

DACRE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Tuesday, 11 June 2019 from 7.30pm at the United Reform Schoolroom, Dacre**

1. Present: Cllrs J Kerr (Chairman), A Brown, A Cottrill, C White, S Darnbrook, Borough Cllr Tom Watson (part), County Cllr Lumley (part) and M Pearson (Clerk). One member of the public attended (part).

2. Apologies: Cllr K Johnson (holiday); Borough Cllr Watson (late arrival)

3. Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations: None

4. Public Statements (Maximum 15 minutes total):

A parishioner raised concerns regarding grass-cutting in the Parish and in particular at Dacre Top. It was felt that certain areas in Dacre Top are untidy at present and in need of cutting. Reference was made to the extent of grass-cutting observed by the parishioner in previous years and the view was given that the Parish Council is obliged to cut the grass at Dacre Top.

Further concerns were raised in relation to the condition of the B6451 through Dacre Top and Dacre Banks. Previous correspondence with Area 6 Boroughbridge B6451 over a number of years was cited and the parishioner had received assurance that the surface would be repaired no later than 2021. The parishioner intends to remind the department of this around April 2020.

It was confirmed by the Clerk that the grass areas of concern at Dacre Top were due to be cut imminently and would be added to the schedule of areas to be cut going forward. However, the Parish Council stressed that the extent of grass-cutting was being carefully managed in line with a limited budget and that this might mean a reduction in grass-cutting overall.

County Cllr Lumley confirmed that funding has been allocated to repair the section of the B6451 in Darley outside of the Darley Mill. Funding has also been allocated to patch the B6451 through Dacre Top and Dacre Banks during the year to 31 March 2020. With 6,000 miles of road to maintain, even with additional central funding being provided, it is a challenge with the budget available. Systems for carrying out works and repairs are constantly being improved.

5. Minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 were approved.

6. Updates on current issues:

a i) *March Flooding at Dacre Banks:* It was confirmed that the engineer from Yorkshire Water has not been able to carry out investigation of the sewage system in the affected area (at the rear of Church Avenue, Dacre Banks) due to the presence of livestock in the field. Once the livestock are moved, it is expected that Yorkshire Water will carry out tests. **Clerk to provide update at next meeting;**

An officer of Harrogate Borough Council attended the same site and met with Borough Cllr Watson and Clerk in order to consider whether surface water from new properties in Dacre Banks may also be collecting at the rear of Church Avenue, Dacre Banks. Following the visit, the officer will consult with site plans and the Harrogate Borough Council drainage engineer in order to determine next steps; **Clerk to provide update at next meeting.**

ii) *Proposed closure of Grange Medical Centre:* Cllr Kerr confirmed that a letter had been sent to Nidderdale Group Practice seeking further information. The Practice Manager had responded supplying further information. Nidderdale Group Practice is looking at the potential to use volunteer driver schemes to help patients access other surgeries at Pateley Bridge and Birstwith. The intention with regards to the Grange Medical Centre building is unclear but that it is hoped that any new use will be beneficial to the community.

Clerk confirmed that attempts are being made to find the minutes for the period 1980-1982 in order to understand the Parish Council's role in the founding of the Grange Medical Centre and that the North Yorkshire Archives have been contacted (response awaited); **Clerk to update when progress is made;**

Cllr Kerr agreed to check the Land Registry information available relating to the Grange Medical Centre and to ask Kirbys Solicitors whether they hold any records relating to the Parish Council's previous ownership of the site; **Cllr Kerr to contact the Land Registry and Kirbys Solicitors;**

b i) Electricity and water checks: Clerk confirmed that a water meter reading taken on 11 June suggested no further problems with the water supply to the public conveniences. Clerk will check the kiosk electricity meter reading on 12 June; **Clerk to action;**

Defibrillators: Both defibrillators were confirmed to be working properly.

7. County and Borough Cllrs' Reports:

County Cllr Lumley confirmed that North Yorkshire County Council has a new Chairman, Jim Clark (who is also a Harrogate Borough Cllr). Harrogate Borough Council elected a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor in May (Cllrs Stuart Martin and Zoe Metcalfe respectively).

The UCI Road World Championships in September 2019 are likely to be a huge event. All races finish in Harrogate and two races pass through Nidderdale (Men U23 Friday 27 September and Women Elite Road Race Saturday 28 September). The fund made available to help celebrate the races has a deadline of 17 June.

Borough Cllr Watson highlighted the planned change in waste and recycling collections from 24 June 2019. All affected should have received a letter notifying of the changes to the current collection dates.

Borough Cllr Watson also highlighted that all refuse vehicles have cameras in order to help protect the employees (there have been a number of instances of motorists attempting dangerous manoeuvres in order to move round the vehicles). It was confirmed that all recycling collections are taken to the Allerton Park facility and anything that cannot be recycled is used to generate energy (not placed into landfill). County Cllr Lumley further explained that recycling costs Harrogate Borough Council only £20 per tonne but waste added to landfill costs £120 per tonne.

Borough Cllr Watson confirmed that Harrogate Borough Cllr achieved a 97.8% collection rate for Council Tax (against a 98.2% target) which compares favourably against national figures. Harrogate Borough Council employed an average of 1,127 people (2018/19).

8. Footpaths:

a. No footpath issues were reported.

9. Highways:

a. An update was provided by County Cllr Lumley regarding the latest on Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The protocol relaxing the rules regarding the purchase and installation of these signs was approved by North Yorkshire County Council on 1 April and there are now around 60 applications seeking approval from Parish Councils for purchase and installation.

The Yorkshire Local Councils Association has expressed the firm view that Parish Councils have no formal power to purchase VAS unless under the general power (s137 Local Government Act 1972 – this power has a cap on spending per annum based on the number of electors in the Parish).

It was confirmed that the purchase and installation of one VAS is likely to cost in the region of £2,500. It was also confirmed that planning permission should not be required for such signs, being temporary in nature and sited within the highway boundary. It was agreed that developments in this area should be monitored by the Council; **Clerk to monitor developments and update the Council at future meetings as appropriate.**

b. It was noted that resurfacing of the road from Pateley Bridge to Lofthouse is expected to start shortly (weather-permitting) with traffic controls in place.

The junction of Main Street and Stumps Lane in Darley is also planned to be closed from 8 – 19 July for work by Yorkshire Water. A diversion (via Stumps Lane and High Birstwith has been planned). Confirmation is being sought in relation to the impact on the bus timetable; **Clerk to update when information is available.**

10. Lengthsman/Parish Caretaker:

a. Clerk confirmed that Richard Langley had been appointed as Lengthsman/ Parish Caretaker and the agreement signed and filed. A first cut of grass areas in Dacre Banks and at Dacre Top has been undertaken.

b. A draft grass-cutting policy was circulated for review and discussion. This included a number of additional areas identified since the last meeting which are planned to be cut going forward. It was agreed that correspondence regarding grass-cutting should be via the Clerk in all cases.

The draft policy was approved; **Clerk to publish the policy on the Parish Council website.**

c. No other urgent tasks were identified.

11. Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association: Cllr Kerr confirmed that there had been no further meeting of DHPFA since the last Parish Council meeting but that two new items of play equipment have been installed recently, using funds raised by a young parishioner.

The question of how best to fund the DHPFA for future years remains unsolved and has raised questions regarding the timing of payment of contributions for the current year by one of the contributors – any delay is

to be rejected. Consideration is to be given by Cllr Kerr as to whether a share of any Fun Day proceeds might be donated to DHPFA.

Cllr Kerr confirmed that a proposal for a project involving children creating tiles with a cycling theme (to be fired and installed within the Parish) and bicycle and road safety awareness has been submitted. The activities would link into the Fun Day.

Borough Cllr Watson confirmed that he had been approached by a parishioner regarding the lack of available seating at the playing fields. It was noted that a number of seats had been installed but that at least one had been vandalized.

12. Reports:

a) *Hardcastle Trust*: No report – the next meeting is 17 June;

b) *Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall Committee*: The Committee held its Annual General Meeting and an ordinary meeting last week. All the existing members were re-elected and Cllr Cottrill has joined the Committee as Treasurer. Issues regarding the heating system and dishwasher were discussed. The *200 Club* remains in need of new members.

A jumble sale will be held on 5 October with proceeds being split between the Village Hall and Dacre Banks Cricket Club.

Advice is being obtained in respect of what improvements are required to the fabric of the Village Hall building; redecoration of the inside of the building is needed. Funding streams are being investigated by the Committee.

On 8 July a cleaning day is being held in order to make the building more attractive as a venue for hire (volunteers to help appreciated).

c) *Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhood Group*: Cllr Brown attended the meeting on 5 June. Sergeant Tiffany has moved to Harrogate Safer Neighbourhood Group to be replaced by Sergeant Colbourne who has transferred from the Scarborough area.

Crime figures were circulated by PC Bill Hickson. These showed an increase in crime overall (+11 reported) and a noticeable increase in fraud. **Clerk to circulate full report;**

The planned closure of the Grange Medical Centre was discussed and it was agreed that the Practice Manager/Partners would be invited to attend the next meeting.

d) *YLCA Harrogate Branch Annual General Meeting*: Cllr Cottrill attended the meeting on 3 June. Cllr Fawcett (Spofforth) accepted re-election as branch Chairman and Cllr Simms (Masham) was elected as branch Vice-Chairman. Both are to be branch representatives on Joint Executive Board along with Cllr Butler (Darley) as the deputy representative.

YLCA had reported being busy with a significant number of cases leading to a change of working practice (telephones answered to 2pm only). The new training programme was highlighted.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) were discussed at length with a resolution agreed to be submitted to the Joint Executive Board seeking confirmation that all Parish Councils can spend funds on VAS (with a change of law by Government if necessary).

Difficulties in obtaining commuted sums were also discussed along with differences in opinion regarding the timing of releasing sums and suggestions for allocating and collecting sums.

e) No other meetings/events were reported.

13. Finance/Statutory:

a. Receipts and payments were noted as follows: Receipts: None. Payments: £500 Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association agreed contribution 2019/20; £649.66 Clerk salary and allowances to 30 June; £202.50 Caretaker payment to 28 May; £62.04 npower kiosk electricity to 31 May; £7.48 Eon electricity to 18 May; £43.34 Ian Grayshon re Public Conveniences (June).

Cllr Kerr to check whether an agreement with Mr Grayshon is held on file.

b. Money from Honesty Box as of 11 June 2019 was noted as £16.12.

c. The budget for May 2019 was approved.

d. It was agreed that the Parish Council should register as a processor of personal information under the Data Protection Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018 and pay the applicable fee of £40.

Clerk to action;

e. It was agreed that a further check of the finance file would be carried out each September and March by two Cllrs who are not signatories to the bank account; **Clerk to diarise reviews.**

14. Planning:

a. Planning Decisions (notified by HBC):

19/01172/FUL Erection of extension to existing cattle agricultural building. Ings Farm Ings Farm Dacre
APPROVED

19/01174/FUL Erection of extension to existing hay agricultural building. Ings Farm Ings Farm Dacre
APPROVED

19/01268/FUL Conversion of barn to form 1 no. dwelling. Existing Barn South Of Beech Croft Dacre
APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

19/01573/FUL Erection of a dwelling. (Revised Scheme). Land Adjacent To Yorke House Dacre Banks
APPROVED

The Parish Council expressed disappointment at the approval of this application and resolved to write to the Planning Officer seeking confirmation of the rationale for the decisions. Concern was expressed that the neighbours to the property might now face significant legal costs in relation to the question regarding access.

b. Planning Applications:

19/01882/DVCMAM Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) to allow the incorporation of an Air Source Heat Pump to the rear of unit 6 of planning permission 17/05551/FULMAJ - Erection of new shed to form light industrial (Class B1) and storage and distribution (Class B8) workspaces and office spaces (Revised scheme).
Mill Hurst Business Park Dacre
NO OBJECTIONS

18/04883/FUL Retention of domestic store and use of land as domestic garden and demolition of existing two stores (revised description) Dacre Hall Dacre
NO OBJECTIONS

c. Planning enforcement:

19/00299/BRPC15 Land Comprising Field At 419648 462236 Cabin Lane Dacre Banks. Alleged breach of Condition 4 - materials used in construction (Planning Applications 18/01954/DVCON, 18/02674/DISCON) was noted.

d. Any other urgent planning matters: None.

15. Review of Council policies: The following policies are agreed and adopted:

- revised Standing Orders;
- revised Risk Assessment Strategy; and
- revised Financial Regulations (Main).

The Risk Assessment Strategy was amended to include reference to details of alternative venues being held on file in case of unavailability of the United Reform Schoolroom.

It was noted that a Cllr who does not attend a meeting for six months would automatically cease to be a Cllr. Approved absence for a valid reason does not count towards this.

16. Correspondence:

a) YLCA – Invitation to submit resolutions for debate at the YLCA Joint Annual Meeting 13 July; **Clerk to circulate copy of email to all Cllrs;**

b) Community History and the Council for British Archaeology – Local History Group workshop 21 September 2019. This workshop for those interested in the investigation of local history or archaeology to learn how to create a group and to access funding was noted.

17. Minor Items for Information or Future Agenda: It was agreed that consideration of the purchase of defibrillator pads designed for children would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

17. Circulation papers: The White Rose Update for May 2019 was circulated.

18. Dates of future meetings: 9 July; 10 September; 8 October; 12 November

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