

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2020 from 8pm

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

2005/1 Present: Cllrs S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D Dickinson, D McQueen, County Cllr Stan Lumley (part), Borough Cllr Tom Watson and the Clerk M Pearson. No members of the public attended.

2005/2 Apologies: None.

2005/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: Cllr Robertshaw declared an interest in the planning application 20/01438/DVCON Land Comprising Field At 420945 459286 Stumps Lane Darley as a neighbour to the site and took no part in the discussion or vote.

2005/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2020 were approved.

2005/5 Public Statements: None.

2005/6 Coronavirus pandemic

- a. It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (20 April 2020).
- b. Clerk updated that it should be possible to set up Business Internet Banking but informed the Council that charges might be payable for certain transactions made electronically. On the basis that such payments would be made in an emergency if payment by cheque was not feasible and that the Council typically has few transactions, the Council agreed that Business Internet Banking should be set up; **Clerk to action.**
- c. The Council thanked the volunteers working to make the Community Support scheme a success (to date around 280 shops and 100 dog walks carried out for over fifty 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 number of risks have been added to the Parish Council involvement in the Community Support scheme risk assessment as a result of the introduction of the delivery of hot food within the community (Darley Lunch Club). For the minority of cases where volunteers will need to enter a person's home, controls are recommended to ensure that the volunteers observe social distancing and possess the correct vehicle insurance. The new document also reflects a monthly review process by Councillor Robertshaw. The Council adopted the revised risk assessment; **Clerk to add to Council website.**

2005/7 Planning

a. **Planning Decisions** noted:

20/00425/FUL Demolition of agricultural building; Erection of agricultural building. Springfield Farm Langer Hill Lane High Birstwith
APPLICATION PERMITTED

b. **Planning Applications** considered:

20/01292/FUL Erection of first floor extension, formation of hipped roof to garage, enlargement of porch and alterations to fenestration. Delves Ridge Cottage Menwith Hill Road Thornthwaite
NO OBJECTIONS

20/01174/FUL Proposed Agricultural Vehicle Store and Stables. Walker Barn Walker Lane Darley

The Council had NO OBJECTIONS to the application but if approved, recommended a condition to ensure that construction vehicles did not park on Walker Lane.
NO OBJECTIONS

20/01438/DVCON Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) and remove/vary condition 26 in line with current policy (affordable housing) of Planning Approval 18/01040/FUL - Erection of 5 new detached dwellings with central access road. (revised scheme). Land Comprising Field At 420945 459286 Stumps Lane Darley

The Council OBJECTED to the application to vary Condition 2 (approved details including site and house type plans, sections, and elevations), expressing concern that the increased height of the proposed houses (understood to be increased by 80-100cm) would mean that they over-bear neighbouring properties.

They are not considered to be in keeping with the local area in the AONB. The village design statement also states that Velux windows should not be used.

The increased floor area for living accommodation within the houses has greatly increased, which is also of concern as it will mean larger numbers of people and cars. The increased height may also lead to a greater safety risk for traffic entering and leaving the site as a result of further reduced sight-lines.

The Council expressed disappointment regarding the application to remove Condition 26 (provision for affordable housing) whilst appreciating that this stems from a change of planning policy, noting the need for affordable housing within the Parish and Nidderdale.

COUNCIL OBJECTS

Planning Enforcement: An update in respect of 20/00175/PR15 *Beckside Cottage Moke Hill Farm Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Use of agricultural land for residential parking (16/00916/FUL)* was noted. Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Planning Enforcement seeks further information regarding the construction and use of the hard standing concerned for the parking of vehicles.

c. **Other planning matters:** Chairman confirmed that the HBC Local Plan adopted in March 2020 contains errors with regards to committed sites. The Council agreed that correction of the errors should be pursued with HBC in order to avoid any confusion; **Chairman to action.**

2005/8 County and Borough Councillors' Reports:

County Councillor Lumley confirmed that there are a number of challenges being faced by everyone as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Financially, additional grants from central government are very much appreciated but North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has spent significantly more in dealing with the crisis. Prudent planning, with financial reserves held by NYCC and HBC, are helping to reduce the overall impact on services but further funding is being sought from central government.

Increases have been observed in mental health problems, domestic abuse and alcohol consumption within the county. Health and Social Care staff are working to help alleviate these problems. Care of the elderly, including home-care residents and planning for the re-opening of schools are also significant challenges.

The reopening of some Household Waste Recycling Centres (including in Harrogate) is expected to help with problems of fly-tipping and the understandable increase in domestic waste and recycling generated by residents staying at home.

The NYCC website is recommended for information and advice (www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information).

County Councillor 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 looking after each other and thanked everybody involved in the community support schemes.

Borough Councillor Watson noted that the Harrogate Covid-19 Testing Facility operating at Harrogate Hydro, Jennyfield Drive is operated by the military rather than HBC.

He confirmed that measures have been adopted to practise social distancing within HBC, especially Waste and Recycling collection through employing additional vehicles. Many staff are working from home which is putting stress on maintaining usual service provision.

It appears unlikely that the Annual General Meeting of HBC will take place, meaning that the current mayor will continue in post (potentially through to 2021).

Contractors have been appointed to repair damage to the Stray in Harrogate and to install drainage (with a contribution to the cost received from Yorkshire 2019 Ltd). The Nightingale hospital has been mothballed pending it being needed to help with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Borough Councillor Watson agreed that the help being provided within the community is wonderful to see and also expressed thanks to everyone involved.

2005/9 Updates for information

a. *Dog-fouling on Walker Lane, Darley:* Clerk confirmed that HBC Dog Control has agreed to carry out patrols of Walker Lane when conditions allow. In the meantime, any information regarding owners failing to pick up after their dogs can be reported. The Council resolved to make parishioners aware of this via the community facebook page; **Chairman to action.**

2005/10 Highways and footpaths

a. Correspondence regarding Main Street, Darley: Clerk confirmed that he had been copied in on correspondence regarding the repair of Main Street, Darley. It was understood that the contractor responsible for resurfacing Main Street in 2017 had disputed the liability for the failure of the surface. NYCC now intends to monitor the surface and repair should it become unsafe, pending a budget being available for more substantial repair in the future. The concern and frustration of parishioners was recognised by the Council.

- b. No urgent highway and footpath issues were noted.

2005/11 Village Maintenance

- a. It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should be asked to help devise a more permanent solution to repair the steps at Fringill Beck, Darley and that this work then be carried out. Gravel used on the steps has been repeatedly washed away during wet weather; **Clerk to discuss with the Parish Caretaker.**
- b. It was agreed that weeds at edge of pavement and against walls on Sheepecote Lane be cleared. **Clerk to action with Parish Caretaker.**
- c. It was noted that HBC has confirmed that, due to the demands of the Coronavirus pandemic, Low Green and a number of grass verges that it would usually cut in Darley are unlikely to be cut in the next five weeks and possibly not during 2020. The Council agreed that, subject to agreeing a reasonable price, the Parish Caretaker should now be asked to cut the areas usually cut by HBC; **Clerk to obtain an estimate from Parish Caretaker.** It was agreed that the cost of carrying out such work on behalf of HBC should be noted and communicated to HBC.
- d. Councillor McQueen had been made aware that Oddy Garth was over-grown with brambles and that it was becoming an eye-sore. It was agreed that the Council would ask the Charity of Isabel Day to tidy up the site; **Clerk to action.**

2005/12 Finance

- a. Receipts noted: HBC Precept part 1 £7,500; Payments noted: Focus on Darley – Subscription and grant towards increased printing costs £350; M Pearson Clerk Salary May £264; npower cmas lights May £6.00; Zurich Municipal – Insurance to 31 May 2021 £408.16; J Dowson – Internal audit fee £50.
- b. The budget for May 2020 was approved.
- c. No further issues were raised.

2005/13 Correspondence received by the Clerk

- a. NYCC: A briefing note has been received that reminds landowners that closing or obstructing Public Rights of Way during the Coronavirus pandemic is unlawful but that there are steps that may help manage the risk (such as tying gates open to avoid walkers needing to touch these, displaying polite notices asking the public to observe social distancing guidance and, where safe to do so, offering alternative routes away from gardens and farmyards).

2005/14 Items for Information and next Agenda: Borough Councillor Watson agreed to help follow up on HBC Waste and Recycling vehicles allegedly damaging grass verges in Darley (February 2020). Given the potential constraints of the Coronavirus pandemic, Borough Councillor Watson also agreed to look into a request made by HBC to those renting garages on Valley Road, Darley to clear and vacate.

2005/15 Date of next meetings: 29 June; 27 July; 28 September; 26 October; 30 November

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