

## Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 22 September 2025 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

**2509/1 Present:** Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, P Ward, J Hayes, R Ferguson, and Clerk (M Pearson). Two members of the public attended (both in part).

**2509/2 Apologies:** Councillor McAllister due to work commitments. County Councillor A Murday.

**2509/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None.

**2509/4 Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2025 were approved.

### **2509/5 Public Statements:**

A parishioner spoke in relation to planning enforcement case *25/00270/PR15 Turpin Lair Menwith Hill Road Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Car sales from garden and adjacent fields* (Item 6c) and explained that vehicles were parked on a temporary basis whilst finalising a move to business premises nearby. Discussions have been held with North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Planning Enforcement who have agreed to monitor the situation.

A parishioner spoke to urge the Council to support community-led housing initiatives (as a means of providing affordable accommodation in the area) and to send a representative to the meeting on 8 October 2025 (Item 12a).

### **2509/6 Planning**

#### **a. Planning Decisions** noted:

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 APPLICATION PERMITTED

25/02428/FUL Erection of single storey extension The Stables Sheepcote Lane Darley APPLICATION PERMITTED

25/02092/FUL Building over existing open midden Lawns Farm Low Lane Darley and 25/02092/FUL Building over existing open midden Lawns Farm Low Lane Darley APPLICATION PERMITTED

#### **b. Planning Applications** considered:

25/02825/DVCON Section 73 application for the Variation of Condition 2 (Approved drawings) of Planning Permission HGTZC25/00934/FUL (Demolition of 2 no. existing stone/uPVC extensions. Addition of 3no replacement extensions including raised terrace. Construction of dormers, timber pergola and porch. Alterations to fenestration and replacement of solar panels) To allow for alterations to approved plans. Greenbanks Niddside 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. REVISED APPLICATION SITE AND EXPANDED ECOLOGICAL DETAILS Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley NO OBJECTIONS

25/03024/CLEUD Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness to determine the use of the land a car parking area for the site. Holly House Farm Holly Tree Farm Darley NO COMMENTS

25/03110/FUL Widening of existing access point. Hillside Main Street Darley.

The Council had NO OBJECTIONS provided that the Yorkshire Water infrastructure is not harmed. NO OBJECTIONS

**c. Planning Enforcement:** New cases *25/00236/PR15 Street Record Mount Bark Farm Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Removal of hedgerow* and *25/00270/PR15 Turpin Lair Menwith Hill Road Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Car sales from garden and adjacent fields* were noted.

**d. North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Local Plan:** It was noted that no new sites have been added to the NYC Call for Sites map since July 2025 and that there are no other updates to report. A map of all sites can be viewed at <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/9xm8zj87fjl2>.

**e. Other planning matters:** It was noted that Clerk had submitted delegated responses to planning applications *25/02092/FUL Building over existing open midden Lawns Farm Low Lane Darley* (NO OBJECTIONS) and *25/02428/FUL Erection of single storey extension The Stables Sheepcote Lane Darley* (NO OBJECTIONS) and that no response had been submitted in respect of planning application *25/02538/DVCON Section 73 application for the Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission ZC24/03135/FUL (Erection of Detached Garage and Store with installation of solar PV panels) to allow reduction to size of garage Brightwater Mill Darley Carr Darley* on the basis that the application was to reduce the size of a previously-approved garage.

**2509/7 County Councillor's report:** Clerk read a report supplied by County Councillor Murday as follows:

Nidderdale National Landscape (NNL) management plan: The management plan is currently open for consultation on the NNL website ([nidderdale-nl.org.uk/about-us/developing-our-new-management-plan-for-2025-2030/](http://nidderdale-nl.org.uk/about-us/developing-our-new-management-plan-for-2025-2030/)).

Community Governance Review: A twelve week consultation commences on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 regarding potential parish council changes, including a review of Thornthwaite with Padside Parish Meeting. Details are available on the website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/community-governance-reviews/202526-community-governance-reviews](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/community-governance-reviews/202526-community-governance-reviews).

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) consultation on North Yorkshire review: A further draft proposal has been produced by LGBCE, with a deadline for comments of 15 October 2025. Details are available on the website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-yorkshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-yorkshire) and the final report is expected to be published in January 2026.

Footpath between Darley Head and Dacre village: Following a request from residents, County Councillor Murday has asked NYC to consider installing a footpath along the B6451 between the two villages. A decision is awaited.

**2509/8 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of North Yorkshire:**

- (i) It was noted that LGBCE has produced revised recommendations for NYC divisions which would significantly affect Nidderdale. The proposal creates an *Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale* division (to include five of the parishes currently in the existing *Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale* division) and a *Lower Nidderdale* division (comprising twelve parishes, including Darley and Menwith).

The Council noted correspondence from Pateley Bridge Town Council calling for a united response to LGBCE by Nidderdale parish councils rejecting the new proposal for a number of reasons, including that the proposal would divide the Nidderdale community, that there are geographic impracticalities associated with Upper Nidderdale and Upper Wharfedale forming a single division and that there is a lack of cognisance of the distinct identities of the two regions and their intrinsic differences. It was noted that Pateley Bridge Town Council called for LGBCE to retain the historic Nidderdale division including all parishes in the River Nidd valley.

The Council agreed with the reasoning put forward by Pateley Bridge Town Council and that it should be part of the joint response to LGBCE. The Council also agreed that it should ask for its previous request for Thornthwaite with Padsid parish to be part of the revised *Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale* division to be made again in the joint response;  
**Clerk to action.**

- (ii) It was noted that NYC is to carry out a Community Governance Review including Thornthwaite with Padsid parish from 29 September 2025 and agreed that the Council should consider submitting a response at its next meeting;  
**Clerk to add to next agenda.**

**2509/9 Darley Playing Fields:** It was noted that Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA) had corresponded with NYC repeatedly in August and September 2025 regarding the health implications of dust generated from the track and that NYC had confirmed that the dust should not cause health problems in an open environment. In order to try to manage the dust generated, DPFA has agreed that the barrier to the track will be closed if there are more than three days of dry weather and that residents can also put the barrier down if the level of dust is significant.

**2509/10 Highways and footpaths:**

- a. *Calls with NYC Highways, 14 August 2025 and 11 September 2025:* The main action points agreed with Chris Blackburn, NYC Highways Communications Officer (CB) were:
- *Hardgroves Hill safety review:* It was noted that a motorbike had left the road and hit the wall in September 2025. CB agreed to make Darren Griffiths, NYC Senior Engineer, Traffic Engineering, aware of the recent accident and to push for an engineer to review safety. It was noted that preliminary work to reinstall safety markers had been carried out but that the markers had yet to be installed;
  - *Parking problems on the junction of Sheepcote Lane and Main Street:* A Highways Officer will investigate;
  - *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 agreed to follow up with the NYC Highways Improvements Manager; and
  - *Blocked gullies on Main Street and near the Holme:* A number of gullies have been marked up for further investigation and cleaning.

The next call is scheduled for 16 October 2025.

- b. *Emergency closure of footbridge over the River Nidd:* It was noted that the bridge is now open following repairs in August 2025.
- c. The Council agreed that CB should be asked:
- whether details can be shared regarding the crash that happened on Stumps Lane, Darley, during Summer 2025;
  - whether speed countdown marker signs (countdown markers with the intended speed limit shown as the driver approaches a town or village) can be utilised outside of Scotland; and
  - whether details of the revised Traffic Regulation Order for the new 40 mph speed limit outside RAF Menwith Hill are available.

**2509/11 Village Maintenance:**

- a. *Sowing of the pollinator plot, Stocks Green, Darley:* It was noted that work was carried out to prepare and sow areas of Stocks Green in August and September 2025 and that project information boards will be displayed on Stocks Green. It was noted that James Spencer assisted with this and has been asked to cut back the Fringill nature reserve (leaving an area uncut as advised by the Nidderdale National Landscape specialist) and to repair the broken drainage pipe.
- b. *Christmas Lights, Low Green, Darley:* It was noted that Yorkshire Lighting & Electrical Services (YLES) inspected the lights for no charge and quoted for the following work which is necessary:
- an upgrade to two lighting columns supplying power to the lights to meet new standards (it was confirmed that NYC plans to do this and recharge the Council but YLES should be more cost-effective);
  - replacement of the lights on the single lit tree to the west end of Low Green (these have failed);
  - repair of the lights on the Christmas tree at the east end of Low Green (which are failing but salvageable); and
  - the service of turning the lights on in November and off in January.

The Council approved the expenditure at an expected cost of £1,600 plus VAT; **Clerk to notify YLES.**

**2509/12 Reports:**

- a. *Nidderdale Community-Led Housing event, Christ Church Community Centre, 6 – 7.30pm, 8 October 2025:* It was agreed Councillor Hayes should attend.
- b. *Yorkshire Local Councils Associations Joint Meeting, 27 September 2025:* It was agreed that the Council would send apologies; **Clerk to action.**
- c. *Nidderdale Plus presentation:* It was agreed that representatives of Nidderdale Plus can attend the November 2025 Council meeting to give a short presentation (with information on the talk to be shared in advance with Councillors).
- d. *NYC Rural Housing Enabler presentation:* It was agreed that NYC representatives can attend the October 2025 Council meeting to discuss how the Council might help meet local housing needs.
- e. *Nidderdale Community Partnership (NCP) Executive - Parish Council representative:* The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Robertshaw for the role; **Clerk to notify NCP and Councillor Robertshaw to submit brief statement with his reasons and suitability for serving on the Executive.**
- f. *NCP Executive meeting, 7 October 2025:* It was agreed that Councillor Robertshaw should attend.

**2509/13 Finance**

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: None. Payments: Darley Memorial Hall CIO - Invoice for room hire April - July 2025 £110, Eon Next - Cmas lights August 2025 £17.76, M Pearson - Clerk salary for the quarter to 30 September 2025 £1,154.71, Vision ICT - Website hosting and email addresses to 31 October 2026 £388.38, Focus on Darley - Subscription to 31 March 2026 £55, North Yorkshire Council - Contribution towards repair of footbridge over River Nidd £5,000, M Pearson - Allowances and expenses for the quarter to 30 September 2025 £200.21, Eon Next - Cmas lights September 2025 £17.76.
- b. The budget for September 2025 was noted.
- c. It was agreed that the Vision ICT should continue to provide website and email hosting for an additional year (to 31 October 2026) at a cost of £323.65 + VAT.
- d. It was agreed that the Council should purchase two remembrance wreaths from the Royal British Legion for services in November 2025 at an expected cost of £20 each; **Clerk to action.**

**2509/14 Correspondence received by the Clerk:**

- a. *Parishioner - Impact of the potential closure of Birstwith Mill on the local area:* It was noted that Kerry Group has announced a consultation on the potential closure of its Birstwith site and the parishioner highlighted the importance of keeping the land for employment.
- b. *Darley Memorial Hall: Autumn Film Season:* It was noted that there are two further film nights this year – 31 October 2025 (Wicked) and 28 November 2025 (The Great Gatsby).
- c. *North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre - Request for funding:* It was agreed that this request should be considered at the next meeting of the Council; **Clerk to action.**
- d. *NYC - The North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel:* It was noted that the panel is seeking three individuals to join the panel; **Clerk to circulate details to Councillors.**
- e. *NYC - Radio Teleswitch Meter Phase-Out:* It was noted that anyone with this type of electricity meter should contact their energy supplier. It was agreed that details should be added to the Council website; **Clerk to action.**

**2509/15 Items for Information and next Agenda:** None.

**2509/16 Date of next meetings:** 27 October, 24 November, 26 January 2026, 23 February 2026, 23 March 2026.

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