

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 28 July 2025 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2507/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, P Ward, J Hayes, D Dickinson (part), and Clerk (M Pearson). No members of the public attended.

2507/2 Apologies: Councillor J McAllister due to holiday. Councillor R Ferguson due to work commitments. County Councillor A Murday.

2507/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: Councillor Robertshaw declared an interest in planning application 25/01834/FUL as a neighbour overlooking the site and took no part in the vote.

2507/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 were approved.

2507/5 Public Statements: None.

2507/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

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 APPLICATION PERMITTED

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

HGTZC24/03603/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling to be replaced by a self build single dwelling to include the provision of a retaining wall, Air Source Heat Pump and solar panels. Highfold Cottage Darley APPLICATION REFUSED

b. Planning Applications considered:

25/01834/FUL Demolition of rear garage. Remodelling / lowering of rear driveway to match garden level. New single storey rear kitchen extension. Reformatting of all internal rooms. Remodelling of front porch and ground floor window to lounge. Stumps View Low Green To Parish Boundary Darley

The Council NEITHER OBJECTED TO NOR SUPPORTED the planning application but noted concerns that the proposed use of timber cladding for the walls of the single storey rear kitchen extension would not be in keeping with other buildings in the area and that there appeared to be a risk of flooding of the new extension due to the sloping nature of the site. NEITHER OBJECTS TO OR SUPPORTS

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

d. North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Local Plan: It was noted that one new site (opposite Moke Hill, Darley) has been added to the NYC Call for Sites map (all sites can be viewed at <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/9xm8zj87fjl2>).

e. Other planning matters: It was noted that the Council had been asked for its view on two further planning applications (25/02092/FUL *Building over existing open midden Lawns Farm Low Lane Darley* and 25/02428/FUL *Erection of single storey extension The Stables Sheepcote Lane Darley*) on 25 July 2025, with comments requested no later than 18 August 2025. The Council agreed that it would delegate its consultation response on the two planning applications to Clerk. However, should further planning application consultations be received, or other urgent matters arise, the Council agreed that holding an extra meeting on 18 August 2025 should be considered.

2507/7 County Councillor's report: None.

2507/8 Darley Playing Fields: It was noted that Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) has asked NYC to investigate whether dust from the track surface represents a risk to health and understood that Louise Wallace, NYC Director of Public Health, is reviewing this. It was agreed that an update on progress from Ms Wallace should be requested; **Clerk to action.**

It was noted that DPFA is currently lowering the barrier between 6pm and 8am in order to reduce the use of the track. It was suggested that DPFA could also contact Heidelberg Materials, operators of Coldstones Quarry, Greenhow, to ask whether information is available regarding the materials used to form the track surface; **Councillor Ward to action.** It was agreed that Tom Watson (a former Harrogate Borough Council Councillor) should also be asked whether he can recall any background information on the laying of the track and choice of material; **Councillor Welch to action.** It was noted that the Annual General Meeting of DPFA is to be held on 5 August 2025.

2507/9 Problems with cold-calling in Darley village: It was noted that no response has been received from PC Spittlehouse and there has been no update from the YLCA Harrogate Branch.

2507/10 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 and that NYC will consider the recommendations before deciding whether to carry out a Community Governance Review of Thornthwaite with Padsid parish.

2507/11 Highways and footpaths:

a. Call with NYC Highways, 10 July 2025: The main action points agreed with Chris Blackburn, NYC Highways Communications Officer (CB) were:

- *Parking problems on the junction of Sheepcote Lane and Main Street:* A Highways Officer will investigate;
- *Hardgroves Hill safety review:* CB will chase up on the order to reinstall safety markers on the hill;

- *Walker Lane, Darley*: CB to follow up with engineers who are understood to have inspected the ditches (to consider whether safety can be improved) and assessed whether the culverts are blocked and need jetting;
- *B6451 reduction in speed limit (40mph to 30mph) from Darley Beck to above the Wellington Inn*: CB was made aware of the recent collision between a vehicle and a telegraph pole outside the Wellington Inn and agreed to discuss the case with the NYC Highways Improvements Manager;
- *Menwith Hill Road surface depression*: A Highways Officer will review whether the road surface has deteriorated sufficiently enough to warrant repair;
- *Posts on the verge outside Pine View, Stumps Lane, Darley*: A Highways Officer will investigate; and
- *Blocked gullies near the Holme*: A Highways Officer will inspect the gullies.

It was noted that NYC Highways Area 6 has recruited two new engineers and that this is expected to help reduce the backlog of cases. The next call is scheduled for 14 August 2025.

- Emergency closure of footbridge over the River Nidd*: It was noted that NYC Public Rights of Way (PROW) has inspected the bridge and found significant problems (there are rotten timbers between the deck boards and main beams, plus rot in some of the parapets), with the work involved to repair the bridge being estimated to cost £5,000 – £6,000. NYC PROW is considering whether it is more sensible to replace all timber on the bridge with fibre reinforced polymer materials but this would not take place before next year.

It was noted that NYC PROW had agreed that if the Council were able to contribute significantly towards the cost, work should take place to repair the bridge within a couple of weeks.

The Council agreed that it would contribute a maximum of £5,000 towards the cost of the repairs, provided that the work would be completed within the agreed two or three weeks. This includes spending £1,325.52 of Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Share received in May 2024.

The Council agreed that NYC PROW should be asked to consider seeking contributions from both Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council and Birchfield Family Dairies; **Clerk to suggest to NYC PROW**. It was also agreed that an update should be added to the community Facebook site; **Councillor Welch to action**.

2507/12 Village Maintenance: It was noted that the Christmas tree lights are hanging from one of the trees on Low Green; **Clerk to investigate**.

2507/13 Reports:

- Nidderdale Community Partnership (NCP) 3 July 2025*: Councillor Ward reported that most of the meeting involved agreeing the NCP constitution. It was agreed that Councillor Robertshaw would attend the next meeting (4 November 2025).
- North Yorkshire Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy webinar, 9 July 2025*: Clerk reported that the webinar included an update on progress with mapping nature across North Yorkshire and highlighted a consultation taking place until 11 August 2025 (details of the consultation and a map that can be commented upon is available at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/north-yorkshire-and-york-local-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation-0>); **Clerk to circulate**.
- NYC Martyn's Law event*: It was noted that NYC is holding an in-person event regarding Martyn's Law (a piece of legislation that aims to ensure public premises and events are better prepared for terrorist attacks) on 26 September 2025 at the Harrogate Convention Centre from 9.30am to 3.30pm; **Clerk to circulate details**.
- It was noted that the Darley in Bloom Open Gardens event on 29 June 2025, and the Village Get-Together on 13 July 2025 were both successful events.
- Pollinator plot, Stocks Green, Darley*: Councillor Welch noted that two meetings had been held to agree next steps for this project. It is intended that in September 2025, Live Wild and Grow will scarify/remove turf from an area of Stocks Green, followed by an event for volunteers to help to sow seeds sourced by Live Wild and Grow and Nidderdale National Landscape (date to be confirmed).

2507/14 Finance

- Receipts and Payments noted*: Receipts: Deposit account interest (June) £63.82; NYC - Contribution to grass-cutting 2025/26 £451.14. Payments: Focus on Darley - Grant towards printing costs 2025/26 £400, Darley Memorial Hall - Grant towards car park maintenance 2025/26 £500, JE Benson & Sons - Village grass-cutting April - June 2025 £1,656, Eon Next - Cmas lights July 2025 £17.76.
- The budget for July 2025 was noted.
- It was noted that the National Joint Council salary scale for 2025/26 has been agreed and that the hourly rate for Scale Point 12 has increased from £14.36 to £14.82. It was agreed that the new rate should be paid to Clerk with effect from 1 April 2025; **Clerk to notify payroll service provider**.

2507/15 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- Yorkshire Local Councils Associations*: Training Programme July – September 2025; **Clerk to circulate**.
- North Yorkshire Council*: Nominations open for awards celebrating unsung volunteers; **Clerk to circulate**.
- York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority*: Consultation on new Fire & Rescue Community Risk Management Plan (northyorksfire.gov.uk/news/consultations/community-risk-management-plan-2025-2029/) to 7 September 2025; **Clerk to circulate**.

2507/16 Items for Information and next Agenda: None.

2507/17 Date of next meetings: 22 September, 27 October, 24 November, 26 January 2026, 23 February 2026.

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