

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 26 June 2023 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2306/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, J McAllister, P Ward, R Ferguson, D Dickinson, J Hayes, County Councillor A Murday (part) and the Clerk (M Pearson). No members of the public attended.

2306/2 Apologies: None.

2306/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: None.

2306/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the two meetings held on 22 May 2023 were approved.

2306/5 Public Statements: None.

2306/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

ZC23/01853/SCREEN Request for EIA Screening Opinion for New Support Facility RAF Menwith Hill Main Street Menwith Hill Camp ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOT REQUIRED

b. Planning Applications considered:

ZC23/01854/FUL Erection of detached stables with attached solar PV panels, hardstanding and fencing. Low Fold Silverdale Close Darley. NO OBJECTIONS

ZC23/01975/FUL Erection of front porch Kerry Hill Cottage Sheepcote Lane Darley. NO OBJECTIONS

ZC23/02070/FUL Demolition of existing 2 storey outbuilding. Construction of part single storey part two storey extension to the west. Stair extension to the north. Erection of a carport. Menwith Hill Top Barn Menwith Hill

The Council OBJECTED to the planning application on the basis that the scheme would lead to over-development of the site and the proposed materials are out of keeping with both the existing building and other buildings in the local area. COUNCIL OBJECTS

c. Planning Enforcement: It was noted that no further update had been received in respect of 22/00361/PR15 *Doulton Lodge Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Untidy land and engineering operations (16/00062/FUL, 15/03092/AMENDS)* from North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Planning Enforcement since 30 March 2023, despite a request for an update by Clerk on 16 June 2023. It was noted that parishioners continue to express concern regarding the untidiness of the site and its impact on the village and surrounding properties. County Councillor Murday agreed to help follow up on this case within NYC; **Clerk to forward latest correspondence to County Councillor Murday.**

d. Other Planning:

- (i) *Planning Update training course attended by Clerk, 24 May 2023:* It was noted that the course covered a number of current and upcoming changes to the planning system including a number of pilot schemes around the country aimed at developing design codes for particular areas (effectively a set of rules which, if met, should lead to planning permission being granted), the centralisation of some planning decisions (such as extensions to schools and hospitals) and changes to increase the scope of permitted development (for example for electronic infrastructure); **Clerk to circulate slides.**
- (ii) *Damage to grass verges outside Stumps Lane development (Land Comprising Field At 420945 459286 Stumps Lane Darley):* It was noted that this was reported following the Darley and Menwith Parish Assembly and that NYC Planning Enforcement opined that this may be a NYC Highways issue. It was agreed that this should be followed up as there was a risk that the verges used by construction traffic may continue to be used as parking spaces if not reinstated; **Clerk to action.**

2306/7 County Councillor's Reports: County Councillor Murday reported the following:

Nidderdale Youth Council: Three meetings of the Youth Council have now been held. County Councillor Murday aims to visit all schools within Nidderdale to encourage more pupils to become involved.

Nidd Valley Saw Mills development, Dacre Banks: The planning application for development of this site in the neighbouring Dacre Parish has been refused.

Locality Budget grants: The £10,000 locality budget is available again this year and applications for grants are encouraged.

Mother and Children's Walk-in Centre, Pateley Bridge: NYC has proposed the closure of this walk-in centre for mothers and children, which has been mothballed since the start of the pandemic. A proposal has been made that this facility, which is within St Cuthbert's school, might be developed into a multi-generational centre.

Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) new games court: County Councillor Murday has met with DPFA with a view to NYC helping fund development of the new facility. A possible application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is also being considered.

DPFA access road and car park: A number of neighbours to the playing fields are experiencing problems with dust from the road. It has been agreed with NYC that a new surface material will be applied to reduce the problem.

Parishioner having problems with storage of portable food outlet: County Councillor Murday has been contacted by a parishioner who is having problems finding a suitable location for storing his portable food outlet. It was suggested that storage may be available in neighbouring Hartwith cum Winsley Parish (Stripe Lane, Hartwith).

Capped bus service costs: County Councillor Murday has received confirmation that the current capped fare of £2 for bus journeys will be replaced on 1 November 2024 with a £2.50 capped fare through to 30 November 2024. At this point a review will be carried out. It was agreed that this should be noted on the Council website and in the next edition of Focus on Darley; **Clerk to action.**

2306/8 Council policies review:

- a. *Risk Assessment Strategy:* The proposed changes to the Council's risk assessment were agreed; **Clerk to post on Council website.**
- b. *Financial Regulations (Main), Financial Regulations (Full) and Standing Orders:* Changes to these documents to reflect the updated procurement thresholds were approved; **Clerk to post on Council website.** It was agreed that a new section should be included in the Financial Regulations (Full) to specify the additional internal control checks which should be carried out by two Councillors twice a year; **Clerk to draft.**

2306/9 Highways and footpaths:

- a. *Problems with road surface around Main Street / Stumps Lane junction:* It was noted that the last correspondence regarding this issue was an update from NYC Highways on 30 March 2023, supplied via County Councillor Murday, confirming that an engineer would inspect and arrange for any remedial works required to be carried out. County Councillor Murday agreed to follow up with NYC Highways.
- b. *Cleaning of gullies on B6451:* It was noted that the recent gully-cleaning carried out around Darley did not include the gullies on the main road. An order has been placed by NYC Highways to be done in the next 3-7 weeks; **Clerk to monitor.**
- c. *Grass-cutting of former Harrogate Borough Council areas (Low Green and outside Council offices):* It was noted that a number of parishioners have expressed concern that the cutting of grass by NYC in these areas is less frequent (every six weeks or so). It was agreed that the Council should seek confirmation of the grass-cutting schedule from NYC; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *"Give Way" sign opposite the Wellington Inn, Darley:* This sign was reported to be bent and leaning; **Clerk to report to NYC Highways.**
- e. *Sheepcote Lane sign (junction with B6451):* It was noted that this sign is broken and in need of replacement; **Clerk to report to NYC.**
- f. *Pothole in pavement, Daleside, Darley:* It was noted that a pothole is opening up on the pavement near Daleside; **Clerk to report to NYC Highways.**
- g. *Car leaking oil into drain, Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that a car is leaking oil into a drain on Main Street, Darley, near the junction with Sheepcote Lane. It was agreed that the owner should be asked to fix the problem; **Chairman to action.**
- h. *Wall next to layby on Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that the wall alongside the layby is breaking up and may become dangerous. Understanding the verge is likely to belong to NYC Highways, County Councillor Murday agreed to report the matter within NYC.

2306/10 Village Maintenance

- a. *"Lanes and junctions" annual grass-cut by the Parish Caretaker:* It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should be asked to carry out this cut for road safety reasons; **Clerk to notify Parish Caretaker.**

2306/11 Reports

- a. *Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhoods Group, 7 June 2023:* Councillor Robertshaw reported that the meeting was poorly-attended by representatives of the twelve Parish Councils that are invited and asked County Councillor Murday to highlight the date of the next meeting (6 September 2023) at other Parish Council meetings he attends. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting had been circulated to Councillors.
- b. *Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) Harrogate Branch Meeting, 12 June 2023:* Councillor Ferguson reported that the meeting noted the issue of lack of consultation with neighbouring parishes for planning applications that are near a Parish boundary (there is no statutory requirement for the neighbouring Parish Council to be consulted), questions regarding the audit trail for payments by developers under the Section 106 / commuted sums regime and the difficulties experienced by Parish Councils in challenging planning matters through judicial review due to the cost and cap on spending. It was noted that YLCA is developing a development plan for Councillors aimed at providing ongoing training after the initial course.
- c. *RAF Menwith Hill Civic Leaders Briefing, 21 June 2023:* Chairman reported that the briefing confirmed that new gate on Menwith Hill Road is expected to be operational in Spring 2024 and that the road should reopen in August 2023 as planned. A new Deputy Base Director is expected to be appointed soon.

- d. *Nidderdale Plus*: It was noted that Nidderdale Plus is carrying out a quality of life survey (www.nidderdaleplus.org.uk/nidderdale-quality-of-life-survey-goes-live/).

2306/12 Clerk performance appraisal: It was agreed that Chairman and Councillor Robertshaw should carry out the appraisal and that Clerk would seek feedback from all Councillor prior to the appraisal meeting; **Clerk to action.**

2306/13 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: None. Payments: YLCA – Planning training course Clerk £25, Focus on Darley – Subscription to 2024 £55, Clerk Salary to 30 June 2023 £916.56, Clerk Allowances and expenses to 30 June 2023 £176.77, Eon Next electricity for Christmas tree lights (June) £5, YLCA – New Councillor training course Councillor Ward £33.40.
- b. The budget for June 2023 was approved.
- c. *Cardiaid service contract:* It was noted that the service of the CardiAid defibrillator had been delayed until June 2023 but was now being carried out and that payment for the service had recently been sent.

2306/13 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *YLCA: D-DAY 80 - 6TH June 2024:* It was noted that there is an opportunity for Parish Councils to host events commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day through the lighting of beacons.
- b. *YLCA: Meeting with Assistant Chief Constable Scott Bisset - Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 6:30pm:* This online meeting was noted; **Clerk to circulate details.**
- c. *Dogs Trust: Dogs Trust Community Hubs:* It was noted that Dogs Trust is offering subsidised training and behavioural support for parishioners who are struggling with the cost of living. It was agreed that this should be advertised on the Council website and in Focus on Darley; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *YLCA Light up Blue NHS 75:* It was noted that a number of buildings will be lit in blue on the evening of 5 July 2023; **Clerk to circulate to Councillors.**

2306/14 Items for Information and next Agenda: It was noted that the Knabs Ridge Wind Farm Community Fund panel is meeting on 27 June 2023 and that the updated Financial Regulations (Full) (Item 8b above) and Clerk Performance Appraisal (Item 12) should be added to the next agenda.

2306/15 Date of next meetings: 31 July, 25 September, 30 October, 27 November, 29 January 2024.

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