

DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER AT ST HENRY'S HALL DERWENT

Present: Cllrs R Cottrill (Chair), G Woodhead (Vice Chair), A Robinson (RFO), J Gascoigne (Clerk),
A Wheatley. DCC Cllr N Gourlay, two parishioners

56/24 No Apologies

57/25 No declarations

58/24 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed

59/24 Matters arising: email sent to Hathersage PC asking for the number of our parishioners using Hathersage Pool but no information yet.

60/24 Issues regarding Highways and PROWs: Cllr N Gourlay updated the meeting on repairs to the A57. Several million pounds would be required for permanent repairs/reconstruction of the road but this money cannot be sourced either from DCC or central government for the foreseeable future despite the A57 being part of the UK's reliable network. The Highways Dept has not been able to build up any reserves for major repairs and there are another 200 road slips in Derbyshire. The new Mayor is not pledging any available funds for road repairs and instead spending it on public transport. In conclusion the road continues to move but there are no formal plans in place for any major repairs. Councillors reminded Cllr Gourlay of the excess traffic using the Hope Valley whenever the Snake Pass is closed and questioned the value of the new Mottram by-pass if the Snake Pass is ever closed to general traffic; the road has been closed to HGVs for nearly three years and this ban will remain in place unless the road is repaired. The new by-pass will increase the volume of traffic on the A57 which is likely to exacerbate the road's instability. It is noted that because there are very few HGVs, tree branches are growing across the road thus pushing those HGVs with legitimate access into the middle of the road in some areas. Parishioner Mr Byford explained that lack of maintenance and neglect of drains and gullies have contributed to the state of the road and continue to do so. Cllr Gourlay has asked for an email setting out these problems for each specific area along the road. He will ask relevant personnel for a daytime visit so that we can show them what is happening.

Mr Byford reported that increasing numbers of walkers are trespassing on private land by leaving the footpath along the north side of the Snake Pass to get to the road where their cars are parked. There are also an increasing number of mountain bikers cycling up and over The Castles from Derwent and either accessing the road by trespassing through Heyridge Farm or continuing along the footpath to Drs Gate. Report to National Trust.

Derwent Councillors reported a reduction in the number of vehicles using Derwent Lane now that all car parks leading to Fairholmes are charging to park.

Derbyshire County Council is developing a nature recovery plan and is asking for input from landowners and farmers via an online survey. Clerk to respond.

61/24 Cllr Robinson updated the meeting on the Active Travel Master Plan which aims to improve walking and cycling for local people. However, this plan does not include our Parish despite many local people visiting the paths around the Dams. Cllr Robinson to request that Fairholmes is included and email to be sent to the consultants.

62/24 PDNPA – Local Plan Review Consultation. Emails sent to all parishioners but no response. It is important to engage with this because it will shape Planning rules in the Peak Park.

63/24 The Parish Council's electricity contract is now with British Gas for a three year fixed term. Thanks were given to Cllr Robinson for her persistence and success in sorting out the contract.

64/24 On-line banking has been set up with Nat West but we're still waiting for an activation code.

65/24 Hope Valley Climate Action meeting – the Mayor has pledged monies to the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Cllr Robinson to ask for a bus service for our Parish to encourage walkers to use public transport and help reduce the number of vehicles coming to Derwent and the Hope Valley from Glossop and Manchester.

66/24 Finance

Expenditure	Website Hosting	chq 635	£201.60
	Caretaking	chq 636	£150.00
	Valda	d/d	£48.17
Income	HPBC Precept		£548.50
Balance at	04/10/24		£6251.93

Insurance is due for renewal, quotes being taken.

Cookie policy for website is a legal requirement and will cost £70.00 p/a

Web hosting company is changing from LCN to Team Blue IT Services UK Ltd

66/24 Items for the next agenda to include the A57 Snake Pass and Finance Policy

67/24 The next meeting will be on 15th January 2025

Meeting closed at 9.05PM