

## Draft minutes of the meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 22 February 2021 from 7.30pm

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

**2102/1 Present:** Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D Dickinson (part), D McQueen, Borough Councillor Tom Watson (part) and the Clerk M Pearson. Five members of the public attended (three in part).

**2102/2 Apologies:** County Councillor Stan Lumley.

**2102/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations:** Councillor S Welch declared an interest in planning application 20/05202/DVCON as Chairman of the British American Committee for RAF Menwith Hill and took no part in the discussion or vote.

**2102/4 Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 were approved with one change – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darley Playing Fields Association is in April 2022.

**2102/5 Public Statements:** A parishioner spoke in relation to a letter they had received from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) asking for stones placed on verges outside their property on Main Street to be removed. It was noted that this is a requirement of the Highways Act and that there was nothing that the Council could reasonably do as a result. The Council suggested that County Councillor Stan Lumley could be contacted for assistance; **Clerk to forward contact details.**

A parishioner asked whether it would be possible for a verge outside their property to be planted with wildflowers. It was agreed that this should be discussed formally at a future meeting of the Council; **Clerk to add to next agenda.**

Clerk also read out two statements from parishioners objecting to planning application 21/00128/FUL *Erection of stables, tack and store. Delves Ridge Cottage Menwith Hill Road Darley* (please see Section 7b below). Reasons for objecting included that the proposed development would be contrary to the planning policy for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, would have a detrimental impact on the views of the open landscape, was to be constructed with materials which are out of keeping with the stone buildings in the vicinity of the site and that the ground is generally unsuitable for keeping horses.

### **2102/6 Coronavirus pandemic**

- a. It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (25 January 2021).
- b. A survey by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) regarding the holding of remote meetings was noted. The Council supported the establishment of a permanent power to hold remote meetings on the basis that it provided additional options for holding meetings (particularly meetings called to deal with urgent matters). It also supported the option to hold hybrid meetings (meetings where people were present in the room and remotely) on the basis that the provided more flexibility; **Clerk to submit survey to YLCA.**
- 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.

### **2102/7 Planning**

#### **a. Planning Decisions noted:**

20/04033/FUL Erection of balcony to rear. Crows Nest Daleside Park Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

20/05066/FUL Erection of single storey extension to rear and alterations to fenestration. Craven Lodge Low Green To Parish Boundary Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

#### **b. Planning Applications considered:**

20/05202/DVCON Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 17/04121/FUL to allow continued retention of the permitted communication tower with the demolition of the existing water tower deferred to occur by 1 January 2023. Planning permission 17/04121/FUL permitted the erection of a communications tower subject to the existing water tower being demolished by 15 February 2021 otherwise the permission expires on that date. RAF Menwith Hill Main Street Menwith Hill Camp NO OBJECTIONS

21/00077/FUL Erection of a two storey extension. Lollybogs Back Road High Birstwith NO OBJECTIONS

21/00128/FUL Erection of stables, tack and store. Delves Ridge Cottage Menwith Hill Road Darley

The Council NEITHER OBJECTED TO NOR SUPPORTED THE APPLICATION, expressing concern that the materials currently proposed would be out of keeping with the existing buildings near the site and suggesting that, if the planning application is permitted, a stone building may be more appropriate for the location.

NEITHER OBJECTS TO OR SUPPORTS

21/00362/FUL Alterations to existing conservatory to form garden room, alterations to existing patio doors and conversion of garage to form home office / ancillary use. Hall Field House Sheepcote Lane Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

21/00545/DISCON Approval of details required under condition 6 (highways) of planning permission  
18/05085/REM - Reserved matters application for (erection of 1 dwelling (appearance, landscaping & scale to be considered) under Outline Permission 16/05561/OUT. Development Land West Of Walker Barn Main Street Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

c. **Planning Enforcement:** It was noted that Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Planning Enforcement had closed case 20/00093/BRPC15 *Sheepcote Cottage Sheepcote Lane Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Alleged clear glass in first floor window (East elevation) (19/00180/FUL; 19/01524/FUL)* as it has been confirmed that the glass in the window is now obscured.

d. **Other planning matters:** None.

### 2102/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Borough Councillor Watson confirmed that HBC's budget for the year ending 31 March 2022 has now been approved by full council. Setting a budget has been difficult due to the Coronavirus pandemic and has required reserves to be drawn upon. There will be an increase in the element of Council Tax charged for HBC (for a Band D property this will be £5 for the year).

Within the Harrogate District, a total of 105 new affordable houses were completed in the three quarters to 31 December 2020. No HBC new build properties have been completed in this period but 19 units intended as short-term accommodation for the homeless are nearing completion.

There are over one thousand applications for Council accommodation in the district and this problem has been highlighted as one of the most significant for HBC.

Construction on the site for affordable accommodation on Valley Road, Darley, has been delayed by a utility problem but work is expected to commence in the next few weeks.

Borough Councillor Watson thanked all of the volunteers who have been helping with delivery of the Covid-19 vaccine. The Council also expressed its thanks to everyone involved.

### 2102/9 Highways and Footpaths

- a. *Drainage on Walker Lane, Darley:* It was noted that no response has been received from NYCC Area 6 Highways following a letter sent on 1 February 2021 or a subsequent follow-up. It was agreed that the Council should not take action on Walker Lane without involving NYCC Highways and that the matter should be escalated to Councillor Les, the leader of NYCC, to help progress the matter; **Clerk to draft letter.**
- b. *Surface repairs to Sheepcote Lane, Darley:* It was noted that NYCC Highways confirmed in correspondence kindly shared by a parishioner that repairs to the whole of Sheepcote Lane are scheduled for May 2021;
- c. *Water leak outside Hillside, Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that no response has been received from NYCC Area 6 Highways regarding this issue. It was agreed that assistance should also be sought from Councillor Les regarding this issue; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *Damage to grass verges near Nidd Lane on Main Street, Darley:* Clerk confirmed that Stumps Garage had agreed to avoid vehicles being parked on this verge as far as possible to limit the damage.
- e. *Possible use of Darley Memorial Hall car park as a public car park:* Chairman confirmed that no meeting of the Darley Memorial Hall Committee has taken place; **Chairman to update at a future meeting.**
- f. *Drain investigation work outside the Maples, Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that no response has been received from NYCC Area 6 Highways regarding this issue. It was agreed that assistance should also be sought from Councillor Les regarding this issue; **Clerk to action.**
- g. *Correspondence regarding obstruction on the highway, Main Street, Darley:* The Council noted the correspondence and the statement of the parishioner on the same matter (please see Section 5 above).
- h. Further correspondence regarding the issue of dog-fouling was noted. The Council referred to discussions at a number of earlier meetings and that it is intended that patrols will be carried out by HBC Environmental Protection Officers following the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions being lifted.
- i. No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

**2102/10 Proposed changes in North Yorkshire local authority structure:** Councillor Nicholas updated that a consultation by Central Government on this issue was expected to begin shortly and last for three months. It had not been decided whether one or both models put forward would be included in the consultation and noted that the two models put forward had advantage and disadvantages (e.g. level of support and potential financial

savings). It was agreed that a discussion on the two models and possible ramifications for the Parish Council should be added to a future agenda; **Clerk to action.**

### **2102/11 Village Maintenance**

- a. *Winter grit box refills:* It was noted that grit had been added to all of the grit boxes within the parish following the last meeting at a cost of £75 plus VAT. It was noted that the grit box situated on the building site on Valley Road is made of concrete and is in a bad state of a repair and therefore unsuitable for relocating. It was agreed that the Council should consider whether to purchase a new grit box for Nidderdale Hill View as part of establishing a gritting policy prior to next winter; **Clerk to add to future agenda.**
- b. *Tender for parish caretaker services from 1 April 2021:* Clerk confirmed that six local businesses had been approached for expressions of interest with a closing date of 19 March 2021. An advert has been placed on the village website. A summary paper will be produced for the next Council meeting (29 March) in order that a final decision can be made; **Clerk to add to next agenda.**
- c. No other village maintenance needs were discussed.

### **2102/12 Reports**

- a. *YLCA Harrogate Branch Meeting, 8 February 2021:* It was noted that local authority reorganisation was the main topic of discussion at this meeting (see Section 10 above). Other issues raised were not directly relevant for Darley and Menwith Parish.
- b. *Christ Church Community Centre Annual General Meeting, 3 March 2021:* It was noted that this meeting will take place by Zoom on 3 March from 7.30pm. Details to join the meeting are available from Angela Houseman ([angela@houseman.co.uk](mailto:angela@houseman.co.uk)).
- c. *YLCA remote training conference, 21-22 April 2021:* Receipt of a draft agenda for the meeting was noted and it was agreed that this should be circulated to Councillors to consider whether they would like to attend. Formal approval for attendance by the Clerk and any interested Councillors should be considered at the next meeting; **Clerk to action.**
- d. No other local organisations or events were discussed.

**2102/13 A Nidderdale Greenway:** The Council supported the establishment of a greenway route as it potentially provides a number of benefits to parishioners and local businesses. However, the Council stressed that a full and open public consultation held with affected landowners, local people and businesses is essential; **Clerk to submit Council feedback.**

### **2102/14 Finance**

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: Dacre Parish Council – Share of Clerk training costs (ILCA) £49.50; Payments: Eon next cmas tree lights (February) £5; M Pearson Clerk salary February 2021 £271.20; Parish Online Mapping Software subscription to January 2022 £42.
- b. The budget to February 2021 was approved;
- c. The reappointment of Mrs June Dowson as internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2021 was approved;
- d. It was noted that the installation of an inscribed remembrance plaque outside Darley Memorial Hall has not yet been considered by the Darley Memorial Hall Committee; **Chairman to update at a future meeting.**
- e. Correspondence from Nidderdale Community Welcome (NCW) regarding the rehoming of a refugee family into Nidderdale was noted. It was agreed that further information about NCW and the request would be required to consider a formal request for a grant; **Clerk to contact NCW.**
- f. The purchase of new hard drive and case for the Council laptop at a cost of £26.98 plus VAT was approved;
- g. The purchase of new Council legislation reference book (Local Council Administration) at an expected cost in the region of £119 was approved;
- h. The purchase of the two-yearly defibrillator service from Cardiaid at a cost of £250 plus VAT was approved;
- i. No other urgent financial matters were considered.

### **2102/15 Correspondence received by the Clerk:**

- a. *North Yorkshire Police report to February 2021:* One road traffic collision causing damage was noted in the period 19 January – 15 February 2021;
- b. *North Yorkshire Police – Pateley Bridge police station relocation:* It was noted that the police are expected to be based in the Old Workhouse, King Street, Pateley Bridge from the end of February 2021.

**2102/16 Clerk appraisal for the year ending 31 March 2021:** It was agreed that Chairman and Councillor Robertshaw should conduct Clerk's appraisal for the current year. Feedback will be sought from Councillors prior to holding an appraisal meeting online.

**2102/17 Items for Information and next Agenda:** It was agreed that the Parish Annual Assembly would be called by the Chairman for 26 April 2021 and that this event should be a remote meeting via Zoom.

**2102/18 Date of next meetings:** 29 March; 26 April (with Parish Assembly); 24 May (with Annual Meeting); 29 June (provisional); 26 July (provisional).

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