

Darley & Menwith Parish Assembly 2017

Minutes from the Assembly held on 24th April 2017 at 8.00p.m.

Present Vice Chairman of the Council and 4 Councillors, Cty Cllr John Fort, Borough Cllr Tom Watson, 8 members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs S Welch

Apologies Cllr S Truman Davies, Cllr A Johnston, A Ferneley, B Dexter, M Welch, A Houseman

1. Chairman's Remarks

As the Chairman, Cllr Suzanne Truman Davies was unable to attend, Cllr Alan Cottrill spoke on her behalf. He thanked parishioners for attending and was pleased to report that the Parish Council had reduced the precept back down to a normal level following the large increase to enable a new roof to be fitted on the Playing Fields Pavilion. This now housed a village shop, which was proving very successful as both a shop and a village hub.

He thanked the Clerk, Sue Welch for her hard work and efficiency, and also Borough Cllr Tom Watson and County Councillor John Fort for their help and support throughout the year. Particular thanks were given to Cllr Fort as he was retiring after many years of service.

Elections for Parish Councillors had taken place in May 2016, with only 4 nominations being received. However, the Council had reached its full complement of 7 members over the next few months.

2. Minutes of last Assembly were approved

3. Report of Parish Clerk

This had been circulated and is attached to these minutes as part of the Council Reports.

The Clerk reported that she had been asked by YLCA to present at a national conference as an example of good practice in using the website to display the Council's documents as needed under the Transparency Code, as well as assisting other local Councils by housing their information.

4. Report of County and Borough Councillor (Cllr John Fort and Cllr T Watson)

These had been circulated and are attached as part of the Councils Report.

Cllr Fort highlighted the fact that the new Kex Gill road was to be built using resilience money from the government and was expected to be completed within 3 years rather than a more normal 6 years.

5. Reports from Local Organisations (separate document)

These had been circulated and are attached

6. a. Darley Post Office & Shop

This was now operating 7 days a week, with a Post Office and was very successful.

Further decking was to be built to allow a larger area for sitting out from the café.

A Meals on Wheels service was now operating, following a grant from NYCC. Volunteer drivers were being sourced via Darley Playing Fields Association, appropriate checks being made and then they are made available to the shop for delivering the meals. This service would operate for a year and then be reviewed. It would then be up to the shop as to whether it was worth continuing by them. An official opening event was planned for 1st July with a football competition and music event.

b. Local Housing Developments

Applications for developments of 9 houses at Stumps Lane, and 29 houses on Sheepcote Lane were with HBC. There had been many local objections. It was explained that as HBC had no Local Plan as yet, developers could put forward applications for any land that was offered to them and this had to be considered. Once a Local Plan was agreed, it would be more difficult to get approval for sites outside the then agreed development limits.

c. Harrogate Local Plan Draft Document

It was explained that there was a consultation regarding additional proposed sites (none in Darley). The full draft which would be going to the Planning Inspector would be available for public consultation early in 2018. It is likely to include the original allocations of 88 houses on Sheepcote Lane and 9 on Stumps Lane (in addition to the 9 mentioned above).

7. Open Forum

Parishioners raised the issue of potholes and the general state of the local roads.

There was also a query about whether grass should be picked up on all verges after grasscuts, but it was explained that this would be too expensive.

The Clerk reminded those attending that there was an election on 4th May for a member for North Yorkshire County Council and urged everyone to vote.

It was noted that the Tour de Yorkshire would again be in the area in early May, with Men's and Women's races passing through Pateley Bridge and Birstwith.

The meeting ended with attendees enjoying tea and biscuits while talking informally with Councillors.