

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at North Rigton School

13 November 2013

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

Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Andrew Batcup (Vice Chairman), Tim Bennett, Barbara Massey, & Mike Richards (Clerk

Apologies for Absence. - Amanda Martyn, Christine Ryder and John Fort.

Chairman welcomed Mrs Jo Scott, our new co-opted councillor, to her first meeting.

2. Approval and signing of Minutes; Matters arising

Minutes of the meeting of 5 September were considered. It was noted that item 5.4 concerning the trim trail, that the guarantee was for a period of 15 years rather than 10 as previously thought, therefore it may be possible to replace at no cost. Chairman would make enquiries. Chairman also reported that the damaged road signs, recorded at item 8.3, had been replaced and she wished for formal thanks to Christine Ryder, be recorded, as she had pursued this issue on our behalf.

There being no other matters arising, the Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Requests for order variations and Declaration of Interest – None.

4. Administration.

Chairman's report on issues arising

a) HGVs through the village. On at least 2 occasions recently, HGVs had been observed passing (or attempting to!) through the village. Chairman had noted details and passed on to Trading Standards at NYCC who do operate a formal "Vehicle Watch" scheme. Unfortunately this scheme is complicated and likely to be unworkable as far as we are concerned, so the best option is for vehicle details (ie registration number, trader name, vehicle type etc) to be noted and passed on to Trading Standards.

Councillor Massey suggested that a suitable message on the above should be inserted in the next issue of the Parish News. Clerk noted for action.

b) Cold calling. Trading Standards can establish a formal "No Cold Calling" zone. Agreed to contact the various Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators to take this forward.

c) Litter bins. There had been some difficulty in getting bins emptied, but the Chairman was pleased to report that this problem had been overcome and bins were now being emptied on a regular basis. Christine Ryder had indicated that more bins could be made available if needed. After discussion, it was agreed to request an additional 5 bins.

d) Chairman was pleased to report that the Jubilee bench had now been delivered and Andy Keane would be asked to carry out the installation.

5. Finance.

5.1 Budgetary position. Clerk circulated November budgetary position statement. Sufficient funds are in hand to meet projected expenditure for the rest of the financial year. Due to successful fund raising activities this year, it should be possible to maintain the precept for 2014/15 at the current level. Following discussion, this was agreed. This will be reported in the January edition of the Parish News.

5.2 Receipts and Accounts payable.

a) £450 to T Massey for Parish Plan further development

b) £211 to Malvern Inns (Square and Compass) for Parish Plan launch

- c) £43 to M E Hopkins for printer cartridges
- d) £50 to Ray Skelton LLP for installation of Play Equipment (VAT element)
- e) £32.50 to Mrs S Farrar for flowers for tubs.
- f) £120 to PKF Littlejohn for external audit services.
- g) £60 to HBC for annual playground inspection
- h) £75 to SLCC (annual membership fee)
- i) £66.89 to A Batcup for Parish Plan expenses.
- j) £600 to C & J Inman for verge cutting
- k) £200 ex-gratia payment to Mrs J Williams for work on insurance claim
- l) £571.20 to Streetmaster for Jubilee bench.

All the above were AGREED for payment.

5.3.A letter had been received from the Almscliffe Hall playgroup asking for a contribution towards an item of play equipment. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council was supportive in principle, but would require more information about other funds raised against the total amount needed before committing a specific amount. Clerk would monitor the position in continuing discussions with the Play Group leader.

5.4 Donations. Following previous practice, the following donations were agreed:

- a) £50 British Legion
- b) £100 to the Church for grounds maintenance
- c) £100 to North Rigton School for use of the hall
- d) £50 to the Parish News

5.5 Following the national pay agreement for Local Government, it was agreed to authorise the 1% increase in the Clerk's salary, backdated to April 2013.

5.6 Clerk authorised to purchase a supply of heavy duty bin bags, for use in the litter bins throughout the village. Likely cost c.£10.

6. Parish Plan

Progress. After the successful launch, an "End of Grant" report and a copy of the Plan were submitted to the "Big Lottery" as required. We have now received a response confirming a successful conclusion. Kirkby Overblow and Pannal have both expressed an interest in the Plan and the process involved. Councillor Batcup is to meet with Kirkby Overblow to deliver a short presentation and answer any questions.

The Plan was referred to at the recent Consultation meeting with HBC and proved very useful in presenting further evidence of parishioners' views re traffic impact on roads through the village (especially with regard to the proposed Cardale Park development)

It is pleasing to note that the recently installed goalposts on the playing field have also elicited community activity (as referred to in the Plan), with the planned football match between North Rigton and Huby on 22 November.

a) "Community care". Mrs D Birtwistle had taken an interest in this issue (raised in the Plan) and conducted a short survey of the likely interest from parishioners in, for example, establishing a volunteer transport service for shopping or hospital/GP visits. The response was somewhat disappointing but it could well be that the small sample size did not fully cover the appropriate target audience. Councillor Batcup has made some enquiries on a wider basis, exploring what other parishes are doing, in similar circumstances and found that

transport schemes are in operation (although in larger catchment areas than ours) and other initiatives such as regular coffee mornings, seem to be popular. It was agreed therefore, that an appropriate target audience would be approached to explore the viability of establishing afternoon tea or coffee mornings as a first venture.

b) Carol singing. Arranged for 19th December – all welcome!

c) Community Room. Significant interest in this proposal expressed by Reverend Lewis on behalf of the Church. To discuss further at the next meeting.

All parishioners to be encouraged to register on the Parish website, via Parish News

7. Planning

7.1. Clerk circulated the current Planning Control List.(see Appendix).

7.2. Cardale Park – raised at the recent Consultation meeting with HBC The HBC officer has agreed to a separate meeting with the PC to explore further our concerns (date to be agreed). Chairman stressed that all relevant parties need to be brought together so that the full picture can be presented and understood..

8. Highways, Footpaths and Verges.

8.1 Verges – noted that verges were gradually recovering, but it was likely that “winter weather” would return them to the previous parlous state. Other than monitoring HGV traffic (as mentioned earlier at 4,a) it was difficult to see what action could be taken by the Council.

8.2 Potholes – noted that some patching had been done, but as there was no specific funding now available, it was unlikely that further pothole rectification would be possible.

8.3 Snow clearance. Chairman has liaised with the HBC contractor, employed on snow clearance, to discuss possibility of extending his “run” to include village roads. Meeting still to be arranged.

9. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

9.1 Only one response had been received from the tendering exercise for garden etc maintenance. Contract for two years 2014-2016 therefore awarded to existing contractor, Sue Keane. Clerk to write to Sue confirming this contract.

9.2 Play equipment. Chairman has received two quotes for supply and installation of additional play equipment for the village garden, but neither are acceptable due to high cost. She will seek further quotes and the Almscliffe Villages Association are to consider fundraising for this purpose. In any event, the PC will take the lead on this due to our favourable position re VAT.

9.3 Litter pick 2014. Suggested dates 15/16 March, Councillors Massey and Scott agreed to lead on this and make the necessary arrangements, with regard to pickers and bags. They will put together an insert for the Parish News.

9.4. Party in the Garden and BBQ 2014. Dates agreed 7/8 June 2014. First meeting to be held on 8 January 2014, 18.30-19.30, prior to the Council meeting.

10. Correspondence – No items received.

11. Dates of next Meetings –

- Wednesday January 8 2014
- Wednesday March 5 2014. Both meetings to be held at North Rigton School at 7.30pm.

12. Meeting closed at 21.54 hrs.