

**DACRE PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2022 AT 6.45PM**  
**AT DACRE AND HARTWITH VILLAGE HALL, DACRE BANKS**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Jackie Kerr (Chairman), Sandra Darnbrook, Ken Johnson, Carol White, Russ Brown, Alan Brown, County Councillor Stan Lumley (part) and Martin Pearson, Parish Clerk. No members of the public attended.

**Apologies:** Councillor Jess Sutton. Borough Councillor Tom Watson.

1. *Chairman's Welcome:* Councillor Kerr welcomed all to the Dacre Parish Assembly with remarks (copy below).
2. *County and Borough Councillors reports -* County Councillor Stan Lumley presented a North Yorkshire County Council report (summary below). Clerk read a Harrogate Borough Council report prepared by Borough Councillor Tom Watson (copy below). *Parish Report:* Clerk presented a Dacre Parish Report (copy below).
3. Reports on Parish organisations were presented:

***Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhoods Group (NSNG):*** Councillor Johnson reported that NSNG resumed meetings in November 2021. Meetings now include regular reports from North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and a regular report from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service has been promised going forward. Two speakers have been arranged for meetings in 2022. Councillor Johnson's last meeting as Chairman will be on 1 June 2022, at which elections will be held.

***Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association (DHPFA):*** Councillor Kerr reported that DHPFA met on 4 April 2022, the first meeting since September 2019. The finances of the association are healthy as a result of a number of grants and approximately £8,200 of commuted sums funding. A working group has been set up to review the current facilities and identify projects for the commuted sums funding.

Dacre Banks Cricket Club is expected to resume playing in April, alongside the tennis and bowls clubs which have been in action already this year. The facilities are also now being used for children's football.

The playing fields were used as a checkpoint for the Yorkshire Challenge long-distance event in July 2021 and are expected to be used again for the 2022 event on 23 July.

Through a private donation and contributions from the Pateley Bridge Mayor's Fund and the Vale of Nidd Masonic Lodge, a defibrillator has been acquired and installed at the playing fields.

A review of the structure of the organisation is being undertaken with a view to encouraging new people to become involved in the running of the facilities. This might mean reorganizing as a Community Interest Company.

***William Hardcastle Trust (WHT):*** Councillor White reported that face-to-face meetings of the WHT have not resumed, with schools prioritising learning at this time. The William Hardcastle Cup was presented in 2021 to children from Summerbridge Community Primary School and Dacre Braithwaite Church of England Primary School who made exceptional contributions to school life. The trust has funds from donations totalling approximately £1,500 at present.

***Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall Committee (DHSVHC):*** Councillor Darnbrook reported that Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall is open and taking bookings. A support grant of £10,000 helped maintain the building during a period of closure during the Coronavirus pandemic. Recent investment has

been made to repair the floor in the main hall, improve the electrics of the building and to purchase a new dishwasher and first aid kit.

Committed sums funding of approximately £35,000 is available (subject to extending the lease of the building) and is expected to fund a new roof in the small meeting room and redecoration of the main hall. The 200 club is also helping to raise funds for DHVHC.

**The Greenhow Fund (TGF):** Councillor Kerr reported that this fund, established by Hanson Aggregates in connection with its Pateley Bridge quarry, aims to finance projects in the parishes of Bewerley, Dacre, Thornthwaite with Padside and Thruscross (those immediately neighbouring the quarry).

Grants awarded are usually for projects which aim to improve the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and details are available on the website (<https://nidderdaleaonb.org.uk/greenhow-enhancement-fund/>).

TGF meets four times per year to consider applications. The next meeting will be held online.

4. *Discussion on current issues:* A general discussion was held around housing and development within the Parish.
5. *Open Forum:* No further issues were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

## **Dacre Parish Assembly 2022**

### **Chairman's remarks**

Welcome everyone to this Parish Meeting for Dacre Parish Council. It is lovely to be see you all in person at the Parish Meeting this year, as opposed to on the small screen.

This meeting is held annually and is a meeting of the parish electorate required – by law – to be held between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. It is distinct – and separate – from a parish council meeting, although it is called by whoever holds the position of Chair of the Parish Council at the time. It is an opportunity for public comment on pressing issues in the community, for suggestions for ideas for future action and for questions on council performance.

There will be a full report from the Parish Clerk, Martin Pearson, shortly but I have a couple of comments and thanks.

We resumed face to face Council meetings in June 2021, firstly here at the Village Hall in Dacre Banks and then moving back to the schoolroom in Dacre. Online meetings were a vital tool in enabling us to conduct business but it was a pleasure to get back to relative normality.

Village life seems to be blossoming again with many of the regular fixtures on our social calendar returning. One of the big events for this year will be our celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: plans for the parish include a Sports Day on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and a big village Picnic Lunch on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

As Chair of the Council, I am, as always, grateful for the help and support of all who make the Parish function so well:

- The Parish Caretaker, Richard Langley, whose work keeps the Parish looking well maintained and cared for;
- Ian Grayshon, who maintains the public conveniences in Dacre to a high standard;
- County Councillor Stan Lumley and Borough Councillor Tom Watson for their significant contributions to Dacre Parish Council and their wise words of advice;
- To fellow Councillors for their attendance and attention at Parish Council meetings and other meetings where they represent the interests of the Parish;
- To the Clerk, Martin Pearson, for his preparation, meticulous attention to detail and guidance.

Finally, this is the last meeting of Councillor Ken Johnson – thank you, Ken, for your contribution to the Council and also the Safer Neighbourhoods Group. I wish you interesting – and safe – travels in the future.

**Jackie Kerr**

## **Dacre Parish Assembly 2022**

### **North Yorkshire County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor Lumley has worked during the year to update and inform Parish Councils regarding North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) news through his regular attendance at Parish Council meetings. He thanked Dacre Parish Councillors for working with NYCC through the year. If elected to the new North Yorkshire Council in May 2022, County Councillor Lumley hopes to continue to do this.

NYCC continues to face many challenges including the provision of health and adult services (this expenditure represents more than 50% of the total budget of NYCC, with demand for services increasing as approaching one in three people within the county are now over the age of 65) and maintenance of the road network (North Yorkshire has one of the largest road networks of any county in the country and maintaining the roads and bridges (many of which are listed) is a significant challenge within a budget of £40m).

NYCC has undertaken a number of initiatives, such as the replacement of all of NYCC sodium lamp streetlights with LED lights (this should save money with significantly lower energy and maintenance costs expected from the new LED lights) and pioneering bus schemes (a trial of "dial and ride" buses between Bedale, Masham and Ripon) to help increase access to public transport in areas not covered by other public transport.

The new road scheme for Kex Gill on the A59 is expected to start construction in Autumn 2022. This £60-65million is partly funded by NYCC and is hugely important for transport links within the area.

The work on Junction 47 of the A1(M) is also nearing completion and should lead to a safer and better junction for road users.

The creation of a new unitary authority for North Yorkshire in April 2023 should simplify the local authority structure. The authority will make use of area constituency committees to help manage the provision of services. Dacre Parish Council will fall within the area constituency committee serving Skipton and Ripon rather than Harrogate.

County Councillor Lumley wished the Council success for the future.

**Stanley Lumley**

## **Dacre Parish Assembly 2022**

### **Harrogate Borough Councillor's Report**

The Covid 19 epidemic arrived in the UK in early 2020. Throughout the pandemic all Councils have carried out council meetings remotely or in person when permitted by Government guidance.

#### *1. Local Government Review for North Yorkshire*

Local Government in North Yorkshire is to be merged into one single Council Authority from the 1st April 2023. All Borough and District Councils, including the County Council, will be abolished on the 31st March 2023.

Elections for the new authority and for Parish Councils will be held on 5th May 2022 and all elected councillors will serve for a 5-year term until 2027 with elections every 4 years after that date.

#### *2. Housing in Nidderdale*

Affordable rented housing in the Nidderdale AONB is a major problem for young families wishing to remain in the dales. Five new-build houses and one ex-council house were bought by the Borough Council in Summerbridge last year and three more homes are nearing completion at Darley.

The Borough Council is now purchasing ex-council houses that have been sold under the Right to Buy scheme which is helping to maintain the Council's housing stock within the Borough.

#### *3. Defibrillators*

I have worked with Parish Councils and local communities to obtain unused defibrillators and cabinets from obsolete sites, these now being relocated to the following places locally:

Heyshaw Village (Defibrillator only)

Hookstone Memorial Hall

Christ Church Community Centre

Darley Playing Fields Pavilion

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors and the residents of Nidd Valley Ward for their support and help over the last year and look forward to serving my last year as Harrogate Borough Councillor for Nidd Valley.

**Tom Watson**

## **Dacre Parish Assembly 2022**

### **Clerk's Report**

Dacre Parish Council has had a full complement of seven Councillors for the last twelve months.

The Council met twelve times during the year. Initially meetings were held online/by conference call due to the pandemic, with in-person meetings resuming in June 2021 and being held either at the Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall or the United Reformed Church Schoolroom at Dacre.

During the year individual Councillors also represented the Council at, or were nominated trustees of, at least seven other organisations and events - the Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association, the William Hardcastle Trust, Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall Committee, Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhoods Group, Yorkshire Local Councils Associations, the Greenhow Enhancement Fund, RAF Menwith Hill Civic Leaders.

The Council submitted twenty-five consultation responses to planning applications to Harrogate Borough Council during the year from April 2021 to March 2022.

In addition to maintaining the public conveniences in Dacre and maintaining two defibrillators, the Council has, supported by both Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council, added a third defibrillator in Heyshaw village. It continues to help improve the Parish through its ongoing support of the Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association, its provision of Christmas decorations at Dacre and Dacre Banks, plants for various planters around Dacre Banks and anti-dog-fouling posters in Dacre Banks.

I would again personally like to thank the Councillors for giving their time and energy, particularly given many competing pressures and the uncertainties of the pandemic.

I would especially like to thank the Chairman of the Council, who puts in a significant amount of additional time throughout the year to make the Council productive and to make being Clerk of the Council very straightforward for me.

**Martin Pearson**