

Draft minutes of the meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 28 September 2020 from 7.30pm

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic this meeting was held by conference call

2009/1 Present: Councillors S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, N Nicholas, E Butler, J McAllister, D McQueen, D Dickinson, County Councillor Stan Lumley (part), Borough Councillor Tom Watson (part) and the Clerk M Pearson. No members of the public attended.

2009/2 Apologies: None.

2009/3 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: Councillor Nicholas declared an interest in Planning Application 20/03114/FUL as a neighbour to the site and took no part in the discussion or vote.

2009/4 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020 were approved.

2009/5 Public Statements: None.

2009/6 Coronavirus pandemic

- It was noted that no emergency decisions had been made since the last meeting (17 August 2020).
- It was noted that the latest advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is for Parish Council meetings to be held remotely. It was agreed that meetings of the Council would continue to be held remotely for the foreseeable future.
- It was noted that the Community Support Scheme (CSS) remains on standby. No actions were considered necessary.
- No further revisions were recommended to the risk assessment concerning Council involvement in the CSS.

2009/7 Planning

a. Planning Decisions noted:

20/03230/AMENDS Non material amendment application seeking amendments to roof and fenestration of application reference 15/04484/FUL - Erection of first floor extension, replacement roof from flat to pitched and alterations to fenestration. Heck Gill Manor Stumps Lane Darley APPLICATION PERMITTED

20/02285/FUL Erection of stable block. Land Comprising Field At 420555 459760 Station Road Darley PERMISSION GRANTED

b. Planning Applications considered:

20/02850/FUL Retention of hardstanding/parking area. Beckside Cottage Moke Hill Farm Darley NO OBJECTIONS

20/03050/FUL Demolition of single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension. 5 Trafalgar Square Darley NO OBJECTIONS

20/03090/FUL Retention of replacement dwelling West Croft Day Lane Thornthwaite

The Council commented that were this a new application it would have had no objections but that, in light of a previously approved planning application not being followed, the Council NEITHER SUPPORTED NOR OBJECTED TO the application. It was also noted that the application appeared inconsistent when comparing the approved design and the dwelling constructed. NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OBJECTS

20/03114/FUL Erection of 1no. first floor extension and 1no. single storey link extension. Installation of 2no. rooflights and alterations to fenestration. The Old Vicarage Darley Head Darley

The Council had NO OBJECTIONS on the understanding that the development of this old and important building of significant character would be carried out sensitively. It was assumed that the new stone feature window in the en-suite bathroom would be glazed with frosted glass. NO OBJECTIONS

20/03257/FUL Erection of single storey extensions to form attached double garage, therapy room, and ramped covered access, with covered patio to rear. High Gable Darley Head Darley

The Council OBJECTED on the basis that the proposals represented over-development of the site and that the proposed double garage extension would be beyond the existing front building line of properties on that section of the street. It was assumed that if permission were granted, any roof windows would be appropriate for a conservation area. COUNCIL OBJECTS

c. Planning Enforcement:

20/00408/BRPC15 Loxley Homes Village Mews Residential Development Main Street Darley ALLEGED BREACH: Potential non-compliance with drainage conditions (11, 20, 21, 22 and 23) of 17/02008/FULMAJ (17/02008/FULMAJ 18/01737/DISCON) was noted.

d. Planning Appeals noted:

20/00033/NREFPP Erection of 1no dwelling with associated access and landscaping. Silverdale Farm Silverdale Close Darley **APPEAL DISMISSED**

e. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government White Paper - Planning for the future:

It was agreed that although the Parish is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is therefore likely to be largely protected under the new proposals, the paper raised questions as to whether the Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) Local Plan might need to be amended (potentially affecting agreed allocations and development limits within the Parish) and whether the HBC Planning Committee would continue to operate. It was also not clear as to when the White Paper proposals might be implemented if approved.

f. Other planning matters: None.

2009/8 Updates for Information

- a. *AJ1 Road Safety Project Application:* North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) confirmed that the review of its policy on 20mph speed limits has not been finalised. As such, an application for funding to implement a 20mph speed limit outside Darley Community Primary School was not submitted in August 2020;
- b. *Request to increase in areas of wildflowers within the Parish:* Advice from Darley in Bloom suggested that other than the strip of land opposite Claremont, and Fringill, no other sites within the Parish lend themselves readily to being wildflower areas. Darley in Bloom agreed to leave the area opposite Claremont for wildflowers provided that the Council can help with maintenance by cutting this back once a year.
- c. *The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018:* It was noted that small amendments had been made to the Council website to bring it in line with the regulations that came into force on 23 September 2020 requiring parish council websites to be accessible for those with disabilities.

2009/9 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Lumley confirmed that the biggest issue being considered by NYCC is the change to the local authority structure in the county. NYCC currently favours a single authority covering North Yorkshire excluding the City of York (which would continue to operate as a unitary authority). The seven districts within North Yorkshire (including HBC) currently favour a different model utilising two more equal authorities (split either East/West or North/South).

It is anticipated that a change in structure would bring the benefits of devolved power (more decision-making being made locally), increased funding from Central Government and cost savings through a reduction in administration. NYCC currently carries out approximately 80% of local authority business in the County, with District and Parish Councils carrying out the remaining 20%.

Advice has been sought from similar counties that have made the change (including Cornwall and Durham) as part of the work to understand the challenges and advantages of changing structure. Unless the process is paused to allow local authorities to focus on the Coronavirus pandemic, proposals should be submitted to Central Government very soon. A change in structure would most likely mean that elections planned for 2021 would be cancelled, with Councillors serving an extended term to help transition to the new structure.

Additional resources are being put into providing Coronavirus testing (the latest details should be obtained from the NYCC website (www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-testing)). Testing at locations in Harrogate should be carried out twice a week. The winter gritting schedule has been planned and is ready with increasing use of technology to help improve the efficiency of the task.

Borough Councillor Watson expressed concern that the proposals to change the local authority structure in North Yorkshire could remove democracy from local areas if there is reduction in the number of local Councillors. Given the county's size, administration by less than four unitary authorities may be very difficult.

In a typical week, HBC collects 990 tonnes of household waste, processes 35 planning applications, carries out inspections of ten food premises, processes 980 benefit claims and changes; and repairs 154 properties. The contract for Smart Parking (the AppyParking mobile app) with AppyWay has been extended to July 2021. The number of people sleeping rough within the district has fallen from 29 in March 2020 to 13 currently as accommodation has been found by HBC.

2009/10 Highways and Footpaths

- a. *Traffic problems at the junction of Stumps Lane/Main Street, Darley*: It was noted that vehicles parked along Main Street opposite and near the junction with Stumps Lane create a safety issue for those joining from Stumps Lane. It was noted that a number of possible solutions had been previously explored without success. It was agreed that the issue should be highlighted in the next *Focus on Darley* newsletter; **Clerk to action**.
- b. *NYCC Highways investigation on Main Street, Darley*: It was noted that an inspection of a flooding issue near Fringill on Main Street was made in August 2020 and that a new culvert is understood to be required. Details of the timing and possible road closures had been sought; **Clerk to update at next meeting**.
- c. *Dog-fouling*: Reports of ongoing dog-fouling issues within the Parish were noted. It was agreed that until HBC Dog Wardens are able to carry out patrols in the village, existing warning notices should be refreshed and a further reminder included on the Council's website and in *Focus on Darley*; **Clerk to action**.
- d. No other highways and footpaths issues were discussed.

2009/11 Village Maintenance

- a. *NYCC/RAF Menwith Hill volunteer project installing footbridge over Fringill Beck*: It was noted that work to erect the new bridge should be carried out on 2 October 2020;
- b. *Request to cut the grass verges from Moke Hill to the Holme, Darley*: It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should be asked to include this stretch within the annual lanes and verges cut going forward; **Clerk to action**.
- c. It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should be asked to trim the wildflower bed opposite Claremont on Main Street, Darley and to trim Fringill; **Clerk to action**.
- d. It was noted that a parishioner may be putting grass cuttings onto a verge on Main Street, Darley, hampering the Parish Caretaker when cutting the grass. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the parishioner asking them to dispose of grass-cuttings correctly; **Clerk to action**.

2009/12 Reports

- a. *NYCC Webinar regarding unitary authority status 18 August*: Cllr Nicholas reported that the call identified potential opportunities to increase the role of the Council if the local authority structure was reorganised, with further powers devolved to the Council if it is in the interests of parishioners to do so. It was agreed that a paper should be prepared summarising the current responsibilities of the Council and the services provided by HBC and NYCC locally for discussion at the next meeting; **Clerk to action**. It was agreed that Councillor Nicholas should put his name forward to represent the Council on the NYCC working group being set up; **Councillor Nicholas to contact NYCC**.
- b. *Darley Memorial Hall*: It was noted that Darley Memorial Hall plans to hold a film night on Thursday 15th October 2020.
- c. *Darley Playing Fields Association*: Councillor Nicholas updated that Andy Makin and Andrew Johnston have resigned as trustees. Mark Simpson has taken on the role of Chairman.

2009/13 Finance

- a. Receipts and Payments noted: Receipts: Harrogate Borough Council Precept part 2 £7,500; Payments: Darley in Bloom Grant £500, M Pearson Clerk Salary August 2020 £264, npower cmas lights (August) £5, npower cmas lights (September) £5, Vision ICT - Website hosting to October 2021 £270, M Pearson Clerk Salary September 2020 £264, M Pearson - Allowances and expenses to 30 September 2020 £164.17, Information Commissioner's Office - Data Protection fee to June 2021 £35, TP Jones - Payroll services to 30 September 2020 £27.
- b. The budget for September 2020 was approved;
- c. The Council agreed that the Chairman's allowance can be used to buy coffees for the volunteers working to install the new bridge over Fringill Beck on 2 October 2020. No other financial matters were considered.

2009/14 Correspondence received by the Clerk:

- a. *North Yorkshire Police Parish Report, quarter to September 2020*: Three reports of fraud within the Parish were noted (an email from a fraudulent delivery company, a loan being taken out in a victim's name and a male pretending to be a Police Officer from Scotland Yard reporting unauthorised use of a card for withdrawing cash);
- b. *Arthritis Action*: It was noted that Arthritis Action is a UK charity offering online Action Group meetings during the Coronavirus pandemic (www.arthritisaction.org.uk/media-centre/events/).
- c. HBC Horticultural Nursery plant sale: Plants are now being sold from HBC's Nursery on Nursery Lane East, off Harlow Moor Road, Harrogate HG2 0FH through until 24 December 2020.

2009/15 Items for Information and next Agenda: In light of the budget and precept for the year ending 31 March 2022 being set at the meeting on 30 November, Councillors should put forward ideas for projects and expenditure at the meeting on 26 October; **Clerk to add to agenda**.

2009/16 Date of next meetings: 26 October; 30 November; 25 January; 22 February; 29 March.

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