

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at North Rigton School

14th March 2013

1. Attendance and Welcome; consideration of any Apologies for Absence.

1. Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Andrew Batcup, Amanda Martyn, Margaret Splain, Barbara Massey, & Mike Richards (Clerk). In attendance, District Councillor Christine Ryder (Item 2 only). Also in attendance PC Mark Ayre (item 3 only).
2. Apologies for Absence – Tim Bennett and County Councillor John Fort).

2. District Councillor Christine Ryder – matters affecting the Parish

1. Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) – revised arrangements for refuse collection. From a date (yet to be confirmed) HBC are moving to a fortnightly cycle of refuse collection. Each property within the Parish will be issued with a “wheely bin” which must be left adjacent to the road outside the property, on the day of collection.
2. Councillors expressed concern at this information in that a) no formal notification had been received from HBC, and b) more importantly, there are a significant number of properties in the Parish where there will be considerable difficulty for the refuse freighter to gain ready access and/or residents will have difficulty in getting the wheely bin to the point of collection.
3. Christine Ryder agreed to raise these points with Simon Johnson (Head of Environmental Services) and report back.
4. Councillor Batcup also asked Christine to remind HBC officers of 2 further issues raised by the PC previously, ie the traffic impact of the Cardale Park development and also the possibility of a training seminar on the Planning website. Christine agreed so to do.
5. Councillors thanked Christine for her contribution and she left the meeting at 7.45pm.

3. Community Police Officer, PC Mark Ayre, reported on matters concerning the Parish.

1. Problem of car parking too close to mini roundabout – now resolved
2. Councillors again expressed concern at the number of HGVs driving through the village and PC Ayre responded by suggesting that the date, time and location along with the registration mark of all Weight Restricted Vehicles should be noted and reported to Trading Standards at NYCC.
3. PC Ayre agreed to contact NYCC Highways regarding new road markings for the school bus “slot” outside the school and re-defining the mini roundabout.
4. There had been no serious crime in the Parish to report, other than theft of back-up batteries from the telephone mast on Briscoe Hill. Out of interest, PC Ayre also mentioned that there had been some very large diesel thefts at Allerton Park and St James’s Retail Park, although this had no direct impact on the Parish.
5. Chairman thanked PC Ayre for his input and he left the meeting at 8.00pm.

4. Approval and signing of Minutes; Matters arising

1. Minutes of the meeting of 10 January were considered.
2. Chairman asked for “councillors” to be substituted for “sub-group” in the section outlining the new arrangements for the consideration of planning applications, and it was agreed that it was more appropriate for planning applications from HBC to be routed via the official PC email address rather than that of the Clerk.

3. Clerk undertook to make these amendments.
4. There being no other amendments or comments, the minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman.

5. Requests for further order variations and Declaration of Interest – None.

6. Administration.

1. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting (to be held on 16th May).

Chairman will prepare a flyer to be delivered (with councillors' assistance), advertising the main content of the meeting, namely the Parish Council Annual Report and a progress report on the Parish Plan. Light refreshments will be provided after the meeting, which will also present the opportunity for parishioners to meet with councillors informally.

PC Ayre will not be formally invited to attend but any questions of the police from parishioners will be noted and addressed to PC Ayre at the next Parish Council meeting.

2. Internal Audit arrangements and payment of Clerk's salary. It was agreed to remain with Douglas Tonks for the provision of these services for the time being, but consideration would be given to moving to an alternative supplier in future if this proved to be less costly and as efficient. Clerk will pursue possibilities once new HMRC arrangements (for Real Time Input) have bedded in.

7. Finance.

7.1 Receipts and Accounts payable.

1.1. Spare keys and magnets for Notice Board (£24.60 to reimburse Clerk).

1.2. Chairman outlined quotation process followed for provision of goalposts and nets and basketball post and net for installation in Church Hill field, as part of the commuted sums allocation. The total amount of the lower of the 2 quotes came to £1633 (against the commuted sum balance of £1635 – although some £270 of VAT will be recoverable).

Both the above sums were approved for payment.

7.2 Cheque signing arrangements

1.1 Clerk reported that he had been included on the Bank Mandate as a cheque signatory. He had been advised that this feature was not considered as best practice and should not normally be part of the Clerk's duties. Councillors agreed however, that as long as this was the exception rather than the rule and would always be part of the dual signatory process anyway, there should be no real compromise in internal control.

8. Parish Plan

Councillor Batcup circulated the first draft of the Parish Plan which captured the views and comments of all those parishioners who responded to the questionnaire. Councillors commended all those (particularly Terry Massey) involved in the production of the Plan and discussion ensued on the best way forward to move towards the final completed version. Councillor Batcup asked for comments over the next 4 weeks or so with the intention of producing a further version before the Annual Parish Meeting, although it was recognised that this may not be possible in such a timeframe.

9. Planning

Current issues.

9.1 Barn south of Tatefield Hall – planning application approved despite PC objection. Councillors disappointed with this outcome and again questioned the value of even expressing an opinion when little

value seemed to be attached to it. HBC Planning to be asked to explain this apparent disregard. (Christine Ryder will raise on our behalf)

9.2 Caravan adjacent to A658. Councillors pleased to note that at long last the caravan has been moved.

9.3 Bollard blocking bridleway next to railway line. Despite numerous attempts by Chairman to achieve resolution of this matter, little progress has been made. HBC Footpaths Officer is now pursuing and hopefully a successful outcome will ensue.

10. Highways, Footpaths and Verges

10.1 It was pleasing to note that issues raised previously had been satisfactorily resolved, namely drainage outside Barn Elm House and on Hall Green Lane. There was however, concern over potholes generally and councillors were asked to notify the Clerk of any serious examples which came to their notice and he would compile a list to be submitted to NYCC Highways.

10.2 Verges. Councillors discussed the various methods for the protection of roadside verges which were repeatedly being damaged by vehicles. It was agreed that there was no ideal solution, but possibly the best option would be the use of wooden posts, sunk into the grass. Chairman agreed to investigate what was available for this function.

11. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

11.1 Chairman reported that the remedial work in clearing and tidying the hedge had now been completed. Following on from this, the Clerk reported the complaints he had received from a local resident regarding the bonfire created to dispose of the hedge clippings etc. This had got completely out of proportion with the subsequent involvement of the HBC Environmental Health Officer, with warnings about the creation of a potential "nuisance". These issues eventually came to nothing but we need to ensure in future that we follow a formal process to inform affected residents of any intention to burn substantial amounts of rubbish, if we are to avoid similar undesirable incidents.

11.2 Party in the Garden – meeting to be arranged (possibly in the Square and Compass?) before the next Parish Council meeting.

11.3 Jubilee commemoration. Suggestions already made include a Village Pump, a slide for the Village Garden, a tree bench and a decorative village sign. Agenda item for the next Council meeting for a firm decision to be made.

12. Correspondence – No items received.

13. Date of next Meeting - 11 July 2013 (to be confirmed)

14. Meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.