

Draft minutes of the meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 29 March 2021 from 7.30pm

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

2103/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D Dickinson, D McQueen, Borough Councillor Tom Watson (part) and the Clerk M Pearson. Four members of the public attended (part).

2103/2 Apologies: County Councillor Stan Lumley.

2103/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: None.

2103/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021 were approved.

2103/5 Public Statements: None.

2103/6 Coronavirus pandemic

- It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (22 February 2021).
- No further actions were required in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- No changes were recommended to the risk assessment concerning Council involvement in the Community Support Scheme.

2103/7 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

20/01564/FUL Construction of a radome and electrical sub station RAF Menwith Hill Main Street Menwith Hill Camp.
APPLICATION PERMITTED

20/01899/DVCON Application to vary condition 2 to relocate proposed garage of planning permission
17/02643/FUL - Conversion of existing garage to form annex, erection of detached garage and formation of hardstanding. Graylings Station Road Darley
APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

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
CONDITION DISCHARGED

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
PERMISSION GRANTED

21/00077/FUL Erection of a two storey extension. Lollybogs Back Road High Birstwith
APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

b. Planning Applications considered:

21/00601/FUL Conversion of redundant store to form a holiday cottage to include; new fenestration installed in the existing openings, re-roofing, the erection of a bike/bin store and the installation of a package treatment plant. Volta House Farm Day Lane Darley
NO OBJECTIONS

21/00693/FUL Erection of detached carport/garage with store. Oak Barn Stumps Lane Darley
NO OBJECTIONS

21/00743/FUL Erection of detached garage (revised scheme). Graylings Station Road Darley

Subject to obtaining confirmation that no trees were to be removed under this planning application, the Council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application; **Clerk to obtain confirmation from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Planning.**

c. Planning Enforcement noted:

21/00118/PR15 Holly House Farm Moorcock Lane Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Storage of tyres and builders waste in field (08/02404/FUL).

21/00141/BRPC15 Stocks Green Barn Main Street Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Breach of condition 2-20/01022/FUL (approved plans) (20/01022/FUL).

d. Other planning matters: None.

2103/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Borough Councillor Watson noted that a consultation on Harrogate Station Gateway, a £7.9m scheme intended to improve access and facilities at Harrogate railway and bus station, has recently completed. This a project involving HBC, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority working together.

Use of the Harrogate Convention Centre will be returned to HBC on 1 April 2021 and work will start to refit the building following its use by the NHS as a Nightingale Hospital.

Although a number of HBC leisure centres will open once restrictions are eased, Knaresborough swimming pool may not open immediately as it is in need of repairs. Users are asked to check that it is open before visiting.

Following a recent attempted burglary in Summerbridge, parishioners are advised to be vigilant and to keep doors locked when not in use.

2103/9 Highways and Footpaths

- a. *Drainage on Walker Lane, water leak outside The Maples, Main Street and water leak outside Hillside, Main Street:* It was noted that a letter was sent to Councillor Les, Leader of NYCC, on 2 March 2021 seeking assistance with the above issues following periods for which communication with NYCC Highways was difficult. It was noted that this did result in a swift apology from a customer relations officer but that there has still been no useful update-received regarding the two main issues, despite the involvement of Councillor Les, Councillor Mackenzie and the NYCC Highways communication team. It was agreed that Chairman and Clerk should follow-up; **Clerk to action**.
It was noted that NYCC Highways had confirmed that it intended to dig an inspection hole to try to determine the cause of the water leak outside Hillside, Main Street; **Clerk to monitor**.
- b. *Correspondence regarding Walker Lane, Darley:* It was noted that correspondence had been received from a parishioner concerned about the impact of the work carried out in October 2020 to clear shrubbery on Walker Lane on wildlife habitat. A suggestion to consider tree-planting and wildflower schemes to improve Walker Lane was noted. The Council agreed that consideration of work to improve drainage on Walker Lane should be completed before such ideas should be discussed further.
- c. *Blocked drains and gullies, Sheepcote Lane, Darley:* It was noted that following a report of three blocked drains and gullies on Sheepcote Lane on 17 March 2021, work had been taken to clear the gullies on Sheepcote Lane by NYCC Highways.
- d. *Roadworks planned within Parish:* It was noted that the resurfacing of Sheepcote Lane is understood to be planned for 20-30 April 2021 and resurfacing of Main Street in May 2021; **Clerk to provide further details regarding road closures and diversions when available**.
- e. *Footpath gate between Green Lane, Darley and Darley Beck:* A parishioner has reported difficulty using the gate following bad weather due to the amount of mud in the gateway. It was agreed that this should be reported to NYCC Public Rights of Way for assistance; **Clerk to report**.
- f. *Bench on Walker Lane, Darley:* A parishioner has reported difficulty accessing the Council bench on Walker Lane due to the uneven and muddy surface. It was agreed that Councillor Butler will try to flatten the surface down in the first instance.
- g. *Footpath alongside Field House, Darley:* It was reported that the render on a wall running alongside the footpath is breaking up. Councillor McAllister is aware of the problem and will speak to owners of the wall to seek further action to make safe.
- h. Outside of the Parish, it was noted that a collapsed wall has blocked the bridleway between Hartwith Bank and Stripe Lane; Borough Councillor Watson kindly agreed to assist. No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

2103/10 Proposed changes in North Yorkshire local authority structure: Councillor Nicholas confirmed that the consultation into two possible models for moving to a unitary authority structure for the Council will run until 19 April 2021. It was agreed that the Council would respond to the Consultation and voice support for the NYCC proposed model (one unitary authority for the City of York and one authority covering the remainder of the County) on the basis that this model provided most opportunity for parish councils to take on the provision of services where they choose to do so and to move issues forward; **Councillor Nicholas, Chairman and Clerk to prepare submission to the consultation**.

It was agreed that caution should be applied in considering whether the Council should take on the provision of additional services.

2103/11 Village Maintenance

- a. *Proposal to develop wildflower areas within the village:* It was noted that a request to develop wildflower verges was raised by a parishioner at the meeting in February and that a further proposal has been received suggesting other areas within Darley village (such as Stocks Green and Low Green) might be suitable for the sowing of wildflowers.

It was agreed that there are benefits to be achieved from the idea, although it was not thought practical to plant some village roadside verges with wildflowers. In the interests of ensuring sustainability, it was suggested that the volunteer group proposing the scheme liaise with Darley in Bloom to discuss how best to take it forward, including identifying a suitable small area for a pilot scheme and agreeing who would undertake the work and

on-going management. Once an area has been identified, the Council could then help obtain the relevant permissions (if not on land owned by the Council). The Council agreed that publicity (via the Parish Assembly in April 2021 and Focus on Darley) was important to raise awareness of the scheme and seek support from the community; **Chairman to assist with approach to Darley in Bloom and publicity.**

b. No other village maintenance needs were discussed.

2103/12 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: HMRC VAT repayment March 2020 – February 2021 £1,151.54; Payments: M Pearson Clerk allowances and expenses to 31 March 2021 £392.82, M Pearson Clerk salary (March) £271.20, Cardiaid defibrillator service £300, Eon Next cmas lights (March) £5, Darley Memorial Hall - Use of meeting room in October and November 2020 £30, TP Jones - Payroll services to March 2021 £27, Yorkshire Local Councils Associations subscription to 31 March 2022 £421.
- b. The budget to March 2021 was approved. It was noted that a surplus is likely in the current financial year; **Clerk to provide update on finance following year end.**
- c. The attendance of Clerk at the YLCA training conference was approved at a cost of £20 (a total cost of £40 shared with Dacre Parish Council); **Clerk to action.** No councillors wished to attend.
- d. It was agreed that the Council will purchase a new bench with a plaque commemorating the efforts of volunteers within the Parish during the Coronavirus pandemic at a cost estimated to be in the region of £500; **Chairman and Clerk to look at possible suppliers.** Councillors agreed to give some thought to a possible location for the bench; **Councillors to contact Clerk with any thoughts on location.**
- e. The subscription to YLCA for the year to 31 March 2022 was approved on the basis that the organisation provides important updates, draft documentation and advice to the Council and lobbies on issues which are important to the Council. No other urgent financial matters were considered.

2103/13 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *North Yorkshire Police report to March 2021:* It was noted that the report for the period 15 February – 22 March 2021 included two instances of fraud, three road-related offences and two Coronavirus-related incidents (a suspected covid-19 breach and a quarantine check).
- b. *GoCompare winter advice:* A request to add a link to an article regarding winter precautions advice to the Council website was noted. It was agreed that the Council policy to advertise only those businesses based within the Parish and surrounding areas should apply; **Clerk to notify requestor.**
- c. *UK Cycling Events: Yorkshire Tour Sportive cycling event 5 June 2021:* The plan to hold this cycling event was noted, together with advance notice that there may travel disruption on the day; **Clerk to add details to the Council website.**

2103/14 Parish Assembly: It was agreed that the Parish Assembly should be held on Monday 26 April at 8.15pm via Zoom/conference call. It was agreed that this should follow the ordinary meeting of the Council which should start at 7pm to facilitate the Parish Assembly. It was agreed that Chairman and Clerk should arrange for details to be displayed in the next week or so; **Chairman and Clerk to action.**

2103/15 Clerk Appraisal for the year ending 31 March 2021: It was noted that Clerk had performed well during the year, attended the relevant training and received positive feedback from Councillors. On this basis the recommendation to move to the next point on the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Payscale (Point 12) with effect from 1 April 2021 was agreed.

2103/16 Items for Information and next Agenda: It was noted that a new Code of Conduct for Councillors has been proposed by HBC and agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the next meeting (26 April); **Clerk to add to next agenda.**

2103/17 Date of next meetings: 26 April (from 7pm with Parish Assembly at 8.15pm); 24 May (with Annual Meeting); 29 June (provisional); 26 July (provisional).

2103/18 Awarding of new Parish Caretaker contract from 1 April 2021:

- a. It was agreed that for the purposes of maintaining commercial confidentiality, the public should be excluded from this item. All members of the public left the meeting at this point.
- b. It was agreed that on the basis of the proposals received, JE Benson should be appointed as caretaker for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2024; **Clerk to contact contractors to notify of decision.**

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