

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 16 March 2026 from 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2603/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), R Ferguson, J Hayes, and J McAllister

2603/2 Apologies: Councillors A Robertshaw, P Ward

2603/3 Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: None

2603/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026 were approved.

2603/5 Public Statements: None

2603/6 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted: None

b. Planning Applications considered:

26/00734/FUL Demolition of existing boiler room to side of existing house, erection of new lean-to style extension to house plant room with new retaining structure to garden on site of existing boiler room, adjustment to fenestration to front and rear elevations, formation of new patio doors to side and rear elevations, addition of roof lights, and increasing of height and pitch of roof to existing rear kitchen extension. Installation of 2 no. air source heat pumps.
Carr Farm Low Lane Darley North Yorkshire HG3 2QN **NO OBJECTIONS**

26/00788/FUL The installation of an oak-framed orangery to the side elevation. The Mill Race Fringill Lane Darley North Yorkshire HG3 2PY **NO OBJECTIONS**

2603/7 Recruitment of Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer

- a. The Chairman reported that interviews had been held, and it was recommended that David Rutherford-Walsh be appointed Clerk / RFO to the Council. This appointment for 22 hours per month was ratified by the Council, to start on 1 April 2026, with a starting salary at SCP7 on the NJC scale (currently £13.69 per hour). An allowance of £6 per week would also be paid for working from home and £5 per month towards broadband.
- b. The Chairman was asked to complete the necessary paperwork and arrange for him to be registered with the payroll service. She was thanked for her efforts.
- c. Appropriate training would be offered, with an initial YLCA course in Tadcaster on 25 March.

Chairman to action

2603/8 Re-siting of Electricity Substation by Northern Powergrid

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held in Darley with 2 representatives from Northern Powergrid and several local people. The NP reps agreed that the proposed site was definitely unsuitable and would not be used. Alternatives were viewed and information shared. NP will now continue with the process for finding an alternative site and will keep the Parish Council informed. There is no deadline.

Chairman to continue action

2603/9 Invitation to attend North Yorkshire Council event on 27 April

No Councillor was able to take up the invitation.

2603/10 Finance

a. Payments made in March as follows: Darley Memorial Hall room hire for meetings £100, E-On Next monthly DD for Christmas Tree Lights £17.78

b. It was agreed that payment be made for the YLCA course Induction for New Council Clerks £73

c. It was agreed that a new electricity contract be set up with British Gas for the Christmas Tree lights.

This contract offered a reduction to the figure paid under current contract with Eon Next which finishes on 31

March 2026. Cllr Hayes was thanked for her efforts and will continue with the setup, the Chairman to get involved as necessary.

Cllr Hayes and Chairman to action

2603/11 Parish Assembly

- a. It was agreed that local organisations be asked to provide information that would be put into a report for the meeting and then published with the village newsletter in June.
- b. It was agreed that the Chairman would prepare the agenda and notices, assisted by the Parish Clerk
- c. It was noted that the Rural Housing Enablers would present the results of the Housing Needs Survey.
- d. It was confirmed that the Council meeting would start at 6.30p.m. and the Parish Assembly at 8.00p.m.

2603/12 Other Matters

- a. Information about an Open Day at Allerton Waste Recycling Plant on 1 April was noted.
- b. It was noted that Highways had now published the order regarding double yellow lines at the bottom of Sheepcote Lane and objections had to be lodged by 9 April.
- c. Cllr Ferguson reported that his discussions re Christmas lights were on-going.

2603/13 Date of next meetings:

27 April, Ordinary Meeting 6.30, Parish Assembly 8.00p.m.

18 May, Annual Meeting of the Council 7.30, Ordinary Meeting 8.00p.m.

29 June (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