

# NORTHWOOD & TINKERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sarah Porter

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## MINUTES

### For the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Rowsley Village Hall

<b>Councillors:</b>	David Hempshall Janet Iles Tessa Lindebaum	Chris Ragg Colin Wragg	<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Sharlaine Fincham Cllr Matthew Buckler (DDDC) Cllr Susan Hobson (DCC)
<b>Others:</b>	John Slater Mr and Mrs Meeken	Sarah Porter		PCSO Anthony Boswell (Police)

*Report / Action  
Required*

1. Cllr Hempshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sharlaine Fincham, Cllr Matthew Buckler (DDDC), Cllr Susan Hobson (DCC) and PCSO Anthony Boswell (Police).
2. There were no declaration of interests.
3. There was no public speaking.
4. There were no items to be taken with the public excluded.
5. Ward and Parish boundary discussion:

Cllr Hempshall explained the reason to have this meeting was to discuss the proposed parish boundary changes following on from the ward changes. DDDC has reduced the number of wards and from the next election, Northwood and Tinkersley Parish would be part of Darley Dale ward as the Stanton ward will no longer exist. Some parts of the Stanton ward will be joining the Chatsworth ward. Northwood and Tinkersley Parish Council requested to join Chatsworth as more closely aligned with Rowsley but this didn't happen.

DDTC were invited to this meeting to discuss this issue. The Clerk has received an email from Darley Dale Town Council stating:

"I met with the Chair and Vice-Chair to discuss it today and they are keen that I address the misconception in your email, on your website and the Council Facebook page that there is some sort of "request" from the Town Council to take control of Northwood and Tinkersley. If you check the return, we made to the first round of consultations you will see that the Council simply stated, among a number of other unrelated points, that there was a case for consideration. DDDC clearly agreed and included it for wider consultation. A great example of local democracy in action. We would be grateful then if you could update the information you've published so far to reflect the position more accurately.

I am pleased to see that you have arranged a meeting to discuss the matter and agree a response - we did so in August and, as well as submitting the Council's own collective thoughts in due course, we are planning to encourage all our residents to respond to the consultation whatever their views. However rather than attend your Council meeting as members of the public we would like to suggest instead that representatives from both our councils meet less formally to compare notes once our relative positions are clear. We'd be very happy to host that meeting at the Whitworth Centre at a date and time to suit you.

Whatever our relative positions and whatever the outcome of the review we are keen to work more closely with you and your councillors for the mutual benefit of all of our residents. I note with interest for example your emphasis on the environment which is also our number one priority this year."

Cllr Hempshall has received an email from DDDC stating:

"The only reason that the District Council has now written to households in Northwood and Tinkersley is because we received a proposal from Darley Dale Town Council to extend their boundaries to include Northwood and Tinkersley. The consultation is a genuine attempt to establish the views of electors within the Parish. If there appears to be little support for change then it would be possible for you to continue having a local Parish Council which, as you suggest, could raise issues with the elected Darley Dale Ward Councillors in the same way as it does with the current Ward Councillor for Stanton."

It is clear that if there is little support for change then the Parish Council can continue as we are.

All residents have received letters now and the Clerk has emailed it out and put it on the Facebook page. The Cllrs clarified that the residents who have contacted them are either not in favour of joining Darley Dale Town Council or have yet to make a decision.

Northwood and Tinkersley was never part of Darley Dale and regardless of the decision, this

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

needs to be clarified

Questions raised were:

- The recommendations arising from any community governance review should deliver improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more efficient delivery of local services. How will a merger with Darley Dale Town Council lead to this?
- How many Cllrs would represent Northwood & Tinkersley on Darley Dale Town Council? It is a concern that Northwood & Tinkersley would lose its voice.
- How will the budget ensure Northwood and Tinkersley do not lose the funds it would bring to a merger and ensure funds are allocated to activities in this parish?
- What is the advantage for Northwood & Tinkersley?

After a discussion, it was agreed unanimously to not agree to a merger with Darley Dale Town Council.

Clerk

It was agreed to write to DDDC stating the Parish Council are against a merger. It was also agreed to send out an email and post on Facebook encouraging residents to respond to the consultation so their voice is heard whether for or against a merger.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - All meetings held at 7.30pm in Rowsley Village Hall due to Covid restrictions - MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND -

- 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022