

DACRE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on
Tuesday, 14 May 2019 from 8pm at the United Reform Schoolroom, Dacre

1. **Present:** Councillors J Kerr, A Brown, A Cottrill, C White, K Johnson, S Darnbrook, Borough Councillor Tom Watson and M Pearson (Clerk). Three members of the public attended (part).
2. **Apologies for absence:** County Councillor Lumley.
3. **Declarations of interest and consideration of dispensations:** None
4. **Public Statements (Maximum 15 minutes total):**

Planning Application 19/01573/FUL Erection of a dwelling. (Revised Scheme). Land Adjacent To Yorke House Dacre Banks. A parishioner spoke in relation to this Planning Application and expressed concern for the following reasons:

- the current building was constructed under a prior Planning Application which was not opposed by occupiers of neighbouring properties on the basis that it was an annex constructed to provide living accommodation for an existing occupier of Yorke House with specific medical needs; had it been designed as a stand-alone dwelling as per the current application, it would have been strongly opposed;
- the proposed access to the property shown on the plans is through land owned by neighbouring properties and the right of access for occupiers of Yorke House and its annex is not certain (property deeds are inconsistent);
- the proposed access is currently used by neighbouring properties as an area for parking cars and any change to allow access as per the Planning Application would lead to cars needing to be parked on the B6451, with potential safety implications;
- the proposed access is in poor condition and potentially unsuitable for vehicles larger than cars (e.g. emergency vehicles) to use as it is narrow. The existing access for York House and its annex is more suitable as a general access and for such vehicles;
- the approval of the prior Planning Application included a condition restricting the use of the annex and preventing its designation as a stand-alone dwelling, and there is no benefit in amending that condition now.

At this point the Council considered the Planning Application and OBJECTED on the basis that:

- the condition included in the prior Planning Application preventing separate use of the annex is reasonable and it is not clear what has changed in the period of less than twelve months since that Planning Application was approved;
 - there is a potential negative impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties if the proposed access is used as per the Planning Application (including safety issues associated with a reduction in parking space and access for larger vehicles, including emergency vehicles).
- COUNCIL OBJECTS

5. **Minutes of meeting held** on Tuesday 9 April 2019 were approved with one amendment – the amendment to the previous minutes was in relation to meeting on 12 March (not 25 March).

6. **Updates on current issues:**

- a. On-going matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda:
 - i) Cllrs Brown and Darnbrook confirmed that approximately 25 sand-bags are now in place in the space below the steps at Dacre Village Hall. Clerk confirmed that a notice confirming this is displayed on both Parish Council notice boards and the website.
 - ii) It was confirmed that an engineer from Yorkshire Water met with Cllr Cottrill, Borough Councillor Watson and Clerk on 2 May and, after obtaining permission of the landowner, will carry out investigations to determine whether flooding was caused by a problem

with the sewage system in the affected area (at the rear of Church Avenue, Dacre Banks) and report back to Clerk; **Clerk to provide update at next meeting;**

It was noted during the visit that surface water from new properties in Dacre Banks may also be collecting at the rear of Church Avenue, Dacre Banks and that this may be contrary to approved Planning Applications; **Clerk to notify Harrogate Borough Council Planning Enforcement;**

b. To consider any action required concerning on-going matters:

- i) Electricity and water checks: Clerk confirmed that meter readings taken on 14 May suggested no further problems with the water and electricity supplies;
- ii) Defibrillators: it was reported that both defibrillators are working and agreed that no service would be arranged at present provided that both defibrillators continue to be checked regularly. Batteries should be replaced when the defibrillator pads expire (December 2019 for the unit at Dacre Top) unless the units indicate sooner is required.

7. County and Borough Councillors' Reports:

Borough Councillor Watson confirmed that Harrogate Borough Council's AGM is on 20 May and it is expected that Stuart Martin and Zoe Metcalfe will be elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively on that date.

Funds have been made available for events to celebrate the Yorkshire 2019 UCI Road World Championships taking place in September 2019. Applications for funding need to be made before noon on Monday 17 June.

Borough Councillor Watson had recently attended the Harrogate Borough Council Planning Committee and noted that in total, approval has now been given to approximately 1700 new houses in the Knaresborough area.

8. Footpaths:

a. No footpath issues were reported.

9. Highways:

- a. Clerk confirmed that a blocked drain at the junction of Oak Lane and the B6451 reported has been inspected but does not meet the criteria for repair at this time.
- b. No further highways issues were noted.

10. Lengthsman/Parish Caretaker:

a. Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been made to five local businesses with expertise in the relevant areas to discuss the scope of services required and that two businesses took up the invitation. Clerk met with both to discuss the requirements and background in more detail on-site in Dacre.

In Clerk's opinion both understood the scope of services required, talked knowledgeably about how best to manage the tasks required, had experience of working with Parish Councils and understood the financial pressures faced. Both confirmed that they had the relevant insurance cover in place, would work within the available budget of no more than £2,400 per annum and have capacity to take on the work required. Both gave a good impression and were sufficiently experienced to carry out the contract.

On balance, the Council resolved to appoint Richard Langley. This was based on a very positive recommendation from a neighbouring Parish Council.

A draft contract (previously reviewed by Chairman) for a three year appointment was circulated for review and discussion. It was agreed that the draft contract should be provided to Richard Langley for his review and, assuming he is happy, should be signed on behalf of the Council by Cllrs Kerr and Cottrill; **Clerk to action.**

b) It was noted that grass-cutting is required urgently given the lack of caretaker in recent months; **Clerk to inform new caretaker.**

11. Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association: Cllr Kerr attended a recent Finances Committee meeting on 16 April. A proposal to reduce the subscriptions payable by one of the sports clubs using the playing fields whilst increasing the contribution made by the Parish Councils was rejected. Alternative options put forward for discussion included:

- to request that Harrogate Borough Council adopt all or part of the playing fields (although it is not clear whether this might lead to rent being charged to users and if so, how such rents would compare to the current contributions);
- to form a single committee from all of the sports clubs that use the playing fields in order to manage funding and expenditure;
- to seek an increase in funding through additional sponsorship; and
- to increase the contribution made by the Parish Councils by way of increased precept on an ongoing basis.

The Council resolved that the best solution should involve the users of the playing fields working together to manage and fund the playing fields facility.

A further rebate has been obtained against the business rates charged by Harrogate Borough Council. Two new pieces of equipment are to be installed. The possibility of selling the older equipment is being investigated.

The Council agreed that it will host a webpage the Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association;
Cllr Kerr and Clerk to progress.

The next meeting is 8 July.

12. Reports:

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

b) Dacre and Hartwith Village Hall Committee: No report;

c) Nidderdale Safer Neighbourhood Group: No report. The next meeting (5 June) will be attended by Cllr Brown.

d) Clerk reported that he had attended two training courses in April – the YLCA Planning Seminar and the YLCA Clerk Induction Event. Both were valuable and informative events. YLCA were very helpful and offered support with a wide range of issues including review of policies and assistance with draft agreements.

e) No other meetings/events were reported.

13. Finance/Statutory:

- a. Receipts and payments for 2019/20 previously unreported were noted as follows:
Receipts: £4,500 Precept (1st payment); £447.06 Yorkshire Water refund of agreed allowance; £596.32 Eon refund following recalculation of historical electricity usage;
Payments: £62.45 Eon electricity to 26 March; £2.00 Eon electricity to 18 April; £43.34 Ian Grayshon re Public Conveniences (April); £43.34 Ian Grayshon re Public Conveniences (May); £78.00 TP Jones & Co LLP – payroll services; £57.50 Darley and Menwith Parish Council – Clerk shared training costs; £90 S Welch – finance support; and £50 J Carruthers – internal audit.
- b. Money from Honesty Box as of 14 May 2019 was noted as £27.54.
- c. The budget for April 2019 was noted.
- d. The agreement to move to electronic banking was discussed at the Annual Meeting (please refer to separate minutes).
- e. No other issues were raised.

14. Planning:

a. Planning Decisions (notified by HBC):

19/01455/PNA Erection of agricultural storage building. Monk Ing Farm Monk Ing Road
Dacre
PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

b. Planning Applications:

19/01573/FUL Erection of a dwelling. (Revised Scheme). Land Adjacent To Yorke House Dacre Banks – please see Section 4 above.

19/01268/FUL Conversion of barn to form 1 no. dwelling. Existing Barn South Of Beech Croft Dacre
NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OBJECTS

19/01172/FUL Erection of extension to existing cattle agricultural building. Ings Farm Ings Farm Dacre
NO OBJECTIONS

19/01174/FUL Erection of extension to existing hay agricultural building. Ings Farm Ings Farm Dacre
NO OBJECTIONS

c. Planning enforcement: None.

d. Any other urgent planning matters: None.

15. Clerk contract of employment: The period of probation was agreed to have been completed and the proposed contract of employment for Clerk was approved and signed by Clerk and Chairman.

16. Correspondence:

- a) *Nidderdale Group Practice* – the proposed closure of Grange Medical Centre Dacre Banks was noted. It was resolved that the Council would write to the Nidderdale Group Practice expressing disappointment at the planned closure and seeking confirmation of the proposal for patients who regularly attend the surgery at Dacre Banks; **Clerk to draft;** On the understanding that the Grange Medical Centre was developed on land formerly owned by the Parish Council, it was agreed that further investigation should be carried out as to the effect of the planned closure; **Clerk to action;**
- b) *Harrogate Borough Council Statutory Parliamentary Polling Station Review* – a review of polling stations was noted; **Clerk to circulate details to Councillors;**
- c) *NYCC* – Proposed revised speed limit order for Dacre Banks, Summerbridge and Low Laithe: an exercise to formalise the road traffic orders (these do not change any speed limit) was noted.

17. Minor Items for Information or Future Agenda: Clerk confirmed that delivery of a projector to use to display planning applications at future meetings is expected on 17 May.

17. Circulation papers: A short guide to Community Infrastructure Levy was circulated.

18. Dates of future meetings: 11 June; 9 July; 10 September; 8 October

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