

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 25 July 2022 from 8pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2207/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, J McAllister, P Ward, D Dickinson, R Ferguson, Borough Councillor Tom Watson (part), County Councillor Andrew Murday (part) and the Clerk (M Pearson). One member of the public attended (part).

2207/2 Apologies: Councillor N Nicholas due to a prior engagement.

2207/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: Councillor McAllister declared an interest in Item 12c on the basis of owning the land through which the footpath passes and took no part in the vote.

2207/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2022 were approved.

2207/5 Fire Service Update:

Tony Peel, Commander, Harrogate & Craven District, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (NYF&RS), spoke to introduce himself and his role within the area. Mr Peel noted the challenges currently faced by the service in recruiting on-call fire-fighters at some locations (including Summerbridge) and that there is currently a transformation review of the service being carried out.

A number of ways in which NYF&RS can help the community were noted, including:

- Safe and Well Visits - members of NYF&RS visit a home to carry out an inspection and advise on improvements that can be made from a safety perspective. Details can be found (including the form to book a visit) on the website (<https://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/your-safety/book-a-visit/>) or by calling the advice line (01609 788545);
- safety talks given at public events (such as fayres and fetes) or to children and young people at school or groups such as cubs and brownies; and
- assistance with difficult or dangerous projects (such as putting up bunting and filling large volumes of water).

The Council agreed that the information on Safe and Well Visits should be publicised in the next Focus on Darley newsletter; **Clerk to action.**

2207/6 Public Statements: None.

2207/7 Planning

a. **Planning Decisions** noted: None.

b. **Planning Applications** considered: None.

c. **Planning Enforcement** noted: None.

d. **Planning Appeals** noted: None.

e. **Other planning matters:**

(i) *HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 VARIATION ORDER (TPO 05/1970 (Variation 1))*: It was noted that correspondence with Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) had confirmed that the specific tree removed by the variation to the order (T124 Sycamore tree) had most likely been removed in the 1980's and that the advice of the HBC Arboricultural Officer had been to vary the order rather than request the planting of another tree.

(ii) *Building works at Doulton Lodge, Darley*: It was noted that a number of parishioners were concerned regarding the untidy condition of the property. The Council agreed that it would write to the owner, asking whether there is an intention to screen the site and asking the owner to tidy up the site to improve the amenity of the area; **Clerk to action.**

2207/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports:

County Councillor Murday noted that Covid-19 infections are increasing across the county and the impact of Long Covid is likely to become more of a problem in future. Parishioners are advised to be mindful of this and to take steps to minimise the spread of the virus.

It was noted that negotiations between North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the seven District Councils and Central Government civil servants regarding the new North Yorkshire Council are now complete and it is hoped that ministers will sign off the agreement soon.

It was noted that the problem of climate change has been highlighted by the recent record high temperatures and that there remain differing views as to how to manage the risk of wildfires on the surrounding moorland.

Attempts are being made to establish a position for a specific executive member of NYCC for climate change, alongside a scrutiny committee. At present climate change is considered as part of the remit of each and every executive councillor and scrutiny committee without a specific focus. NYCC voted to delay this for further discussions to take place.

County Councillor Murday hosted the NYCC executive member for Highways and Transport on a visit to the area recently and a number of poor-quality repairs to local roads and bridges were highlighted. It was emphasised that this leads to money from a limited budget being wasted when work has to be repeated.

Recent problems with traffic controls introduced for surveying work on the A59 at Kex Gill were noted (vehicles taking an unofficial diversion route caused difficulties for a local horse-riding event and residents). Area 6 NYCC Highways is aware of the issue and has been asked to prevent any repeat.

Borough Councillor Watson noted that the Turkish Baths in Harrogate has recently celebrated its 125-year anniversary.

It was noted that water usage on Monday 18 July was at a record high level and that reservoirs are now at around 56% of capacity (20% lower than expected). Parishioners are asked to use water sparingly.

The HBC Overview & Scrutiny Commission has completed a draft report into the 2019 UCI Road World Championships hosted in Harrogate and has passed its findings to the HBC Cabinet. The minutes of the recent meeting give details of the findings (<https://democracy.harrogate.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=5363>).

2207/9 The North Yorkshire Council: It was noted that the update call on 30 June 2022 regarding the latest developments in the migration towards the unitary authority structure didn't include much new information and that it remains unclear as to where the North Yorkshire Council administrative centre for parishes within the Skipton and Ripon Parliamentary Constituency will be located.

2207/10 River Nidd water quality: Correspondence received from the Harrogate Flyfisher's Club regarding the poor water quality of the River Nidd was noted. The Council expressed its support for initiatives to reduce pollution of the river and it was agreed that Councillor Welch would attend a meeting arranged with Yorkshire Water in August on behalf of the Council; **Councillor Welch to update at next meeting.**

2207/11 Nidderdale Greenway Extension: It was noted that County Councillor Murday expects that the steering group will now look to form a new entity (most likely a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or Community Interest Company) in order to take the project forward and seek additional funding.

The Council expressed its support for the principle of creating a greenway extending from Clint to Pateley Bridge through Darley and Menwith Parish.

2207/12 Highways and footpaths

- a. *Advertising board on corner of B6451 and Menwith Hill Road:* It was noted that NYCC Highways Area 6 was made aware that this new advertising board has been reported to affect sight lines for those leaving Menwith Hill Road in May 2022 and has asked the relevant business to move the sign. It was agreed that it should be confirmed whether the sign requires planning permission; **Clerk to action.**
- b. *Drainage on Walker Lane, Darley:* It was noted that a parishioner had raised concerns that the work carried out on ditches and culverts on Walker Lane by NYCC Highways had created a flooding problem for houses on Stocks Lane, Darley. NYCC Highways had confirmed that the work carried out recently was only to repair damaged drainage systems (in order to prevent water running down the surface Walker Lane) and that this was the maintenance of existing drains only. NYCC Highways confirmed that it will contact the relevant landowners to ask that any blocked drains on private land are maintained.
- c. *Installation of new fence alongside footpath next to Field House, Darley:* It was noted that a replacement fence installed next to the footpath had narrowed the footpath. The Council expressed a concern that the footpath has been narrowed and, noting that the footpath was previously less than the standard width for a public footpath and that a good quality fence had been installed, decided to monitor the situation. It was noted that render on the wall opposite continues to fall onto the path and the Council agreed to contact the relevant property owners to ask that the wall be made safe; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *Access to pavements:* It was noted that a number of trees overhanging the pavement on Main Street, Darley, are in need of pruning and agreed that the relevant property owners be contacted to ask that these are cut back; **Clerk to action.** It was also agreed that a general reminder regarding this should be included in the Focus on Darley newsletter in Spring 2023; **Clerk to action.**
- e. *Parking on verges:* It was agreed that a general request for parishioners not to park on verges within Darley village should be included in the next Focus on Darley newsletter; **Clerk to action.**
- f. No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

2207/13 Village Maintenance

- a. *Collapse of wall, Low Lane, 2 July 2022:* Correspondence from a parishioner stating that the Parish Caretaker had knocked over a section of wall whilst cutting the verges on Low Lane was noted. It was noted that the Parish Caretaker was of the view that the damage had not been caused by his employee. Further

concerns raised by the parishioner regarding the parish caretaker were noted. The Council agreed to review its policy regarding the cutting of verges on Low Lane in early 2023; **Clerk to add to future agenda.**

- b. *Council policy regarding donations of commemorative items (such as benches):* It was agreed that the Council was not accepting donations at present but that, for transparency, a policy regarding the donation of benches should be drafted and approved at a future meeting of the Council; **Clerk to action.**
- c. It was noted that new infrastructure for the Christmas Lights on Low Green had been installed during July 2022. No other village maintenance tasks were agreed.

2207/14 Reports:

- a. *Harrogate Borough Council Code of Conduct training, 28 June 2022:* It was noted that a recording of the online training is available; **Clerk to circulate.**
- b. *Darley Memorial Hall meeting regarding change of legal structure, 29 June 2022:* It was noted that a change to Darley Memorial Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation had been approved.
- c. *Darley Playing Fields Association:* Councillor Ward noted that it had been agreed at a recent meeting to purchase a new strimmer as the old one could not be repaired.
- d. *Knabs Ridge Wind Farm Community Fund:* It was noted that applications for micro grants (up to £500) are now being accepted (<https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/fund/knabs-ridge-wind-farm-community-fund/>).
- e. It was noted that the Darley in Bloom Open Gardens event in July raised £1,850 and that there were over two hundred visitors. There will be a musical evening event for Darley in Bloom on 23 September 2022 at the Darley Memorial Hall.

2207/15 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: Deposit account interest to 30 June 2022 £9.21. Payments: Eon Next cmas lights (July) £5, Information Commissioners Office Annual data protection fee £35; D. Hinds – Installation of new infrastructure for Christmas lights on Low Green, July 2022 £300.
- b. The budget for July 2022 was approved.
- c. The attendance of Clerk on the YLCA Training Conference in September 2022 at a cost to the Council of £60 plus travel expenses was approved.
- d. No other financial matters were discussed.

2207/16 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *Nidderdale Plus July email newsletter:* **Clerk to circulate to Councillors.**
- b. *National Association of Local Councils – Survey on short term holiday lets:* A consultation to 21 September 2022 was noted; **Clerk to circulate to Councillors.**

2207/17 Items for Information and next Agenda: None.

2207/18 Date of next meetings: 26 September; 31 October; 28 November; 30 January 2023; 27 February 2023; 27 March 2023.

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