Draft Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darley and Menwith Parish Council held on 26 October 2026 from 7:30pm at Darley Memorial Hall, Sheepcote Lane, Darley

2610/7 Present: Councillor S Welch (Chairman), A Robertshaw, D Dickinson, P Ward, J McAllister, J Hayes, R Ferguson, County Councillor A Murday (Part), Clerk (D Rutherford Walshe), and one parishioner.

2610/8 Apologies: None

2610/9 Declarations of Interest and consideration of dispensations: None

2610/10 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28 September 2026 and the extraordinary meeting held on 5 October 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

2610/11 Public Statements (Maximum 15 minutes total)
A parishioner requested an update regarding planning enforcement case 26/01046/PR15, Little Timble, Darley Head. It was resolved that County Councillor Murday would make enquiries and provide feedback directly to the parishioner.

2610/12 Planning

a. **Planning Decisions** to note: None were noted.

b. **Planning Applications** to be considered:

26/06322/OUT – Land South of Main Street, Darley.
Outline planning application for 1no. self-build residential dwelling and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except access. OBJECTIONS
The Council objected, referring to its previous objections to the loss of the through view at the site, impact on the Protected Landscape of Nidderdale NNL and lack of sufficient information about exact location, size and style of the building.

26/06258/TPO – 1 Darley House, Darley Head, Darley, HG3 2QF.
Works within Tree Preservation Order 05/1970. T1 (Elm) - Fell. A17 (Beech) - Lateral reduction by up to 2m, maximum pruning cuts of 50mm to reduce the extended canopy back into shape, clear the property and reduce the extended overhang from the drive area. NO OBJECTIONS

c. **Other planning matters**

26/01103/BRPC15 – Garage Blocks, Valley Road, Darley.
It was noted that North Yorkshire Council Planning Enforcement had recommended that the case be closed. It was further noted that a meeting between North Yorkshire Council and Darley Playing Fields Association was due to take place regarding the matter.

2610/13 County Councillor's Report:

a. It was noted that additional road closure notices had been received and were considered under the Highways item.
b. It was noted that the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority had agreed to spend £3.5 million on a study to assess the costs and benefits of bus franchising in York and North Yorkshire.
c. The Council noted that changes to the National Planning Policy Framework meant that work on a new North Yorkshire Local Plan would recommence, with opportunities for public engagement at the scoping stage later in the month.
d. It was noted that the request for a change of speed limit on Sheepcote Lane was still being considered by North Yorkshire Council.

2610/14 Highways and footpaths

a. **Public Right of Way No. 15.91/47/1:** It was noted that the Clerk had liaised with the Public Rights of Way Officer regarding reports of vegetation overgrowth, an obstruction across the route and the positioning of a fingerpost. County Councillor A Murday confirmed that North Yorkshire Council had acknowledged the issues.
b. **Public Right of Way No. 15.91/1:** It was noted that a Public Rights of Way Officer had acknowledged the Council's willingness, subject to agreement, to contribute towards the cost of repairs to the steps and handrail. It was further noted that a Field Officer was expected to contact the Clerk in due course.
c. **Road Restriction Notices:** It was noted that temporary road restrictions were planned on Stumps Lane from 2 to 4 November 2026, Heck Gill Lane from 5 to 7 November 2026, Moorcock Lane from 20 to 24 November 2026, Darley Road, Birstwith from 7 to 11 December 2026, and Crake Lane from 9 to 13 December 2026 in connection with fibre-to-the-home infrastructure works
d. **Unsafe Manhole Covers, Main Street:** It was noted that the previously reported gas-related manhole covers had now been repaired and replaced. It was further noted that the Clerk had contacted North Yorkshire Council to seek clarification regarding responsibility for the removal of materials left in the vicinity of the manhole covers.

2610/15 Village Maintenance

a. **Pollinator Area (Stocks Green): Feedback** from one parishioner was noted. It was resolved that the pollinator area had been successful in promoting biodiversity within the parish and that the area would remain in place in 2027. It was further noted that the installation of a path on Stocks Green had been commissioned and that the Clerk would follow up the matter with the contractor.
b. **Plug Planting at the Playing Field:** It was noted that plug plants supplied through a Nidderdale National Landscape project had been planted alongside one of the banks at the playing field, with the agreement of the Darley Playing Fields Association.

2610/16 Reports

a. Councillors reported that the Charity of Isabel was able to award small grants for local projects. Application forms are available from the secretary at chairman@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk.
b. It was noted that the chairman would represent the council at the Nidderdale Community Partnership Wider Meeting held on 4 November 2026.
c. It was noted that the Chairman would represent the Council at local wreath laying ceremonies.
d. It was noted that Council members had been invited to attend the RAF Menwith Hill Thanksgiving Dinner on 19 November. The Chairman would be attending, along with the Clerk.

2610/17 Finance

a. **Receipts and Payments noted:** Receipts: North Yorkshire Council Precept - £8,434.13, Virgin Banking goodwill gesture - £100.00. Payments: E.ON Next Christmas Lights - £17.76.
b. The Purchase of two memorial wreaths at the cost of £40.00 was approved.
c. The budget for October 2026 was approved.

2610/18 Correspondence received by the Clerk

a. **Let's Talk Money:** Correspondence from North Yorkshire Council regarding the *Let's Talk Money 2026* budget consultation was noted. The consultation closes on 26 November 2026, and further information is available at www.northyorks.gov.uk/lets-talk.
b. **Rural Exception Site Consultation Event:** Correspondence from North Yorkshire Council regarding a Rural Exception Site consultation event was noted. The event will take place at Darley Christ Church Community Centre on 1 December 2026, from 3.00pm to 6.45pm.
c. **North Yorkshire Local Plan:** Correspondence from North Yorkshire Council regarding online briefing sessions for City, Town and Parish Councillors and the forthcoming North Yorkshire Local Plan Scoping Consultation was noted and councillors urged to attend. The consultation will run from 26 October to 7 December 2026.

2610/19 Items for information and next Agenda

a. **Budget for the Financial Year 2027/2028:** To consider the draft budget and proposed expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, and to discuss the precept requirement.
b. **Rural Exception Site Consultation Event:** To note the forthcoming consultation event

2610/20 Dates of next meetings Ordinary Meetings scheduled for 30 November 2026, 25 January 2027.

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