

Draft minutes of the meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 25 January 2021 from 7.30pm

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic this meeting was held by conference call

2101/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D Dickinson, County Councillor Lumley, Borough Councillor Tom Watson and the Clerk M Pearson. One member of the public attended.

2101/2 Apologies: Councillor D McQueen due to work commitments.

2101/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: None.

2101/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2020 were approved.

2101/5 Public Statements: None.

2101/6 Coronavirus pandemic

- a. It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (30 November 2020).
- b. Advice issued by the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) on 5 January 2021 was noted. This confirmed that the YLCA continues to advocate parish council meetings being held remotely.
- c. No further actions were required in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- d. No changes were recommended to the risk assessment concerning Council involvement in the Community Support Scheme.

2101/7 Planning

a. **Planning Decisions** noted:

20/02926/FUL Erection of single storey infill extension (revised scheme). Oak Barn Stumps Lane Darley
PERMISSION GRANTED

20/03692/FUL Garage conversion to create additional living accommodation. Holme Cottage Darley
PERMISSION GRANTED

20/03114/FUL Erection of 1no. first floor extension and 1no. single storey link extension. Installation of 2no. rooflights and alterations to fenestration. The Old Vicarage Darley Head Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

20/03257/FUL Erection of single storey extensions to form attached double garage, therapy room, and ramped covered access, with covered patio to rear. High Gable Darley Head Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

19/02687/FUL Removal of electricity pylon and burying of associated powerline; Erection of bridge; Formation of access track. Silverdale Farm Silverdale Close Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

b. **Planning Applications** considered:

20/05066/FUL Erection of single storey extension to rear and alterations to fenestration. Craven Lodge Low Green To Parish Boundary Darley NO OBJECTIONS

20/05216/FULMAJ Conversion and extension of Mill Building to form 9 Residential Units, erection of storage building/car port, 11 dwellings, detached garage and other external works including car parking. Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley

The Council NEITHER OBJECTED TO OR SUPPORTED this application. It was noted that the Council supported the previous application (18/00661/FULMAJ) on the basis that the scheme involved the redevelopment of the Darley Mill building in a sensitive manner which would greatly improve this entrance to the village. It was prepared to accept the additional dwellings as part of this.

The Council confirmed that it is still keen to see the Mill building redeveloped as soon as possible, noting that its current condition is spoiling the local landscape. The Council accepted that additional dwellings may be needed within the scheme to enable this to happen. However, given that the site is outside of the village development limits in the Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035 adopted in March 2020, the Council felt unable to support the current application to increase the number of already agreed dwellings on the site.

NEITHER OBJECTS TO OR SUPPORTS

c. **Planning Enforcement:** None.

d. **Other planning matters:** It was noted that correspondence has been received from a parishioner suggesting that Planning Application 20/03257/FUL (*Erection of single storey extensions to form attached double garage, therapy room, and ramped covered access, with covered patio to rear. High Gable Darley Head Darley*) contains an error regarding the boundary with the neighbouring property. The relevant planning officer at HBC is

understood to have been advised of this but the parishioner is yet to receive a reply. Borough Councillor Watson agreed to assist if contacted by the parishioner; **Councillor Nicholas to contact the relevant parishioner.**

2101/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Lumley confirmed that North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is in the process of finalising its budget for the year ending 31 March 2022. The Coronavirus pandemic has made this challenging but feasible given the reserves available. The Coronavirus pandemic has led to an additional amount of £80 million over the expected budget being spent in the current year. A large part of this has been refunded by central government.

The new A59 Kex Gill road scheme has now received planning approval. The cost (approximately £60 million) will be largely funded by central government and the next stage is to obtain the funds from central government.

The process to move to one or more unitary authorities in the County is progressing, with two proposals having been submitted to central government. A review of these by central government should be concluded in February 2021, with the preferred proposal(s) sent back to local authorities for public consultation. A decision is expected in Summer 2021. A shadow county council may continue until elections can be held in May 2022. The new authority/authorities may start up in 2022 or 2023.

Borough Councillor Watson confirmed that HBC is currently finalising its budget for the year ending 31 March 2022. This has been difficult given the loss of income from car parking and sport and leisure due to the Coronavirus pandemic. In order to preserve front-line services it will be necessary to utilise HBC reserves and to increase the HBC share of Council Tax (expected to be by approximately £5 for Band D properties).

Some Waste and Recycling collections were suspended during the recent bad weather. HBC is working to catch up on missed collections, with additional collections being added.

HBC Garden Waste licences for 2021 are now available with collections expected to run from mid-March to November. These can be obtained by contacting HBC (www.harrogate.gov.uk/gardenwaste or 01423 500600).

Borough Councillor Watson has received a request for a grit box to be added to Nidderdale Hill View in Darley (the Council considered this under Item 11a below).

2101/9 Highways and Footpaths

a. *Walker Lane, Darley drainage:* The Council received advice provided regarding the drainage on Walker Lane, Darley. It was noted that Yorkshire Water had inspected its equipment near the junction with Sheepcote Lane) in December 2020 and believed it was not faulty but agreed to monitor these assets.

It was further noted that the report recommended a discussion with NYCC Highways and that Clerk had been unable to obtain an update following an engineer's site visit in March 2020. It was agreed input from NYCC Highways was vital in order to decide how the Council should proceed and that the Council should seek this urgently ahead of the next meeting; **Clerk to action.** County Councillor Lumley kindly agreed to help progress this matter; **Clerk to copy correspondence to County Councillor Lumley.**

b. *Damage to grass verges near Nidd Lane on Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that vehicles parked on the roadside near the entrance to Nidd Lane (thought to be those of the general public and associated with the garage business) may have damaged the verges. Concern that these vehicles can obscure the view of those entering Main Street from drives and junctions was also noted. It was agreed that a discussion should be held with the garage to understand whether a solution can be found; **Clerk to action.**

c. *Ice on Crake Lane and Walker Lane, Darley:* Correspondence highlighting that these lanes are very dangerous for users in freezing weather was noted. The Council sympathised and noted that work being considered for Walker Lane (Item 9a above) may improve this road. The Council noted that parishioners had worked to reinstate some of the ditches on Crake Lane and expressed its thanks for these efforts.

d. *Dog-fouling in Darley:* Correspondence regarding the continuing problem of dog-fouling in the village was noted. The Council deplored any dog-owners not picking up after their animals and urged that anyone witnessing such an offence should report this to the HBC Dog Warden (01423 500600 or environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk). It was noted that the Dog Warden has agreed to patrol the village once the Coronavirus pandemic allows. In the meantime, it was agreed that an HBC leaflet covering this problem (DOG FOULING and you) should be displayed on the village noticeboards; **Clerk to action.**

e. *Repairs to Sheepcote Lane, Darley:* It was noted that limited patching of the road surface was carried out in December 2020 and a repair of a section of pavement in January 2021. It was agreed that a permanent repair of the road surface is still urgently needed; **Clerk to contact NYCC Highways to request.**

f. *Addition of Sheepcote Lane, Darley to the NYCC road-gritting schedule:* It was noted that three requests had been made by parishioners to add this road to the winter schedule. NYCC has confirmed that the requests should be considered as part of the annual review of the schedule in September 2021; **Clerk to monitor.**

g. *Water leak outside Hillside, Main Street, Darley:* This has been reported to NYCC Highways and an inspection will be carried out when weather permits; **Clerk to update at next meeting.**

h. *Possible use of Darley Memorial Hall (DMH) car park as a public car park:* It was noted that the DMH Management Committee intends to discuss this at its next meeting; **Chairman to update at next meeting.**

i. *NYCC Highways drain investigation work outside the Maples, Main Street, Darley:* No update has been received; **Clerk to contact NYCC Highways again.**

j. No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

2101/10 Proposed changes in North Yorkshire local authority structure: Please see County Councillor Lumley's summary under Item 8.

2101/11 Village Maintenance

- a. *Winter grit box refills:* It was noted that nine of the grit boxes within the Parish are in need of a refill following the recent bad weather. NYCC has confirmed that it is in the process of restocking grit bins and piles but it was not clear when this would take place. It was agreed that the Council would refill the nine boxes within the next ten days; **Clerk to arrange.**
- b. *Request for grit box at Nidderdale Hill View:* It was agreed that Clerk should look into whether it is possible to move an empty grit box from the building site on Valley Road to Nidderdale Hill View; **Clerk to investigate.**
- c. No other village maintenance needs were discussed.

2101/12 Reports

- a. *Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) Annual General Meeting, 14 December 2020:* It was noted that Mark Simpson is now the Chairman of DPFA and that a new trustee has been appointed. DPFA finances are improving. DPFA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in April 2021 and is putting together a commemorative document to reflect its history and role. Councillor Nicholas would welcome any documents, photographs or memories to assist with this (nn520712@googlemail.com or 01423 781387).
- b. *Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Joint Advisory Committee meeting:* Chairman noted that funding has been obtained for a major project to improve the River Skell Valley in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project will aim to rejuvenate twelve miles of the Skell Valley, improving the landscape's resilience to climate change, boosting the local economy and increasing people's access to green space.
- c. *YLCA Harrogate Branch Meeting, 8 February 2021:* It was noted that NYCC Leader Carl Les and HBC Chief Executive Wallace Sampson OBE would attend this meeting to answer questions and update on the proposed changes in North Yorkshire local authority structure. It was agreed that Chairman and Councillor Nicholas would attend this remote meeting in addition to Councillor Butler; **Clerk to circulate details.**
- d. No other local organisations or events were discussed.

2101/13 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: Cash management account interest to December 2020 £0.48. Payments: npower cmas lights (December) £5; M Pearson Clerk salary December 2020 £271.20; M Pearson Clerk salary January 2021 £271.20; Darley Playing Fields Association 2020/21 Grant £1,000; Eon Next cmas lights (January) £5.00; D. Hinds - Test and repair of Christmas Lights November 2020 £250; Dalebuild - Drainage advice re Walker Lane £240; TP Jones - Payroll services to December 2020 £27; M Pearson - Allowances and expenses to 31 December 2020 £171.93; Parish Caretaker - Leaf clearing November 2020 £360; SLCC Enterprises Ltd - Clerk ILCA training course £118.80.
- b. The budget for January 2021 was approved;
- c. It was noted that the current three year agreement for parish caretaking expires at the end of March 2021. **Clerk to invite quotes for new contract and add to a future agenda.**
- d. No other urgent financial matters were considered.

2101/14 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *Sustrans – Update on the Nidderdale Greenway extension from Ripley to Pateley Bridge:* It was noted that a draft report on the possible route had been circulated to Councillors and agreed that this should be discussed in more detail at a Council meeting; **Clerk to add to future agenda.**
- b. *North Yorkshire Police report to January 2021:* Eleven incidents were reported in the period 24 November – 19 January, including a report of a police scam fraud, four road traffic collisions, highway disruption due to the bad weather and two road-related offences (possible driving when over the limit and poor driving).
- c. *Harrogate Borough Council: Census Day:* It was noted that the National Census will be held on Sunday 21 March and that census information will be collected predominantly online.
- d. *North Yorkshire Youth – Offer to support parish council voluntary youth projects:* A letter has been received offering assistance with any voluntary youth work in the parish; **Clerk to circulate to Councillors.**
- e. *HBC – Garden waste collection licences are now available for 2021:* These can be obtained from HBC (www.harrogate.gov.uk/gardenwaste or 01423 500600).
- f. *Parishioner – Report of dead pheasants:* It was noted that on 6 January 2021, Clerk received a report of thirty-eight dead pheasants discarded near Delves Ridge Road. HBC was informed and cleared these on 11 January.

2101/15 Items for Information and next Agenda: None.

2101/16 Date of next meetings: 22 February; 29 March; 26 April; 24 May; 29 June (provisional).

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