

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 23 February 2026 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2602/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, R Ferguson, J Hayes, J McAllister and NY Cllr Andrew Murday (Part)

2602/2 Apologies: Councillor D Dickinson due to holiday.

2602/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: None.

2602/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2026 were approved.

2602/5 Public Statements: None

2602/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

(i) 25/04548/DVCON Section 73 application for the Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Drawings) of Planning Permission 25/02825/DVCON [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

APPLICATION PERMITTED

(ii) 25/04632/PIP Permission in Principle for the erection of 2 dwellings. Land Comprising Field At 420416 459403 Sheepcote Lane Darley

APPLICATION PERMITTED

b. Planning Applications considered:

26/00169/FUL Conversion of two traditional barns to form two dwellings with associated extensions & alterations. Holly House Farm Holly Tree Farm Darley

NO OBJECTIONS

The Council also commented that it was pleased to see that the response from NY Highways set various conditions to ensure safety and to prevent serious disruption during construction.

c. Planning Enforcement: None.

d. NYC Local Plan: It was noted that several new sites within Darley & Menwith parish have been added to the Call for Sites map. It is expected that no more sites will be added. The map can be accessed via [Public Release of 'Call for Sites' Submissions | Maptionnaire](#)

e. Other planning matters:

Consultation on new Local Planning Enforcement Plan for North Yorkshire Council: It was agreed that councillors should respond individually if they wished via [Consultation Home - Keystone](#)

2602/7 County Councillor's report: Clerk had circulated a report from County Councillor Murday which included the following:

Update on the consultation re Thornthwaite & Padside parish (see Item 8)

Comment on consultation re Local Planning Enforcement Plan (see Item 6e)

2602/8 Thornthwaite with Padside parish meeting Community Governance Review: It was noted that NYC Democratic Services officers had now drafted a proposal which will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation from 19 March 2026. The proposal is that Thornthwaite & Padside should join with Dacre Parish and the new parish will be called Dacre Parish, which will have 7 councillors. It is expected that NYC will consider approving any recommendations in July 2026, allowing revised governance arrangements to be in place for the May 2027 parish elections.

2602/9 Highways and footpaths:

a. Call held with NYC Highways, 6 February: It was noted that the Chairman had joined the Clerk in a call with Chris Blackburn (CB), NYC Highways Communications Officer and the following priorities were agreed:

- *Walker Lane, Darley:* CB agreed to ask an engineer to inspect Walker Lane in light of flooding problems, severe pot holes and the potential danger of open ditches above culverts as a matter of urgency;

- *Streetlight at Moke Hill* CB agreed to check the status of this issue (A Murday advised he had now logged it on the system)

- *Gullies along Main Street.* Although some cleaning had been carried out, it was noted that some work had not been possible. CB agreed to investigate and push this work.

- *Other outstanding issues* remain on the list.

b. Condition of road surface on Stumps Lane / The Pines: It was agreed that NYC Highways should be asked again to inspect the road;

Clerk to report

Condition of utilities repair work across Main St near Fringill Lane. It was noted that this was already in poor condition and should be reported

Clerk to report

2602/10 Village Maintenance:

- a. *Monthly checks of defibrillators.* Cllr Robertshaw agreed to carry out visual checks and report back to council meetings.

2602/11 Re-siting of Electricity Substation by Northern Powergrid

The Chairman updated the meeting. Contact had been made with a Systems Engineer who had halted the proposed work at the bottom of Walker Lane and agreed to work with the Parish Council to find a better site. The Chairman had spoken to or written to local landowners in an attempt to find an alternative site and was working with a small group of interested parties to find a solution. It was agreed that although there was concern about how the initial process was carried out it was better now to work with Northern Powergrid rather than protest. It was noted that a meeting had been scheduled with an NP representative.

Chairman to continue action

2602/12 Reports:

- a. *Nidderdale Plus Annual General Meeting 11 February 2026.* Cllr Haynes had been unable to attend but agreed to obtain the relevant paperwork for circulation to Councillors
Cllr Haynes to action
- b. *YLCA Harrogate Branch meeting, 16 February 2026, Cllr Ferguson attended.* He reported that meetings would only take place with a quorum of 6 people. Topics included the increase in sites within the Call for Sites process, and a query regarding Yorkshire Water's status when commenting on planning applications.

2602/13 Finance

- a. *Receipts and Payments noted:* Receipts: VAT reclaim £1268.17. Payments: Eon Next - Cmas lights February 2026 £17.78, S Welch New laptop bag £15.29
- b. The budget for February 2026 was noted.
- c. It was agreed that the amount allocated for clerk salary remain in the budget and be used for necessary training for the new appointment.
- d. It was noted that the current tariff for Christmas tree lights would end on 31st March 2026. It was agreed that alternatives be investigated, particularly any that offered tariffs with no or reduced standing charges. Yu Energy was noted as a possible supplier
Cllrs Haynes and Ferguson to investigate – clerk to supply past details

2602/14 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *Skipton & Ripon Parish Liaison Meeting Kettlewell 24 February.* This was noted, but no Cllr was available to attend
- b. *Public Event on the Nidd (water quality) Knaresborough 18 March.* Cllrs to attend if they wish
- c. *YLCA Training sessions re Chairmanship.* Cllrs were asked to contact the Chairman if they wanted the details.
- d. *Darley Housing Needs Survey* It was noted that this survey had been completed, with 40 responses. The NYC officers now wished to attend a parish council meeting to present the findings.

2602/15 Recruitment of Clerk to the Council:

- a. It was noted that 11 people had expressed interest and that there were currently 2 formal applications, with closing date on 27 February. Councillor Welch and Councillor Robertshaw will be on the interview panel with 2 Cllrs from Dacre Parish Council during week beginning 9 March. It was hoped that a new Clerk would start work on 1st April.
- b. It was agreed that the Chairman will carry out the Clerk's work as far as possible until a new Clerk is appointed.
- c. It was agreed that appropriate arrangements be made for training as necessary.

2602/16 Items for Information and next Agenda: It was agreed that the Council should invite the organisers to present the findings of the Hosing Needs survey at a Council meeting.

2602/17 Date of next meetings (all 2026):

Given the issues of operating without a Clerk, and arranged holidays in the next month,
it was agreed that there would be no meeting on 31 March as scheduled.

Next meetings are therefore 27 April at 6.30p.m., followed by the Annual Parish Assembly at 8p.m.
and 18 May - Annual Meeting of the Council at 7.30p.m., followed by Ordinary Meeting at 8p.m.

It was agreed that the Rural Housing Enablers be invited to the Annual Parish Assembly on 27th April to present the findings of the Housing Needs survey,

The date for the June meeting may need to be rearranged due to pre-booked holidays of several Councillors.

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