

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday  
18 May 2026 at 7.30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane,  
Darley**

**2605/1 Present:** Councillors S Welch (chairman), D Dickinson, J McAllister, A Robertshaw, and Clerk (D Rutherford-Walshe).

**2605/2 Apologies for absence:** Councillors P Ward, R Ferguson, J Hayes, and County Councillor A Murday

**2605/3 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2026/27 and signing of declarations of acceptance of office:** Councillor Welch was nominated and elected Chairman. Councillor Robertshaw was nominated and elected Vice-Chairman. Councillor Welch signed a declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman of the Council and Councillor Robertshaw signed a declaration of acceptance of office of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

**2605/4 Register of Business Interests:** Councillors were reminded that their register of interests should be reviewed periodically and any changes notified to the principal authority (North Yorkshire Council) via the Clerk.

**2605/5 Election / Confirmation of nominated trustees and representatives to other bodies:** Nominated trustee and representative roles were confirmed as:

- a. Charity of Isabel Day (S Welch, J McAllister, B Dexter)  
J McAllister was nominated for a further 4 year term as a trustee
- b. Darley in Bloom (S Welch)
- c. Darley Memorial Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (R Ferguson)
- d. Darley Playing Fields Association (P Ward)
- e. Focus on Darley (S Welch)
- f. Nidderdale Plus (J Hayes)
- g. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (R Ferguson)
- h. Nidderdale Community Partnership (A Robertshaw)

**2605/6 Finance & Legal Requirements**

- a. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 was accepted by the Council. It was noted that the internal auditor had confirmed that everything had been done in accordance with the relevant rules, regulations and procedures. No actions were recommended by the internal auditor.
- b. The financial accounting statements for 2025/26 were approved and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.
- c. The Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 was completed by the Council and signed by the Clerk and Chairman
- d. The Accounting Statements 2025/26 were approved by the Council and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.
- e. It was noted that as the Council's income and expenditure are both less than £25,000 (with no outstanding action relating to the 2024/25 accounts by the Courts or External Auditor) the Council is exempt from External Audit for 2025/26. The Certificate of Exemption was signed by Clerk and Chair. **Clerk to send to External Auditor before 30 June**
- f. The dates for inspection of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (together with the accounting records for the financial year and documents relating to the records) were confirmed as Wednesday 3 June 2026 to Tuesday 14 July 2026. **Clerk to post notice confirming the procedure on the Council notice boards and website no later than 2 June 2026**

- g. Direct debit payments for the year ending 31 March 2027: Ongoing direct debit payments to E.ON Next (or a new provider)(electricity for Christmas lights), and the Information Commissioner's Officer (Data Protection Annual Fee) were approved for 2026/27.
- h. Annual grants for the year ending 31 March 2027: It was agreed that a grant of £1,000 should be made to Darley Playing Fields Association for the provision/maintenance of playground equipment, a grant of £400 should be made to Focus on Darley towards printing costs of the village newsletter and a grant of £500 should be paid to Darley Memorial Hall CIO towards the costs of providing its car park for public use
- i. Renewal of insurance: It was agreed that the insurance policy with Zurich Municipal Insurance should be renewed for 2026/27 at an annual cost of £542.28. This is the final year of a three-year contract, and research will be required in May 2027 to secure a new arrangement.
- j. Considered approval of a new electricity contract for the Christmas lights. Agreed that alternative suppliers be explored to secure a more favourable standing charge. **Chairman & Clerk to action**
- k. Considered approval of online bank payments as an alternative to cheque payments, subject to appropriate safeguards. Agreed that online payments be permitted, with payments to be authorised by two Councillors prior to being processed by the Clerk, and with monthly statements to be provided. It was further agreed that Financial Regulations be reviewed to ensure compliance. **Chairman & Clerk to action**
- l. Considered the transfer of funds from the Virgin Money Savings Account to a bank offering a higher rate of interest (United Trust Bank). Agreed to investigate the potential transfer to United Trust Bank. **Chairman & Clerk to action**

**2605/7 Schedule of Meetings 2026/27:** These were confirmed as 29 June 2026, 27 July 2026, 28 September 2026, 26 October 2026, 30 November 2026, 25 January 2027, 22 February 2027, 5 April 2027, 26 April 2027, 17 May 2027

**2605/8 Date of next Annual Meeting:** Confirmed as 17 May 2027 (subject to compliance with election rules)

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