

# DACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on  
Tuesday, 14 July from 7.30pm

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

1. **Present:** Councillors J Kerr (Chairman), C White, K Johnson, S Darnbrook, J Dales, R Brown, County Councillor S Lumley, Borough Councillor Tom Watson, and M Pearson (Clerk). No members of the public attended.
2. **Apologies:** Councillor A Brown due to work commitments.
3. **Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2020 were approved with one amendment – to clarify that Dacre Parish Council requested Borough Councillor Watson’s assistance in relation to Woodbine Cottage, Dacre Banks; **Clerk to amend and Chairman to sign.**
5. **Public Statements:** None.
6. **Coronavirus pandemic:**
  - a. It was confirmed that no emergency decisions were taken between meetings.
  - b. No further actions were considered.
7. **Planning:**
  - a. **Planning Decisions** noted:  
20/01211/FUL Revised application for the conversion of loft and erection of dormers. 28 Church Avenue Dacre Banks APPLICATION PERMITTED
  - b. **Planning Applications considered:** None.
  - c. **Planning Enforcement:**  
20/00278/PR15 Spring Wood South Of Land Comprising Field At 417535 463967 Glasshouses ALLEGED BREACH: Excavation and earthworks for potential siting of static caravan was noted.
  - d. **Update on planning matters:** None.
8. **County and Borough Councillors’ Reports:**

County Councillor Lumley confirmed North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is now carrying out more business by way of virtual meetings and moving away from decisions being taken with delegated authority.

The Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government visited NYCC on 7 July to discuss plans for the establishment of new unitary authorities in North Yorkshire. Proposals to take account the significant populations of York, Harrogate and North Yorkshire are being considered. New unitary authorities with elected Mayors are expected to have significantly more control, with additional devolved powers and budget. The reorganisation is not understood to affect Parish Councils.

Elections are currently planned for May 2021 (NYCC) and May 2022 (Harrogate Borough Council (HBC)).

Borough Councillor Watson updated that the July HBC Overview and Scrutiny Commission heard from North Yorkshire Police representatives, who confirmed that 20,101 calls were made to North Yorkshire Police since March 2020, with 70% being answered within 5 minutes. Recorded crime in the quarter to 30 June 2020 was 30% lower than in the previous year. North Yorkshire Police issued 15,900 fixed penalty tickets relating to the Coronavirus pandemic regulations, mainly to visitors from outside of North Yorkshire. Seventy-six were issued in the HBC district.

HBC has installed sanitising stations within Harrogate district. Approximately 19,000 people were furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in the district (out of approximately 79,000 workers). Reallocation of duties meant that HBC did not need to furlough any employees.

HBC has implemented a spending review as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, with some non-mandatory service provision potentially deferred until the next financial year. Staff that leave HBC are unlikely to be replaced. However, prudent planning has meant that both NYCC and HBC have reserves to help cope with the demands of the Coronavirus pandemic.

## 9. Updates on current issues

- i) *Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association (DHPFA) trustees*: It was noted that Councillor Kerr remains the only trustee of PHPFA and that efforts by Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council to find trustees have not been successful so far. It was agreed that both parish councils should review the options for the future governance of DHPFA, including the implications for each parish council and that the matter should be added to the agenda for the meeting in September; **Councillor Kerr and Clerk to review**;
- ii) *New parish noticeboard, Dacre Banks*: Clerk confirmed that the developer of the Church View site, Dacre Banks has agreed to purchase and install a new noticeboard on land owned by Dacre Parish Council at the entrance to Grange Road. NYCC Highways has no objections to the planned location of the noticeboard; **Clerk to liaise with the developer to install new board**.
- iii) *Surface-dressing and drain-clearing B6451*: Area 6, NYCC, has confirmed that re-marking of white lines affected by the repairs should be carried out in July. Surface-dressing of the B6451 will not take place until the year ending 31 March 2022 at the earliest. Gullies should be cleaned during the annual service (delayed due to Coronavirus) – an extra cart has been provided by NYCC for this purpose.
- iv) *Double-yellow lines at the entrance to Grange Road, Dacre Banks*: Area 6, NYCC, has confirmed that the process to add double-yellow lines in Dacre Banks is in the system awaiting a Traffic Regulation Order (usually processed by NYCC in batches to make the process more cost-effective). Given that visibility at the junction is often very poor due to parked cars, it was agreed that a leaflet would be supplied to all residents of Dacre Banks giving advanced warning of the addition of double-yellow lines at the entrance to Grange Road; **Councillor Dales to draft**.
- v) Both defibrillators were confirmed to be working. Water and electricity meter checks were made and no problems reported.

**10. Broadband in rural areas**: Councillor A Brown asked that the Council consider the issue of slow broadband speeds experienced by parishioners in Heyshaw. Clerk confirmed that a review of the Open Reach website had provided no firm date for the start of work to improve the speed in Heyshaw but the Superfast North Yorkshire (a partnership between NYCC and BT Open Reach) suggested work to install superfast broadband (a target speed of 25Mbps or above) in Heyshaw should start within 2020 or 2021.

County Councillor Lumley confirmed that Phase 3 of the investment by NYCC through Superfast North Yorkshire has been delayed by the Coronavirus pandemic but should include Heyshaw as part of the plan to provide superfast broadband to the majority of the remaining 10% of the county not currently connected. Some of the more remote properties within the Parish may not be connected under Phase 3 and alternatives such as satellite, mobile wireless or fixed wireless may be needed to provide faster broadband.

In light of the work to provide superfast broadband to Heyshaw expected to take place in 2020 or 2021, the Council agreed that the issue should be noted and monitored for the time being; **Clerk to monitor**.

## 11. Footpaths and Highways:

- a. **Dog-fouling**: It was noted that problems have been encountered with dog-fouling in Dacre Banks in two locations - Harewell Lane and on the Village Green. On the basis that a leaflet initiative in Summerbridge had been reported to help reduce a similar problem, it was agreed that a leaflet should be provided raising awareness of the dangers of dog-fouling and asking that owners pick up after their dogs (a single leaflet combined with the notice regarding double-yellow lines – Item 9(iv) above); **Cllr Dales to draft**. It was further agreed that signs should be added to the Village Green in Dacre Banks reminding dog owners clean up after their dog; **Clerk to liaise with Parish Caretaker to install**.
- b. A blocked drain was reported to be causing flooding at Dacre Top outside Lodge Farm; **Clerk to report**. Problems in Dacre Banks with site traffic were also noted; Borough Councillor Watson to liaise with HBC Planning Enforcement.

The Council noted a recent update from NYCC Public Rights of Way team, which thanked the Council for its help in facilitating the repairs to the riverside footpath in Dacre Banks but confirmed that further funding

for additional work on the riverside footpath was unlikely to be obtained (the protection of property from erosion remains the responsibility of landowners).

#### **12.Lengthsman/Parish Caretaker:**

- a. In light of the change of Government policy towards returning to work (encouraged provided it can be done safely), it was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should now resume duties. This is on the basis that he confirms that he can work safely, will follow relevant guidelines regarding social-distancing, hygiene and ceasing to work if affected by the Coronavirus, will notify the Clerk if unable or unwilling to work and will confirm that his insurance covers working in the manner intended. A risk assessment carried out in relation to this decision should be published on the Council's website and reviewed regularly; **Clerk to action.**
- b. It was agreed that the Parish Caretaker should also be asked to replace the battery in the clock on the bus shelter in Dacre Banks and refurbish the bench at the entrance to Grange Road, Dacre Banks; **Clerk to contact Parish Caretaker to arrange.**
- c. It was agreed that the pump in Dacre Banks should also be refurbished by the Parish Caretaker; **Clerk to arrange.** It was agreed that any further suggested tasks should be considered alongside a careful review of the available annual budget; **Clerk to action.**

**13.Review of Parish Council policies:** Draft Disciplinary and Grievance policies were adopted; **Clerk to publish on Parish Council website.**

**14.Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA):** It was agreed that the Council would respond to the Local Government Association consultation regarding a new model code of conduct for local councils; **Councillor Kerr to draft a response and circulate for Councillor comments.**

#### **15. Reports**

- a. *Yorkshire Local Councils Association New Councillor Training 13 June 2020:* Councillors Dales and R Brown attended the online training course and reported parts of the course were useful to supplement knowledge gained from The Good Councillor's Guide.
- b. No other meetings or events were noted.

#### **16. Finance/Statutory:**

- a. Receipts and payments were noted as follows: Receipts: Honesty Box June £21.18; Payments: Eon - Public Conveniences electricity to 18 June 2020 £12.81, Eon - Kiosk electricity to 18 June 2020 £8.64; Ian Grayshon re public conveniences (July) £50; Mrs D Driver – Reimbursement of cost of plants for stone troughs outside Gate Eel, Dacre Banks £15.90, YLCA Training Course fee (Councillor Dales) £48, YLCA Training Course fee (Councillor R Brown) £48.
- b. The money collected from the Honesty Box as of 13 July was confirmed as £25.67; **Clerk to bank.**
- c. The budget to 12 July was approved.
- d. The reimbursement of the cost of plants purchased by Mrs Driver for the troughs outside Gate Eel, Dacre Banks was formally approved. No other issues were raised by the RFO.

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

- a. *British Red Cross – A request for donation:* It was agreed that, in light of the limited resources of the Parish Council, and difficulties in ensuring a fair and transparent policy in relation to this and further charity requests, the Parish Council would not make a donation; **Clerk to advise British Red Cross and to circulate details of the request to Councillors.**
- b. *Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner – AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund:* A potential road safety project to add signs between Dacre and Dacre Banks warning cyclists of the steep slope and traffic-calming measures was suggested; **Councillors K Johnson and R Brown to work with Clerk to submit an application.**

**16. Minor Items for Information or Future Agenda:** It was noted that a further meeting might be required if planning applications needed to be considered prior to 8 September; **Clerk to arrange if necessary.**

**17. Dates of future meetings:** 8 September; 13 October; 10 November; 8 December; 12 January 2021

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