Byford reported that the stretch of road between the Ladybower lights and the Yorkshire County boundary is being referred to as an unnamed road. It should be Snake Road. Report to DCC.

MP Robert Lorgan reported that we should expect a planning application for an emergency communication mast. It was pointed out that several have already been received some of which have been refused permission.

Cllr Joanna Collins reported that construction of the new railway line between Hathersage and Bamford has begun which will give benefits of increased freight and passenger capacities. There will be a push to encourage visitors to come into the Hope Valley by train and bus to help relieve current traffic volume problems.

33/22 Correspondence. Funding is available from the Police and Crime Prevention Commissioner for councils to buy police speed indicator devices. These are signs which light up to tell drivers the speed they are travelling. It was agreed that they would not be suitable for our Parish because we have no 30mph speed areas.

Cllr Gascoigne has asked PDNPA via the PPPF to change the wording on the Peak Park website's online events calendar to make it clear that organisers must inform parish councils and land owners of intended events. STW have issued new guidelines for any events involving more than 30 participants taking place on their land - organisers must obtain signed permission before they are allowed to go ahead. In most cases there will also be a charge payable to STW.

34/22 Reports from the Parish Annual Meetings.

Derwent. Five residents attended. Discussion was mostly about anti-social behaviour and large HGV's using the Snake Road.

Hope Woodland. There was an update on the Community Fibre Broadband Project. It is now at the Contract stage which the Parish Chair will sign once received. Fibre Broadband should be in place by early 2023. An increase in the number of commercial river walking events has been noted and reported to National Trust. The 'walkers' are getting changed out of wet clothes on the side of the road. This is not acceptable. Clerk to email STW to find out whether the number of fish in the river is being adversely affected by river walking.

35/22 Planning. STW are already replacing some signs. Noted.

36/22 Finance. RFO Cllr Robinson has appointed a new auditor – John Craike, who currently works for Certas Energy, for an annual fee of £100.00.

Balance at 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 £4976.43

No payments or receipts.

37/22 Items for the next agenda to include STW Reservoir Expansion Scheme; Signing off government forms and accounts; Jubilee Tree.

38/22 Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm