

## Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 30 October 2023 from 7.15pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

**2310/1 Present:** Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, R Ferguson, J Hayes, P Ward, D Dickinson (part), J McAllister (part), County Councillor A Murday (part) and Clerk (M Pearson). Four members of the public attended (part).

**2310/2 Apologies:** None.

**2310/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None.

**2310/4 Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2023 were approved.

**2310/5 Talk and question & answer session with PC Michael Spittlehouse, North Yorkshire Police:** PC Spittlehouse was unable to attend. It was agreed that PC Spittlehouse should be invited to attend a meeting in the New Year; **Clerk to action.**

**2310/6 Public Statements:** Please see Item 12a below.

### 2310/7 Planning

#### a. Planning Decisions noted:

ZC23/02273/DVCON Application to vary condition 2 from application 22/04353/LB to Replace floorboards in bedroom 1, replace lath and plaster ceilings, internal insulation to all external walls with breathable insulation board and lime plaster finish, removal of internal lobby at ground floor, install en-suite to bedroom 1, structural repairs and insert sound insulation and plasterboard between joists in ground floor room. Permission is sought to remove three lath and plaster partition walls to allow repairs to the supporting structure below and to replace with timber stud and partition walls as well as replace all floorboards at first floor level. Fringill Top Stumps Lane Darley

APPLICATION PERMITTED

ZC23/03363/FUL Proposed first and ground floor infill extension to north and extension to existing store to east elevation to create new entrance porch Oak Barn Stumps Lane Darley

APPLICATION PERMITTED

ZC23/03501/PNA Erection of agricultural storage building. Land Comprising Field At 419959 459673 Darley

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

ZC23/03225/FUL Demolition of existing 2 storey outbuilding (Office/garage/store). Construction of part single storey part 2 storey extension to the west, stair extension to the north and carport Menwith Hill Top Barn Menwith Hill

APPLICATION PERMITTED

#### b. Planning Applications considered:

ZC23/03357/FUL Erection of stable and store West Croft Day Lane Darley.

The Council agreed that it could not give a view on the planning application as it included insufficient information regarding the intended use of, and access to, the building and that further information should be sought from North Yorkshire Council (NYC); **Clerk to action.**

ZC23/03552/CLEUD Certificate of lawfulness for an existing rear single storey extension Holme Cottage Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

ZC23/03627/FUL Extension to existing cricket pavilion to create a larger home changing room and larger social area. Darley Cricket Club Cricket Ground Crake Lane Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

#### c. Planning Enforcement:

- (i) *22/00361/PR15 Doulton Lodge Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Untidy land and engineering operations (16/00062/FUL, 15/03092/AMENDS):* It was noted that County Councillor Murday had asked NYC Planning Enforcement for other options to be considered on 30 September 2023 but that no response had been received. It was agreed that the Council would revisit this again in three months if there has been no progress.

The Council also asks that anyone (including local businesses) affected by the condition of the site to report this to NYC Planning Enforcement ([planningenforcement.har@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:planningenforcement.har@northyorks.gov.uk), copying in County Councillor Murday [cllr.Andrew.Murday@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Andrew.Murday@northyorks.gov.uk)).

- (ii) *30 mph speed limit change, Stumps Lane, Darley (16/01705/FULMAJ Erection of 9 dwellings (Site Area 0.66 ha) Land Comprising Field At 421065 459328 Stumps Lane Darley):* It was noted that the movement of the 30mph limit was in progress.

#### d. Other planning matters:

- (i) *ZC23/03550/TPO Fell 1 no. Ash tree of Tree Preservation Order No. 05/1970 A7 as it is dead. Greenbanks Niddside Darley:* It was noted that Clerk had submitted an agreed response to this planning application under delegated authority with the agreed wording "The Parish Council neither supports nor objects to this application but recommends that the advice of the North Yorkshire Council Arboricultural Specialist is followed".
- (ii) *NYC Local Plan:* It was noted that NYC is starting the process to form a new Local Plan for the county's planning area (excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park and North York Moors National Park) and that the Council will be a statutory consultee; **Clerk to monitor.**

**2310/8 County Councillor's Reports:** County Councillor Murday reported the following:

Consultation on social housing: NYC is carrying out a consultation on the allocation of social housing to 27 November 2023: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/housingallocations](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/housingallocations).

Road repairs: County Councillor Murday has tabled a question for the executive member for Highways regarding the road maintenance programme in North Yorkshire. Nationally, road maintenance has decreased in the last five years and County Councillor Murday is keen to establish if this is the case in North Yorkshire.

Planning procedures: County Councillor Murday confirmed that at present planning departments are still operating as they were prior to reorganisation and that they have yet to develop a single system of managing applications. There are questions as to whether the current system for applications to be called in for consideration by NYC Planning Committees is working effectively.

Nidderdale Greenway: County Councillor Murday is compiling a report for NYC regarding the surveys carried out by the steering group. It is hoped that this can be made available to relevant Parish Councils.

Community Governance Review: It was noted that Thornthwaite and Padside Parish Meeting would be part of this review and that there had been no contact between this Parish Meeting and the Council regarding a merger.

**2310/9 Code of conduct:** It was agreed that the proposed draft code of conduct should be adopted; **Clerk to action.**

**2310/10 River Nidd Bathing Water Application:** It was noted that Andrew Jones MP had submitted an application for the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd at Knaresborough to be designated as bathing water. The Council agreed that it supported the application on the basis that it should help to clean up the River Nidd in general.

### **2310/11 Highways and footpaths**

- a. *Possible upgrade of two stiles within the Parish:* It was noted that Councillor McAllister had held constructive discussions with one landowner and that replacement of one stile with a gate might be possible in 2024. It was agreed that possible sources of grant funding should be investigated; **Clerk to action.** It was agreed that Councillor McAllister should approach the second landowner before the next meeting; **Clerk to add to agenda.**
- b. *B6451 gullies:* It was noted that NYC Highways arranged for the gullies on the B6451 to be cleaned during October 2023 and that a blocked drain connecting two gullies outside Darley Cricket Ground had been reported to NYC Highways on 24 October 2023; **Clerk to monitor.**
- c. *Blocked culvert on Menwith Hill Road:* It was noted that NYC Highways had agreed to inspect this again following contact by County Councillor Murday; **Clerk to monitor.**
- d. *Deterioration of the road surface at the junction of Main Street and Stumps Lane, Darley:* It was noted that Clerk had made a further report of this to NYC Highways on 9 October 2023 but that no response had been received.
- e. *Closure of A59 Kex Gill:* It was noted that the A59 at Kex Gill is expected to be closed to 12 November 2023.
- f. *Closure of Menwith Hill Road outside RAF Menwith Hill:* It was noted that this road is expected to be closed until 15 December 2023.
- g. *Footpath on Main Street, Darley (Walker Lane to the West end of the village):* It was noted that reports have been received that the footpath has deteriorated in places and agreed it should be monitored; **All to monitor.**
- h. *Closure of Stumps Lane, Darley:* A closure until 3 November 2023 (Northern Gas Networks) was noted.

### **2310/12 Village Maintenance**

- a. *Council survey regarding wildflowers:* The wording of the draft survey was agreed with two minor amendments. It was agreed that the printed survey should be included in the next Focus on Darley village newsletter as an insert at an expected cost in the region of £70; **Clerk to action.**  
Members of the public spoke to express disappointment at the extent of objection that has been made to the wildflower project and to reiterate Darley in Bloom's position (i.e. that wildflower areas are acceptable in the right place and that its members do not have capacity to be involved in the project).
- b. *Rats at Fringill Beck:* A report from a parishioner that a large number of rats had been observed at Fringill Beck and Oddy Garth was noted. It was noted that the tenant of Oddy Garth was aware of the problem and has bait stations in and around the stable. It was noted that the tenant believes that food that is thrown into the field for the goats may be attracting the rats (the goats do not eat it). It was queried whether straw bedding on the site might also be encouraging the rats. It was agreed that the tenant should be asked to display signs, visible from Main Street, highlighting the problem and to remove waste bedding; **Clerk to action.** It was agreed that the Council would ask parishioners not to feed the goats in the next Focus on Darley newsletter; **Clerk to action.**
- c. *Redecoration of the bus shelter on Low Green, Darley:* It was noted that the Parish Caretaker had suggested a local decorator but that he did not have the capacity. It was agreed that quotes should be sought; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *Christmas Lights on Low Green, Darley:* Clerk reported that he had been unable to meet with Derek Hinds to discuss the lights. The Council agreed that Mr Hinds should be asked to check the lights but also add extra lights if feasible; **Clerk to action.**
- e. *Streetlight 4, Low Green, Darley:* It was reported that this light is out; **Clerk to report to NYC Highways.**
- f. *Fringill Beck steps:* It was noted that gravel had been added to the steps at Fringill Beck by Clerk and a volunteer parishioner.

### **2310/13 Reports:**

- a. *Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) Harrogate Branch meeting, 16 October 2023:* Councillor Ferguson reported that the meeting included a presentation from NYC regarding Commuted Sums and that the YLCA has agreed to take forward the Council's question regarding difficulties in obtaining the right contact within NYC to help with issues that arise. Attendees also felt that NYC employees did not engage well with Parish Councils. The Council noted that the NYC telephone system remains problematic, with repeated recorded messages and a request to summarise the query in three words.
- b. *Upcoming local events noted:*

2 November 2023: Darley in Bloom will hold an antiques evening at Darley Memorial Hall;

5 November 2023: Darley Playing Fields Association Fireworks display at Darley Playing Fields;  
 7 November 2023: Darley Memorial Hall CIO Annual General Meeting at Darley Memorial Hall;  
 12 November 2023: Remembrance Concert at Darley Memorial Hall (2-4pm);  
 16 November 2023: RAF Menwith Hill Thanksgiving Dinner, Darley Memorial Hall (by invitation);  
 30 November 2023: Nidderdale Plus Slipper Social. Darley Methodist Church (10am-12pm);  
 12 December 2023: Focus on Darley Christmas Tea Party, Darley Memorial Hall.

#### **2310/14 Finance**

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: Deposit account interest (September 2023) £59.46; NYC Precept part 2 £7,875. Payments: Eon Next - Cmas lights (October) £25.38, Vision ICT - Email addresses to October 2024 £64.80, M Pearson Clerk expenses to 28 October 2023 (grit bins, defib pads, mobile phone top-up, postage, gravel) £390.88, Royal British Legion Poppy - Remembrance wreaths x 2 £40.
- b. The budget for October 2023 was approved.
- c. *2024/25 Budget and Precept:* It was noted that these will be agreed at the November meeting of the Council and that Councillors should submit any proposals for expenditure in the next financial year to Clerk no later than 17 November 2023.
- d. It was agreed that Vision ICT should continue to be engaged to provide the Chairman and Clerk email addresses for the year to October 2024 at a cost of £54 plus VAT.
- e. A budget of £300 was agreed for Derek Hinds to check the lighting on Low Green, Darley and fit any replacement lights necessary (from the stock held by the Council).

#### **2310/15 Correspondence received by the Clerk:**

- a. *NYC Statutory Notice - Hackney Carriage Zones:* It was noted that NYC intends to create one taxi licensing zone from 30 November 2023.
- b. *NYC Recharging For Parish By-Elections from April 2024:* It was noted that NYC intends to charge for Parish Council by-elections from April 2024.
- c. *NYC Draft Housing Strategy: 2024-2029 consultation:* A consultation to 11 December 2023 was noted and it was agreed that the Council should consider submitting a response at its November 2023 meeting; **Clerk to add to agenda.**
- d. *NYC Polling District Review consultation:* A consultation to 13 November 2023 was noted. It was noted that no changes are proposed for voting arrangements in Darley and Menwith Parish.
- e. *North Yorkshire Council: Statutory Consultation on Annual Budget:* A consultation on NYC's spending priorities to 18 December 2023 was noted (<https://letstalkny.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/survey-money2/step1>).

#### **2310/16 Items for Information and next Agenda:** None.

**2310/17 Date of next meetings:** 27 November, 29 January 2024, 26 February 2024, 25 March 2024, 29 April 2024, 20 May 2024.

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