

## Draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 April 2020 from 7.30pm

### In order to comply with Government advice, this meeting was held by conference call

**2004/1 Present:** Cllrs S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D Dickinson, D McQueen (part), County Cllr Stan Lumley and Borough Cllr Tom Watson and the Clerk M Pearson. No members of the public attended.

**2004/2 Apologies:** None.

**2004/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations:** Cllr McQueen declared an interest in the planning application (20/01185/FUL *Demolition of existing garage. Erection of garage. Barnlea Main Street Darley*) and took no part in the discussion or vote. Cllr Nicholas declared an interest in the request for a grant from Darley Playing Fields Association (Item 12c) as a trustee of that organisation.

**2004/4 Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meetings held on 30 March 2020 were approved.

**2004/5 Public Statements:** None.

**2004/6 Coronavirus pandemic**

- a. It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (30 March 2020).
- b. It was agreed that Clerk should set up online banking in order that electronic payments could be made in an emergency if payment by cheque was not feasible; **Clerk to action.**

In line with Clause 5.13 of Financial Regulation Full, where electronic banking is used, arrangements must ensure that at least two people authorise any transaction.

- c. The Parish Council thanked the volunteers working to make the Community Support scheme a success (to date around 130 shops carried out for 52 different households in Darley and Menwith and neighbouring Thornthwaite with Padside parishes). No further actions were recommended in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- d. A review of the Parish Council involvement in the Community Support scheme risk assessment resulted in one change – a removal of the Security requirement for volunteers to wear hi-viz vests. This is because the scheme volunteers decided not to make use of these; **Clerk to update document and website.**

It was noted that the guidance provided to volunteers has been updated and is now in accordance with the risk assessment. It was agreed that a further review of the risk assessment should be carried out shortly before the next Parish Council meeting (18 May); **Cllr Robertshaw to action.**

**2004/7 Planning**

a. **Planning Applications** considered:

20/01185/FUL Demolition of existing garage. Erection of garage. Barnlea Main Street Darley  
NO OBJECTIONS

b. **Planning Enforcement**

**17/02008/FULMAJ Land Comprising Field South Of White House Main Street Darley:** It was noted that ESH Group has agreed to repair grass verges damaged during construction of the site. Problems with site workers not observing social distancing were also reported whilst the site was operating in the period after 23 March, particular in relation to Darley Village Shop. The management of ESH Group was commended for being supportive of the concerns of residents and taking action against site workers breaching the rules.

**20/00093/BRPC15 Sheepcote Cottage Sheepcote Lane Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Alleged clear glass in first floor window (East elevation) (19/00180/FUL; 19/01524/FUL):** Following a discussion with a Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Planning Enforcement Officer, the owner has confirmed that clear glass was used in error and that this will be replaced in line with the planning permission granted as soon as it can be done safely.

**20/00175/PR15 Beckside Cottage Moke Hill Farm Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Use of agricultural land for residential parking (16/00916/FUL)** was noted.

c. **Planning decisions noted:**

19/01732/LB Listed building application for alternative scheme of conversion and extension of Mill Building to form 9 Residential Units including removal / relocation of machinery, ladders and glazed screen, insertion of staircases and mezzanine floor, and new and replacement doors and windows. Darley Mill Darley Carr Darley.  
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT GRANTED

#### **2004/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports:**

County Cllr Lumley confirmed that the spread of known cases of Coronavirus in the North Yorkshire County (564 confirmed as of 14 April) may have been suppressed by the rurality of the county.

Increases have been observed in mental health problems, domestic abuse and alcohol consumption in the county. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Health and Social Care staff are working to help alleviate these problems. There are clear challenges in ensuring that workers have the right personal protection equipment and that stocks are replenished when needed. There is also a challenge as to how best to restore young people's services moving forward.

Support from central government (a share of an additional £1.6 billion of funding for local councils) is very much appreciated as many NYCC revenues have been lost as a result of the lockdown.

5,400 rough sleepers have been provided with accommodation to help protect them.

County Cllr Lumley thanked all of the staff that are helping deal with the Coronavirus pandemic, especially those who have moved role to help supply essential functions. He is very proud of the fantastic efforts of all of the people across the county who are supporting and looking after each other and thanked everybody involved.

Borough Cllr Watson also expressed a big thank you to all of those helping within the region in delivering shopping, medication and providing other assistance to those in isolation and to all NYCC and HBC staff helping with the provision of services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

There have been changes to the collection of garden waste to help ensure the collection of general waste and recycling during recent weeks but garden waste collections will resume from 14 April / 20 April onwards. Reallocation of staff from HBC Parks and Gardens has also helped keep collections operating.

The Harrogate Convention Centre has been converted to an NHS Nightingale hospital facility (opening 21 April 2020).

During the last twelve months, 345 affordable houses have been completed in the HBC district. The number represents huge progress on previous years and is very much welcomed.

#### **2004/9 Updates for information**

a. *Planned closure of the Grange Medical Centre, Dacre Banks:* Clerk updated that a letter from Amanda Bloor, Accountable Officer, NHS Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) dated 10 March 2020 confirmed that:

- the CCG will need to approve any reconfiguration of Nidderdale Group Practice (NGP);
- discussions had taken place between the CCG and NGP regarding the process and applicable criteria but no formal application had been received from NGP;
- when an application has been received, it would be considered at a public meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee of the CCG and would involve an understanding of what patient and community involved has taken place and the issues emerging; and
- the CCG confirmed that NGP will be working with the local population in relation to the plans.

Borough Cllr Watson confirmed that he had attended a NYCC Scrutiny of Health Committee (the Committee) meeting in March 2020 and had raised the planned closure of the Grange Medical Centre at that meeting. He expects that the closure will be considered at a future meeting of the Committee and understands that NGP should carry out a full consultation of every patient in order to consider the impact of its plans.

b. *Survey of parking at Darley Community Primary School:* Tim Simpson, NYCC, confirmed that his survey of parking and traffic was extensive and was carried out for the full length of Main Street around the school from the bend/dip in the road near Fringill Lane to Sheepcote Lane. No issues had been witnessed. It was noted that parked vehicles generally slowed the speed of traffic around the school.

#### **2004/10 Highways and footpaths**

a. A number of issues regarding grass verges had been raised including damage to the verges due to construction site traffic (in particular Main Street and Sheepcote Lane, Darley) and damage reported to be caused by HBC Waste & Recycling collection vehicles on Main Street, Darley. A parishioner had requested

that the Parish Council carry out a general survey of grass verges within the Parish with a view to seeking any damage to be repaired by those responsible.

Clerk confirmed that an update had been chased from HBC following an initial query raised in March 2020 regarding the reported damage from HBC Waste & Recycling vehicles. Borough Cllr Watson agreed to help with this.

On the basis that the majority of grass verges were expected to recover naturally, the Council agreed not to carry out a review of all verges but to consider action in relation to any that did not recover; **Clerk and Cllrs to monitor.**

- b. Problems with dog owners not picking up after their dogs was again noted, particularly on Walker Lane, Darley. Problems with dog owners bagging waste but then leaving it along footpaths was also noted. It was confirmed that a reminder scheduled to be included in the Focus on Darley village newsletter was omitted due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was agreed that, assuming it is safe to do so, HBC Environmental Protection should be asked to visit Walker Lane to monitor behaviour of dog walkers; **Clerk to action.**

#### **2004/11 Village Maintenance**

- a. It was agreed that when conditions allow (expected to be August 2020), the Parish Caretaker should be asked to clear overgrown ditches along Walker Lane in order to assist with easing flooding issues onto Walker Lane and into gardens on Low Green. A budget of up to £1,000 plus VAT was agreed; **Clerk to action.**
- b. It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker be asked to check on and remove excess overgrowth on village footpaths, particularly rose branches near Daleside. No other any urgent village maintenance needs were discussed.

#### **2004/12 Finance**

- a. Receipts noted: Bank interest (March) £7.19; Dacre Parish Council (Share of Clerk costs) £54.50; Payments noted: H Flynn – Reimbursement of postcard printing costs £40; M Pearson Clerk Salary April £264; npower cmas lights April £6.00; YLCA subscription to March 2021 £412.
- b. The budget for April 2020 was approved.
- c. It was agreed that an annual grant would be given to Darley and Menwith Playing Fields Association towards the costs of maintaining the children's play equipment. The value of the grant, initially £1,000, will be reviewed each year.
- d. It was agreed that the Clerk Home Working Allowance should be increased to £6 per week from 1 April.
- e. It was noted that the Parish Council deposit account interest rate was decreasing from 0.2% to 0.01% from 10 June 2020.

#### **2004/13 Correspondence received by the Clerk**

- a. *NYCC – Recruitment campaign*: a recruitment campaign asking employers to consider whether furloughed staff can work for NYCC was noted; **Clerk to circulate details.**
- b. *learnnyay.co.uk*: a request for a link to learnnyay.co.uk be added to the Parish Council website was noted; **Clerk to confirm that only businesses within Darley and Menwith Parish will be included in the local business directory.**
- c. *jobcentrenearne.com*: a request for a link to jobcentrenearne.com be added to the Parish Council website was noted; **Clerk to confirm that only businesses within Darley and Menwith Parish will be included in the local business directory.**

**2004/14 Items for Information and next Agenda:** It was agreed that an update of the standing orders to cover the holding of meetings remotely should be included on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council; **Clerk to action.**

It was noted that a number of vehicles appeared to be visiting or passing through Darley in contravention of the guidelines on non-essential travel (e.g. driving from nearby towns in order to cycle or towing caravans). It was recommended that registration details are obtained and passed to the police.

**2004/15 Date of next meetings:** 18 May (with Annual Meeting); 29 June; 27 July; 28 September.

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