

Draft minutes of the meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 28 February 2022 from 8pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2202/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), E Butler, D McQueen, A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, J McAllister, D Dickinson, Borough Councillor Tom Watson (part) and the Clerk M Pearson. No members of the public attended.

2202/2 Apologies: County Councillor Stan Lumley.

2202/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: Councillors Nicholas and McQueen declared an interest in Item 9 as trustees of Darley Playing Fields Association and took no part in the vote.

2202/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2022 were approved.

2202/5 Public Statements: None.

2202/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted: None.

b. Planning Applications considered:

22/00461/FUL Retrospective planning permission for the erection of automatic gate and pillar structure
Silverdale Farm Silverdale Close Darley

NEITHER SUPPORTS OR OBJECTS

c. Planning Enforcement: None.

d. Other planning matters: It was noted that, excluding applications to discharge planning conditions there are now only six planning applications in the Parish made during the past 2 years awaiting a decision by HBC.

2202/7 County and Borough Councillors' Reports: Borough Councillor Watson confirmed that the draft Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) budget for the year ending 31 March 2023 has now been approved by HBC Full Council.

HBC is facing staffing issues, with a number of officers leaving to take up roles with other local authorities. This has led to some delays in giving planning decisions.

A grant scheme for projects to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be launched by HBC in early March;
Clerk to monitor.

Users of the leisure facilities at Harrogate Hydro (Jenny Field Drive, Harrogate) and Starbeck Swimming Baths (Spa Lane, Harrogate) are advised to check opening times before visiting. New facilities at the Jack Laugher Leisure and Wellness Centre (Dallamires Lane, Ripon) are open. HBC has obtained planning permission for a new swimming pool and leisure facility in Knaresborough.

Meetings with senior officers of North Yorkshire Police have recently resumed following restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was noted that it was not currently clear whether Nidderdale Group Practice (NGP) intends to return to seeing patients at the Grange Medical Centre, Dacre Banks. It was noted that the building is currently used by a dentist, The Yorkshire Hearing Clinic and functions as a dispensary for NGP.

2202/8 The North Yorkshire Council: It was noted that Councillor Nicholas and Chairman attended an online North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) meeting on 28 February 2022 regarding progress with setting up the new unitary authority for North Yorkshire.

Councillor Nicholas reported that a number of representatives from parish councils will be sought by the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations from its branch meetings to help form a Parish Charter (an agreement documenting the working relationship the new authority will have with town and parish councils). A consultation on the draft Parish Charter is expected in Autumn 2022, in order to implement the agreement from April 2023.

NYCC is also seeking six parish councils to take part in a pilot scheme to identify how devolution of service provision from the new authority to parish councils might work.

The next meeting is planned for June 2022.

2202/9 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: It was noted that a suitable date for Chairman and Clerk to meet with a Harrogate Steel to discuss a commemorative sculpture for the Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) Jubilee Boules Court at the playing fields, Darley is still being sought. It was agreed that this should take place as soon as possible; **Clerk to arrange.**

An alternative proposal to provide two commemorative benches alongside the Boules Court for use by participants and spectators was approved in principle, subject to DPFA identifying a suitable location. It was agreed that benches should be of the highest quality; **Clerk to investigate.**

The Council expressed its thanks to volunteers from RAF Menwith Hill and Nidderdale and Pateley Bridge Men's Shed who have agreed to give their time to help construct the Boules Court in April.

2202/10 Highways and Footpaths

- a. *Impact of recent storms:* Flooding within the Parish during the recent storms was noted. It was noted that a supply of sand-bags is available from the emergency box behind Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane (anyone taking sand-bags is asked to notify Clerk). It was agreed that the location of emergency sand-bags should be included in the next Focus on Darley newsletter; **Clerk to action.**
It was also noted that a trench on the building site on Stumps Lane (*Planning application 18/01927/FUL Erection of 5 new detached dwellings with central access road. Land Comprising Field At 420945 459286 Stumps Lane Darley*) led to significant amounts of water entering the highway during the storms.
- b. *Drainage issues on Walker Lane:* It was noted that NYCC Highways has identified problems with drainage in fields adjacent to Walker Lane and that it intends to contact the relevant landowners to discuss the remedial work required. Assistance with identifying landowners was requested by NYCC Highways; **Clerk to respond.**
- c. *Blocked gullies near Southfield Farm, Darley:* It was noted that these gullies were cleaned on 22 February 2022, along with a number of others within Darley.
- d. *NYCC signage for use of Darley Memorial Hall car park as a village car park:* It was noted that NYCC Highways has confirmed that an order has been made for a parking sign on Main Street, Darley; **Clerk to monitor.**
- e. It was noted that fallen trees near the bridge over the River Nidd, Nidd Lane, Darley, have been mostly cleared. It was also reported that sections of the path alongside the River Nidd in Dacre Parish have been eroded in the storms; **Clerk to report.** No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

2202/11 Village Maintenance

- a. *Planned replacement of Christmas Lights on Low Green, Darley:* It was noted that, other than the two identified to host lights currently in damaged/dead trees, Mr Hinds is of the view that there are no other available trees within Low Green. This is because other trees are either unsuitable for lights as they are in poor condition or because they are inaccessible from the road. In light of this it was agreed that Mr Hinds should be asked to replace the relevant infrastructure during Spring 2022, with new lights to be purchased to be fitted in November 2022; **Clerk to action.**
- b. *General waste bin on corner of Crake Lane and B6451:* It was noted that this has now been replaced.
- c. No other village maintenance needs were discussed.

2202/12 Reports

- a. *Nidderdale Plus Annual General Meeting, 8 February 2022:* Chairman reported that Nidderdale Plus took on a large number of roles during the Coronavirus pandemic and has involved around 150 volunteers in these projects. It is opening a new charity shop in Pateley Bridge and taking on two new staff members.
- b. *HBC Elections Update, 16 February 2022:* Clerk gave an overview of the key dates in the process for Councillors to be nominated, the forms to be completed and the requirements regarding submission of election spending returns. It was agreed that a copy of the HBC slides should be circulated to Councillors; **Clerk to action.** Anyone interested in being nominated as a candidate for Darley and Menwith Parish Council can also seek further information from Clerk.
- c. *North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Meeting, 26 May 2022:* This online meeting, to be attended by Councillor Nicholas, was noted.
- d. No other meetings and events were noted.

2202/13 Parish Assembly: It was noted that the Darley and Menwith Parish Assembly will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19 April 2022 in Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley. This will be held separately from the April ordinary meeting of the Council (to be held on Monday 25 April 2022 from 8pm).

2202/14 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: None. Payments: Eon Next cmas lights (February) £5.
- b. The budget for February 2022 was approved.
- c. Ms June Dowson was approved as internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2022.
- d. No other financial matters were discussed.

2202/15 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty / Freshwater Habitats Trust - Saving Nidderdale's Priority Ponds project:* A project to identify ponds within Nidderdale and the species within them was noted. Posters providing information have been displayed on noticeboards and postcards are available in the Darley village shop. Anyone interested can also contact Kate Wright (kate.wright@harrogate.gov.uk).
- b. *Green Lanes Environment Movement Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review – an opportunity to stop 'off-roading' in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty:* A request that the Council help

seek protection for green lanes by responding to the consultation was noted. It was agreed that a Council response should be considered at the next meeting; **Clerk to add to next agenda.**

- c. *Harrogate Rugby Union Club*: A request for assistance with publicising activities of this body was noted.
- d. *Soroptimist International*: A invitation to attend launch of toilet-twinning status campaign on 8 March 2022 was noted. It was agreed that the Council would thank the organisation and wish it well with the campaign; **Clerk to action.**

2202/16 Items for Information and next Agenda:

- a. To consider a Council response to the Glover Landscapes Review, and in particular the protection of green lanes;
- b. To consider proposal to provide commemorative benches alongside the Boules Court for use by participants and spectators.

2202/17 Date of next meetings: 28 March; 25 April; 23 May, 27 June (provisional), 25 July (provisional); 26 September (provisional).

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