

## Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 25 March 2024 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

**2403/1 Present:** Councillors S Welch (Chairman), P Ward, D Dickinson, A Robertshaw, J Hayes, R Ferguson, J McAllister, County Councillor A Murday (part), and Clerk (M Pearson). One member of the public attended (part).

**2403/2 Apologies:** None.

**2403/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None.

**2403/4 Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 were approved.

**2403/5 Public Statements:** A parishioner spoke to highlight that the path alongside the River Nidd between Station Road and Nidd Lane, Darley, is very slippery in places due to deep mud and that there are overgrown brambles across the path. The Council recognised the issue and agreed it was probably down to the prolonged poor weather. It was agreed that Councillor Dickinson would check the path and consider whether anything might reasonably be done to improve it; **Councillor Dickinson to action.**

### 2403/6 Planning

#### a. Planning Decisions noted:

ZC24/00349/OUT Outline application for the demolition of existing detached dwelling and separate garage and construction of a new detached dwelling with access and layout considered (all other matters reserved). White House Stocks Green Main Street Darley APPLICATION PERMITTED

#### b. Planning Applications considered:

ZC24/00838/FUL Erection of a steel frame building for the storage of livestock, hay, straw, machinery and other agricultural needs. Meadow Bank Farm Daleside Park Darley NO OBJECTIONS

**c. North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Local Plan:** It was noted that there have been no further developments.

**d. Other planning matters:** Planning enforcement noted: 24/00084/BRPC15 Land Comprising Field At 420634 459406 Silverdale Close Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Non-compliance with replanting requirements of 22/00806/DISCON (17/01704/DVCON, 22/00806/DISCON).

**2403/7 County Councillor's Reports:** County Councillor Murday reported the following:

Long Course Weekend Yorkshire: The latest news is that the event will now be centred on Masham, with routes for cycle, run and swimming still through Nidderdale. County Councillor Murday will be contacting Councillor Bastiman (the relevant North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Executive Member) to note the lack of consultation with parish councils for areas to be affected.

NYC Budget for 2024/25: Savings are having to be made again this year and will still leave a deficit of £6million to be met from reserves. The budget was voted on at the NYC meeting on 21 February 2024. Amongst proposed cuts are a reduction in home-to-school transport provision.

It has been agreed that council tax charges will be increased to the maximum allowed of 4.99%. However, as residents in the former Harrogate Borough Council area already pay higher council tax than other districts, in order to align the rates for 2025/26, the increase in this area will be 3.6%.

Nidderdale Greenway Extension report, February 2024: A Steering Group report went before the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee recently and was supported. The report will now be considered by NYC officers.

Pateley Bridge 3G sports pitch: Work is being undertaken to raise the funds for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation sports pitch at Nidderdale High School & Community College, Pateley Bridge. It is anticipated that a grant covering 60% of the cost can be obtained from the Football Association, with the balance to be raised by local clubs.

A59 Kex Gill repairs: The road is not expected to reopen until at least July 2024 as repairs have been hampered by poor weather.

**2403/8 Nidderdale Greenway Extension:** The Council accepted the Steering Group report provided by County Councillor Murday and agreed to monitor developments.

### 2403/9 Highways and footpaths

- a. *Upgrade of two stiles within the Parish:* It was noted that the information required to submit the Farming In Protected Landscapes grant application was being collated; **Clerk to update at next meeting.**
- b. *Proposal to North Yorkshire Council to change the speed limit of the B6451 between the Wellington Inn and Darley Beck to 30mph:* It was noted that an application had been made to NYC Highways on 1 March 2024 and acknowledged as having been passed to Area 6 NYC Highways on 9 March 2024. It was noted that no response has been received from Area 6 NYC Highways since; **Clerk to update at next meeting.**
- c. *Light on corner of Low Green, Darley:* It was reported that light from Column 3 Low Green was shining into the windows of at least one property and that residents had asked whether an older style lamp could be installed to reduce this; **Clerk to report to NYC Highways.**
- d. *Boulders on verge, Stumps Lane, Darley:* The Council agreed that the boulders on the verges outside the new development on Stumps Lane are potentially dangerous. It was noted that this was reported to NYC Highways on 12 January 2024 but that no response has been received to date; **Clerk to follow up with NYC Highways.**
- e. *Junction of Nidderdale Hill View and Main Street, Darley:* It was reported that there was recently a near miss between a vehicle exiting Nidderdale Hill View and a vehicle (possibly speeding) travelling along Main Street.

- f. *Vehicle leaking oil on the corner of Main Street and Sheepcote Lane, Darley*: It was reported that a vehicle continues to leak oil onto the road surface and noted that the matter has been reported to both NYC Environmental Protection and NYC Highways in February 2024. It was agreed that the Council would seek to contact the owner to ask that vehicle is either fixed or not parked on public roads; **Councillor Welch to action.**
- g. *30mph Speed Limit stickers*: It was noted that “30mph” roundel stickers had been added to wheelie bins in other North Yorkshire areas and the Council agreed that this might help remind drivers of the speed limit on Main Street, Darley if these were obtained for residents. Councillor Dickinson agreed to source fifty stickers.

#### **2403/10 Village Maintenance**

- a. *Replacement information board for Stocks Green, Darley*: It was noted that a quote has been obtained to replace the information board while retaining the existing frame and that work to update the artwork is being undertaken. A Commuted Sums funding application for the cost (around £950 in total) is to be submitted shortly; **Clerk and Chairman to update at next meeting.**
- b. *Bench on Walker Lane, Darley*: It was noted that parishioners had experienced problems accessing this bench and has asked the Council to consider whether anything can be done to improve access; **Clerk to check.**
- c. *Bus Stop, Low Green*: It was noted that the repair and re-varnishing of the bus stop is more urgent; **Clerk to obtain a quote from the Parish Caretaker.**

#### **2403/11 Reports:**

- a. *D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 6 June 2024*: The Council agreed that it would not host an event but would look to support other organisations were they to arrange an event.
- b. *Darley Playing Fields Association*: Councillor Ward noted that the next meeting is 27 March 2024. It was noted that a Boules competition will be run in 2024 (details available from Nigel Nicholas ([nn520712@googlemail.com](mailto:nn520712@googlemail.com))).
- c. *NYC Webinar on Local Nature Recovery Strategy, 7pm 26 March 2024*: It was noted that this online meeting will cover progress to date and planned work and agreed that Clerk would attend; **Clerk to report at next meeting.**
- d. *Darley and Menwith Parish Assembly 2024*: It was noted that the Parish Assembly will start at 8pm on 29 April 2024 in the main hall at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley.
- e. *Darley in Bloom / Wildflower projects*: Councillor McAllister and Councillor Hayes reported that a meeting had been held on 22 March 2024 and that it had been agreed that further investigation and guidance was needed.
- f. *Knabs Ridge Wind Farm Community Fund*: It was noted that applications for grants for the latest round of funding should be made no later than 2 May 2024 ([www.tworidingscf.org.uk/fund/knabs-ridge-wind-farm-community-fund/](http://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/fund/knabs-ridge-wind-farm-community-fund/)).

#### **2403/12 Finance**

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted*: Receipts: VAT reclaim March 2023 – February 2024 £1,354.06. Payments: Eon Next - Cmas lights (March) £25.38, M Pearson - Clerk salary to 31 March 2024 £988.56, M Pearson - Clerk expenses and allowances to 31 March 2024 £178.13, TP Jones & Co LLP – Payroll services to 31 March 2024 £85.92; Darley Memorial Hall – Hire of meeting rooms April 2023 – March 2024 £250.
- b. The budget for March 2024 was approved.
- c. *Financial position at 31 March 2024*: It was noted that the expectation was that there will be an overall surplus of £2,667 for the year to 31 March 2024, with reserves carried forward of £25,340.
- d. *VAT claim March 2023 – February 2024*: It was noted that the claim has been submitted in March 2024 and repaid promptly by HM Revenue & Customs.
- e. *Energy Tariff for Christmas Lights, Low Green*: It was noted that Clerk had accepted an offer from Eon Next for a new fixed contract to 31 March 2026 applying delegated authority. This was done to avoid a proposed increase in annual costs of around £50. The cost for the next two years should be approximately £205 + VAT per annum. It was agreed that the cost of the supplier turning the electricity supply on and off should be investigated; **Clerk to action.**

#### **2403/13 Correspondence received by the Clerk:**

- a. *Nidderdale Plus - Befriending Project Volunteer Recruitment*: It was agreed that information regarding the project should be added to the Council website; **Clerk to action.**
- b. *Nidderdale Plus - News from Nidderdale Spring 2024*; **Clerk to circulate.**
- c. *North Yorkshire Council - Let's Talk Money 2023 survey results*; **Clerk to circulate.**
- d. *North Yorkshire Council - York and North Yorkshire Mayoral election 2 May 2024*: It was agreed that information regarding the election should be added to the Council website; **Clerk to action.**

**2403/14 Items for Information and next Agenda:** It was noted that information regarding the planned digital switchover of telephone lines should be available from Nidderdale Plus later in 2024; **Clerk to monitor and add to future agenda.**

**2403/15 Date of next meetings:** 29 April (from 7pm), 20 May.

#### **2403/16 Awarding of new Parish Caretaker contract 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2028:**

- a. *Exclusion of the general public from the meeting for this item on the basis of confidentiality*: The Council agreed that the public should be excluded from the meeting.
- b. *Appointment of contract*: It was agreed that based on the proposals received, JE Benson should be appointed as caretaker for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2028; **Clerk to contact contractors to notify of decision.** It was agreed that the cost of picking up the grass on Stocks Green, Darley, whilst cutting should be investigated; **Clerk to action.** It was agreed that, if relevant, the quoted cost of picking up the grass on Low Green, Darley, should be discussed with the Parish Caretaker; **Clerk to action.**

*These minutes are published subject to their approval at the next meeting of the Council*