

DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024 AT ST HENRY'S HALL DERWENT

Present: A Robinson (RFO), A Wheatley, J Gascoigne (Clerk), and one Parishioner

21/24 Apologies received from Cllr R Cottrill, Cllr G Woodhead, S Helliwell, J Collins, C Farrell

22/24 Cllr A Robinson took the Chair in the absence of Cllrs R Cottrill & G Woodhead.

23/24 No declarations

24/24 Minutes of the previous meeting approved and signed

25/24 Matters arising: The King's portrait was ordered and safely delivered. Objections sent in to The Boundary Commission objecting to Derwent & Hope Woodlands Parish being merged with Glossop. No updates received.

26/24 Highways and PROWs: The gullies on the viaducts have been cleaned but no reply received from DCC regarding a permanent solution to the continual flooding. Potholes have been filled. The A57 is being regularly monitored for surface movement and cracking. The road between The Ladybower and Strines Rd end has been closed for resurfacing with no prior notice and different times of the day and night. This is also the case with the A6187 between Sickleholme and The Travellers. This is causing disruption to drivers who would have made alternative arrangements if they had had warning. Clerk to complain.

27/24 All correspondence noted and forwarded to parishioners if relevant. It was agreed not to join the Rural Villages Services Group because we are already part of DALC, PPPF and there is the Association of Hope Valley Parish Councils. Suggestions to alleviate the damage caused by parking and visitor pressure – boulders and stakes along road sides to allow verges to recover; encourage visitors to go to other areas other than the Hope Valley; free public transport links from the train stations; carpark space booking system such as that introduced at Snowdon where roads next to

the mountain are clearways and visitors have to prebook a space and cannot just turn up.

28/24 Reports from the Annual Parish Meetings:

Hope Woodlands – there is an on-going project to remove trees on Alport Moor and this was welcomed. Landslips, potholes, flooding on the viaducts and the general condition of the Snake Pass were discussed. Clerk has emailed Highways on numerous occasions and will continue to do so. It was noted that the PDNPA will not now be closing visitor centres because they had received a generous private donation, and the UDVRE scheme will not be going ahead because the resulting destruction of the natural environment would be too great. Clerk asked to contact STW and the National Trust about the crashed and abandoned cars in fields along the Snake Pass. Tree felling is underway on both sides of the Snake on Forestry land. Update on the Hope Woodlands Chapel – the Methodist administration structure is changing. Instead of individually managed chapels, they will be managed financially together. Bank accounts from each chapel will be amalgamated under one account (apart from specific ring fenced monies) and this will enable repairs for example to be more easily funded.

Derwent – The numbers of visitors on fine weekend days now guarantees traffic chaos along Derwent Lane and around Fairholmes roundabout. Traffic restrictions are often ignored. It was agreed that visitor numbers are now at saturation levels in all the popular locations in the Hope Valley. Examples of anti-social behaviour were given – vandalism to gates; walls and fences; damage and erosion to footpaths by mountain bikes; general trespass and unacceptable toilet behaviour; illegal cars (eg no number plates); speeding along Derwent Lane; parking anywhere and everywhere. Outdoor organised events now take place without prior notice and with their associated safety and refreshment stops can block access points for farming work and residents. The various authorities which are notified of these events approve them without any consideration for residents or other visitors. Some graphic photographs of sheep injuries caused by uncontrolled dogs were shown at the meeting. It was noted that the major landowners and authorities are impotent and unsympathetic to these problems. The meeting recommended an increase in the number of verge posts and large boulders to protect the landscape. Improvements to allow access by public transport was considered essential. It was also noted that the Parish Council should be vigilant and alert to further attempts to commercialise and urbanise the few remaining wild habitats because given

their current financial uncertainties, water companies, PDNPA, authorities and land owning charities have the incentive to promote their businesses to the detriment of the countryside.

29/24 Finance. New financial regulations have been issued. The Parish Council will need to make some alterations and inclusions to our Financial Code to ensure that we comply. Cllr Robinson to action.

The Certificate of exemption was signed. Cllr Cottrill, as Chair, also needs to sign.

Cllr Robinson reported Bionic to the Energy Ombudsman and the Parish Council has been awarded compensation. Appreciative thanks were given to Cllr Robinson for her time and energy to report this.

Income – HPBC Precept	£1109.50
Expenditure – Valda d/d	£38.80
Balance at 03/05/24	£5265.23

30/24 Item for the next agenda – Financial regulations

31/24 Date of the next meeting - 19/06/24

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Cllr Jill Gascoigne Clerk