

# DACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on  
Tuesday, 12 May 2020 from 8pm

## To comply with Government advice, this meeting was held by conference call

1. **Present:** Councillors J Kerr (Chairman), C White, K Johnson, S Darnbrook, A Brown, J Dales, Borough Councillor Tom Watson, County Councillor S Lumley and M Pearson (Clerk). No members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** None.
3. **Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2020 were approved; **Chairman to sign.**
5. **Public Statements (Maximum 15 minutes total):** None.
6. **Coronavirus pandemic:**
  - a. It was confirmed that no emergency decisions have been taken by the Council or Clerk between meetings.
  - b. The significant efforts of many parishioners to keep verges, green spaces, the playground and pathways clear within the Parish during the Coronavirus outbreak was recognised and noted. The Council thanked everyone for their ongoing help and agreed that a note of thanks should be displayed on Council noticeboards and the website; **Clerk to action.**
  - c. Clerk confirmed that a request had been received from a parishioner for financial assistance for Dacre Banks Bowling Club. On the basis that Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association (DHPFA) has received a grant from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) to help mitigate the loss of income during the Coronavirus pandemic, and that DHPFA intends to relieve some or all of the rent payable by Dacre Banks Bowling Club, the Council agreed that financial assistance should not be granted at this time.
  - d. It was agreed that a link to the Nidderdale Plus Community Hub list of local services and businesses which are open to help parishioners should be added to the Council website: **Clerk to action.**
  - e. Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received from HBC offering a grant to the Council from the Small Business Grant Fund. Full details of the scheme are not available but the commentary suggests that it is to support businesses and organisations which have lost significant income as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. On the basis that the Council does not expect to lose significant income as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, it was agreed that no claim would be made.
7. **Recruitment of new Councillors:** It was confirmed that a further application has been received. It was agreed that the applicant, Russell Brown should be co-opted to the Parish Council, subject to qualification checks; **Clerk to action.**
8. **Planning:**
  - a. **Planning Decisions** noted:

20/00479/TPO Crown lift (2m clearance): Lateral reduction (by 2m) to give clearance of telephone wires and buildings; Lateral reduction and crown lift to give clearance of road to 1No. Beech tree within W1 of Tree Preservation Order 26/2019, Yorke House Dacre Banks APPLICATION PERMITTED

20/00701/CLEUD Certificate of lawfulness for the continued occupation of dwelling without complying with the agricultural occupancy condition 5 of planning permission 6.65.27.B.OA Stonehaven Heyshaw Road Heyshaw LAWFUL CERTIFICATE GRANTED

**Planning Applications** considered:

20/01211/FUL Revised application for the conversion of loft and erection of dormers. 28 Church Avenue Dacre Banks NO OBJECTIONS

**b. Planning Enforcement** noted:

20/00178/PR15 Ings Farm Dacre ALLEGED BREACH: Unauthorised stationing of a static caravan for purpose of residential occupation (20/00499/REM).

20/00181/BRPC15 Site Of Church Hill Filling Station Dacre Banks ALLEGED BREACH: Breach of condition-dust and vibrations (15/03868/FULMAJ 18/02221/DVCMAJ).

It was noted that work at this site was regularly being done outside of the times agreed in the relevant Planning Conditions (i.e. before 9am during the week). Given the impact of the work (e.g. noise), the Council agreed that HBC Planning Enforcement should be made aware of this; **Clerk to action.**

**c. Update on planning matters: Empty Homes**

It was noted that refurbishment of Woodbine Cottage may have been complicated by difficulties obtaining consent for work on a neighbouring property. Given that the Council has concerns regarding the dilapidated state of Woodbine Cottage and its impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties, it was agreed that HBC Building Control should be asked to assist; **Clerk to action.**

**9. 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, support from central government (a share of an additional £1.6 billion of funding for local councils) is very much appreciated as many North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) revenues have been lost as a result of the lockdown. Prudent planning, with financial reserves held by NYCC and HBC, are helping to reduce the overall impact on services.

Increases have been observed in mental health problems, domestic abuse and alcohol consumption in the county. Health and Social Care staff are working to help alleviate these problems. Care of the elderly, including home-care residents and the closure 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](http://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.

Borough Councillor Watson agreed that the help being provided within the community is wonderful to see and also expressed thanks to everyone involved. He confirmed that measures have been adopted to practise social distancing within HBC, especially Waste and Recycling collection through employing additional vehicles. The ongoing assistance from Parks and Leisure staff to help manage the increase in waste is very much appreciated. Meetings of HBC are being held by video-conference/conference call, with the scheduling of the Annual General Meeting of the Council to be confirmed.

The Harrogate District Local Plan for housing may be subject to a challenge in relation to the Flaxby Park site. Contractors have been appointed to repair damage to the Stray in Harrogate and to install drainage. The Nightingale hospital remains ready should it be needed to help with the Coronavirus pandemic.

**10. Updates on current issues**

i) *Planned closure of the Grange Medical Centre, Dacre Banks*: It was agreed that this should be reviewed when developments in the Coronavirus pandemic allow.

ii) The defibrillator at Dacre Banks was confirmed to be working but the defibrillator at Dacre Top was now indicating a new battery is required; **Clerk to action.** Water and electricity meter checks were made and no problems reported.

**11. Parish Noticeboard:** It was confirmed that the developer of the Site Of Church Hill Filling Station, Dacre Banks, had agreed in principle to purchase a new noticeboard to replace the one outside of the site. A proposal to site the new noticeboard on the outside of Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall was considered. It

was agreed that the possibility of an alternative, free-standing noticeboard should also be considered and the land at the entrance to Grange Road, Dacre Banks was proposed for further investigation; **Chairman and Clerk to action.**

## **12. Footpaths and Highways:**

- a. It was noted that Dike Lane will be closed for one day on 15 June 2020 in order for BT to carry out work. A diversion via Dacre Braithwaite will be in operation during the closure.
- b. Clerk updated that in relation to the 30mph speed limit sign on the B6451 approaching Dacre Banks from Dacre Top. Area 6 NYCC has confirmed that support for traffic-calming measures is unlikely to be given without a reference to North Yorkshire Police / 95 Alive Road Safety Partnership to carry out further work. The Council agreed that a form should be completed requesting this; **Clerk to draft.**
- c. It was noted that substantial work to repair the footpath alongside the River Nidd in Dacre Banks is ongoing. An update from NYCC Public Rights of Way regarding completion of the work has been sought; **Chairman to update at next meeting.**

**13. Lengthsman/Parish Caretaker:** It was agreed that, until the Yorkshire Local Councils Association advice changes, the Parish Caretaker will not be asked to undertake any non-essential tasks.

## **14. Finance/Statutory:**

- a. Receipts and payments were noted as follows: Receipts: Honesty Box April £43.51; HBC Precept £5,000; Payments: Eon - Public Conveniences electricity to 18 April 2020 £12.09, Eon - Kiosk electricity to 18 April 2020 £8.64; Ian Grayshon (May) £50; J. Carruthers – Internal audit fee £52.
- b. The money from the Honesty Box as of April was confirmed as £43.51. The Honesty Box as of 11 May was confirmed as £11.31; **Clerk to bank.**
- c. The budget to 10 May was approved.
- d. It was agreed that Dacre Parish Council would pay for the inspection of Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields playground in September 2020 (£55 plus VAT).
- e. It was agreed that Dacre Parish Council would purchase a replacement rope with fixings for Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields playground Multiplay, to be fitted by the Caretaker when conditions allow, at a cost of £131 plus VAT.
- f. Clerk confirmed that an online YLCA training course for new Councillors was available on 13 June 2020. It was agreed that both Councillor Dales and Councillor R Brown could attend the course at a cost of £48 each; **Clerk to action.** No other issues were raised by the RFO.

**15. Clerk Appraisal:** It was agreed that the Council is happy with the work of the Clerk and the following recommendations from the appraisal were approved:

- a. an increase of two hours per month to 20 hours per month as the regular payment from 1 April 2020;
- b. a move to the next step on National Joint Council for Local Government Services payscale from 1 April 2020; and
- c. to support the Clerk in undertaking ILCA (Introduction for Local Council Administrators) Certificate at a cost of £99+VAT (to be shared with Darley and Menwith Parish Council).

## **16. Correspondence received by the Clerk:**

- a. *Parishioner:* A request for the Parish Caretaker to keep path between Dacre and Dacre Banks clear of weeds on an ongoing basis (following the work of volunteers) will be added to the next agenda.
- b. *North Yorkshire County Council:* 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).

**17. Minor Items for Information or Future Agenda:** A request from a parishioner to tidy up the telephone box at Dacre Top will be considered at the next meeting.

**18. Dates of future meetings:** 9 June; 14 July; 8 September; 13 October; 10 November.

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