

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 23 June 2025 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2506/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), P Ward, J Hayes, R Ferguson, J McAllister, D Dickinson (part), and Clerk (M Pearson). One member of the public attended (part).

2506/2 Apologies: Councillor A Robertshaw due to holiday.

2506/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: None.

2506/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the two meetings held on 19 May 2025 were approved.

2506/5 Public Statements: A parishioner spoke to highlight that concerns remain regarding the impact of dust from the surface of the track alongside Darley playing field on the health of nearby residents and wildlife. It was reported that Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) is in contact with North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and is keen to commission tests to try to determine the extent of the risk of harm. DPFA is also planning to implement a 5 mph speed limit on the track to try to minimise the disturbance of dust. It was agreed that the Council would write to NYC Councillor Andrew Murday to reiterate the concerns raised and ask for tests to be carried as a matter of urgency; **Clerk to action.**

2506/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

ZC25/00991/FUL Proposed demolition of workshop and associated building and erection of 1 no. dwelling, conversion and extension of existing barn to form 1 no. dwelling, change of use of holiday accommodation to form 1 no. dwelling; extensions and alterations to the existing farmhouse and the wider development of the site to provide parking and landscaping including change of use of adjoining agricultural land. Holly House Farm Darley

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

b. Planning Applications considered:

25/01340/FUL Installation of solar panels to the Sports Hall. Forest Moor School Menwith Hill Road Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

25/01579/FUL Demolition of rear conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rear dormer window and alterations to fenestration Stream Lea Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

25/01587/FUL Replacement main access bridge over Darley Beck, additional landscaping works to allow for remodelling of the compensatory water storage on the site and formation of new trackway. Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

25/01619/LB Listed building application for conversion and extension of Mill Building to form 9 Residential Units including removal / relocation of machinery, ladders and glazed screen, insertion of staircases and mezzanine floor, and new and replacement doors and windows. Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

25/01883/DVCMAS Section 73 application for the reorientation of House 7 (Plot 12), varied scheme of conversion of the mill to five apartments and four houses including altered balconies and locations of rooflights, raising of eaves and ridge height of House 4 (Plot 9), and variations to hard and soft landscaped areas, amenity spaces and a storage building /car port. Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

c. Planning Enforcement: It was noted that there are no new cases and no updates on existing cases.

d. North Yorkshire Council Local Plan:

(i) *NYC Issues and Options Consultation:* The Council agreed it would respond with the following comments:

- the choice of sites for development should be based on the availability of supporting infrastructure (e.g. schools and doctors' practices) and reliable public transport (taking into account both existing services and any potential reduction in service in the longer term); and
- settlement development limits should be maintained as these are an important part of protecting the character and nature of settlements; **Clerk to draft.**

(i) It was noted that no new sites within Darley and Menwith Parish have been added to the Call for Sites map since the last Council meeting (19 May 2025).

e. Other planning matters: None.

2506/7 County Councillor's report: Clerk read a report from County Councillor Murday which included the following:

Local plan consultation: There will be a consultation on the local plan from 19 May 2025 to 15 July 2025. This consultation is focussed on the scope of the plan, overall vision, objectives, growth strategy and thematic matters rather than specific place related (<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/2025/consultation-starts-plan-drive-economy-and-support-communities>)

Neighbourhood policing: It has been reported that the Pateley Bridge neighbourhood police officer is now being stationed in Ripon. County Councillor Murday has spoken to a senior officer about this at the Skipton and Ripon Area Committee who was unaware of the change but will investigate.

Darley playing fields: County Councillor Murday has asked NYC officers to advise on any possible public health hazard that might exist from exposure to dust from the track beside the Darley playing field.

Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee minutes: Draft minutes of meetings are published on the website (<https://nidderdale-nl.org.uk/>) but only after these have been considered at a subsequent meeting.

2506/8 Problems with cold-calling in Darley village: It was noted that Clerk emailed the local police constable, PC Michael Spittlehouse, twice since the last meeting seeking a call but has not received a response. It was noted that the issue was raised at the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) Harrogate branch meeting on 9 June 2025 and is a common problem in other parishes locally. The chair, Sue Reid (a Dishforth Parish Councillor), agreed to escalate the matter within YLCA and with North Yorkshire Police. In the meantime, it was advised that sharing information through local Facebook or WhatsApp groups was a good way to make residents aware of cold-callers being in the area.

2506/9 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of North Yorkshire: It was noted that the next step is for LGBCE to publish its recommendations in early September 2025.

2506/10 Highways and footpaths:

a. *Call with NYC Highways, 19 June 2025:* The main action points agreed were:

- NYC Highways has agreed to reinstate the black and white markers on Hardgroves Hill as an interim measure whilst awaiting a further safety review by an engineer;
- engineers are planning to inspect the ditches on Walker Lane, Darley, to consider whether safety can be improved and will check whether the culverts need jetting at the same time; and
- NYC Highways has been asked to assess whether the speed limit on the B6451 can be reduced from 40mph to 30mph (between Darley Beck and above the Wellington Inn) as a priority.

b. *Emergency closure of footbridge over the River Nidd in June 2025:* It was noted that NYC Public Rights of Way (PROW) are planning to inspect the bridge in the week commencing 23 June 2025 and will contact the Council when there is a proposed way forward. NYC PROW is aware this is the only river crossing for a number of miles.

c. *Request for Stumps Lane, Darley, to be considered for the NYC verge-cleaning project:* It was noted that the request has been passed to the NYC Operations Manager planning the Harrogate project for consideration.

d. *Overgrown shrubs and trees on Main Street, Darley:* It was noted that trees overhanging the footpath outside West Lynne were cut back immediately following a request from the Council and that residents have confirmed that the hedge outside 5 Tranmer Croft will be cut back when possible (taking into account the law regarding nesting birds). It was reported that trees were overhanging the pavement outside Claremont, Main Street and that the hedge outside 8 Low Green is also potentially obstructing the pavement; **Clerk to investigate.**

e. *Road gullies on near the Holme:* It was noted that the gullies are full of silt; **Clerk to report to NYC Highways.**

f. *Parking around the junction of Main Street and Sheepcote Lane, Darley:* It was noted that a parishioner has raised concerns around the safety for users of the junction due to parked cars, particularly around school drop-off and collection. It was agreed that NYC Highways should be asked to advise; **Clerk to add to next NYC Highways call.**

2506/11 Village Maintenance:

a. *Annual "lanes & junctions" grass-cutting:* It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should be asked to proceed with this in early July 2025; **Clerk to action.**

2506/12 Reports:

a. *Nidderdale Strategic/Community Partnership re-launch, 20 May 2025:* Councillor Welch reported that the intention is to make the new Nidderdale Community Partnership less focused on Pateley Bridge than the former Nidderdale Strategic Partnership. Councillor Robertshaw has agreed to be the Council's representative in the longer term.

b. *Nidderdale Community Partnership meeting, 3 July 2025:* It was noted that Councillor Robertshaw is unable to attend this meeting and that either Councillor Ward or Councillor Welch will try to attend.

c. *Yorkshire Local Councils Associations Harrogate Branch meeting, 9 June 2025:* Clerk noted that this was a well-attended event with a presentation by NYC Highways and the re-election of the current officials. Jo Coles, York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, will be asked to speak at the next meeting.

d. *Nidderdale National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee Parish Council representative:* It was noted that Jackie Kerr, Chairman of Dacre Parish Council was elected.

2506/13 Finance

a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: None. Payments: Avenue Printing House - Inserts for Focus on Darley newsletter £100, M Pearson - Clerk salary for the quarter to 30 June 2025 £1,085.19, M Pearson - Allowances and expenses for the quarter to 30 June 2025 £107.17, Eon Next - Cmas lights June 2025 £17.76.

b. The budget for June 2025 was noted.

c. It was agreed that Clerk should investigate the purchase of a new Windows 11 laptop prior to October 2025 (expected to cost in the region of £200 plus VAT) and the purchase of a 4G mobile phone (expected to cost in the region of £80 plus VAT) prior to the expected switch-off of the 3G mobile network later this year; **Clerk to action.**

2506/14 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

a. *North Yorkshire Youth - Support for new and existing Youth clubs and projects in your area:* It was noted that this organisation offers support in the form of information, advice, and training to help develop safe, positive, and engaging activities for young people in North Yorkshire; **Clerk to circulate.**

b. *York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime - Public urged to have their say to make York and North Yorkshire safer for all:* A survey to 4 July 2025 was noted; **Clerk to circulate.**

2506/15 Items for Information and next Agenda: None.

2506/16 Date of next meetings: 28 July, 22 September, 27 October, 24 November, 26 January 2026.

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