

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at North Rigton School

5th November 2014

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

Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Andrew Batcup (Vice Chairman), Jo Scott, Tim Bennett, & Mike Richards (Clerk),
Apologies for Absence – Amanda Martyn, Barbara Massey, John Fort (County Councillor) and Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor)

2. Approval and signing of Minutes; Reports on Matters arising

Reports on matters arising from the meeting of 3 September 2014:

2.1. Bank mandate. Clerk reported that the updated mandate had finally been completed and accepted by the bank.

2.2 Trim trail. Has now been roped off. The first quotation obtained for repair was for some £500. This was deemed excessive and further quotes are being sought. It was **agreed** that if the repairs can be carried out for around £200 this should be pursued, if not councillors approved the dismantling and disposal of the equipment.

2.3 Bulb planting. The local businessman who had agreed to provide the bulbs, also specified that the planting should take the form of a community project. Unfortunately this was not now feasible and so the exercise is being deferred until next year when further options will be considered.

2.4 Traffic survey. Councillors reviewed the charts produced which showed traffic flows. Councillor Batcup said that a more helpful display would be the number of vehicle movements per hour. Data will be modified to reflect this. Two interesting facts were the maximum flow in the evening rush hour of 278 vehicles per hour and the fact that the main flow of traffic in the evening is from Harrogate towards Leeds and Bradford. The results of the traffic survey will be retained for possible future use in opposing housing and other developments to the north west and west of Harrogate.

2.5 Parish Consultation meeting.. One of the responses to parish council concerns, included reference to the NYCC traffic survey. The conclusions of this survey were extremely questionable and had been dismissed as “rubbish” (a view echoed by Councillor Fort, who was to meet with the relevant Director mid November) It was **agreed** to keep this item on the agenda to ensure that such invalid data is not used to support potential traffic impact findings in the future.

2.6 Other matters arising.

2.6.1 Bus shelter damage – noted that the bus shelter on the Hall Green Lane/A658 junction had again been damaged. Clerk has reported this to NYCC Highways who have in hand for repair.

2.6.2 Litter pick 2015. Date has been fixed for the weekend of 21/22 March. Clerk will promulgate via the Parish News and ask for volunteers.

There being no other amendments or comments, the minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman.

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

4. Administration.

4.1 Superfast broadband. It now seems very unlikely that the national scheme, operated by BT, will apply to North Rigton even in the medium term. It is possible however, that another supplier will be able to provide this service, albeit on a specific subscription basis. Further details will be promulgated in the Parish News when available.

4.2 Community defibrillator. A representative from North Yorkshire Ambulance Service has agreed to attend the January Parish Council meeting to give a short presentation and answer any questions from parishioners. The possibility of holding a first aid course was also raised and the Chairman agreed to approach potential; course providers to explore feasibility and cost. (St John's Ambulance Service had already been approached but the cost was deemed prohibitive).

4.3 Mobile phone connectivity. The possibility of the provision of an improved mobile phone service within the parish had also been raised but as this is restricted to Vodafone users, it was felt that it was not appropriate for the Parish Council to pursue. However, Vodafone users were obviously quite at liberty to make their own arrangements.

5 Finance.

5.1 Donations. The following donations were proposed:-

St John's Church (churchyard maintenance) - £150

North Rigton School - £100

Poppy Appeal (British Legion) - £50

Parish News - £50

Almscliff pre-school - £50

All the above donations were **agreed**.

5.2 Half year budget report.

Clerk presented the half year budget report which showed a health financial position and responded to questions from councillors. There were no issues of concern although the clerk reminded councillors that it was necessary to earmark funds for specific future expenditure to demonstrate that sound financial control procedures were being followed. Councillors agreed, and it was concluded that this requirement would be met by the proposals for a new community room with the likely significant expense on initial planning, costs and architect fees etc.

6 Parish Plan

6.1 Community Room update. Chairman had met with Reverend Lewis and she is now hopeful that he will persuade the Parochial Church Council to set up a steering group to take this proposal forward. She proposed that two representatives from the Parish Council join the steering group, if it goes ahead. It was **agreed** that the Chairman and Councillor Martyn put their names forward.

6.2 Village Walking Group. It was pleasing to note that the last walk had enjoyed considerable success and Councillor Bennett was congratulated as the organiser. Councillor Scott suggested that the event should be rebranded as the "Village Walk" as this made it less formal and probably more generally attractive. This was **agreed** and two walks were proposed for next year, one in Spring (mid-May) and one in September Councillors Bennett and Scott undertook to lead on each.

6.3 Community Tea. Agreed to continue, next one first week in December, but leave out January. Review again in February and March.

6.3 Carol singing. Date is the 15th December, to be advertised in the Parish News. Money collected would be donated to the two local hospices..

7 Planning

7.1 General. Chairman reminded all councillors that, for our system to operate properly, the Clerk must receive a minimum of 3 responses to circulated planning applications, so that he can produce a "corporate" view in the Parish Council's response to HBC Planning.

7.2 As there had been very little planning activity over the last two months, it was **agreed** that it would be more beneficial if the addition of the planning summary to the village website be deferred until the end of December.

8 Highways, Footpaths and Verges

8.1 Level crossing update. National Rail had commissioned an audit of the potential risks associated with the "new" level crossing arrangements. It was however, staggering to note that this audit had supposedly examined every aspect and approach to the crossing except for the very one which is the major concern, that is, the approach **down** Hall Green Lane. The clerk had raised this issue with the NYCC engineer in

correspondence but it was unlikely that he would be able to influence matters. This has now been referred to Councillor Fort and he will follow up.

8.2. The school has raised the issue of mole damage to the grass verges adjacent to the school and asked for Parish Council input. Clerk raised with NYCC Highways who confirmed that they have no responsibility in this area. One solution would be to employ a private contractor but it is questionable whether this would be proper use of council funds. The Chairman has recently examined the damage and it seems to be receding, she will however ask the council's gardening contractor to flatten down the molehills to alleviate the risk of pedestrian accident.

8.3 NYCC future reduction in grass verge cutting. The map supplied by NYCC seems to indicate the areas they will continue to cut but it does not match reality ie there are inaccuracies in the description of areas currently covered (supposedly) and those proposed in future. Clerk will follow up with NYCC. Chairman proposed the purchase of a large scale Ordnance Survey map, to identify clearly those verges to be cut in future (this map is likely to be also useful for other areas requiring detailed identification, in other contexts). Purchase **agreed**..

9 Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

9.1 BBQ and Party in the Garden – dates for next year – 13/14 June 2015...

9.2 Registration of land. Clerk has been unable to move this forward. Chairman suggested that as well as the new government initiative there was a need to refer to the Enclosure Act of 1857 and legislation pertaining to Common Land. Clerk would report back to next meeting.

10 Correspondence

10.1 HBC are offering an extra waste bin collection service, but at a cost. It was considered that our existing arrangements were more than satisfactory so no action is required.

10.2 Letter received offering grit/salt bins at a discounted price. Again, existing arrangements considered satisfactory, particularly when the potential problems of having bins (difficulty in filling/refilling, blown away by the wind, unsightly etc) were considered. No action proposed.

10.3 Care and Support survey. It was considered that this was a useful idea but as there was no indication as to the potential costs involved, no further action was proposed.

10.4 Remembrance Service. Councillor Batcup confirmed that he would attend and represent the Parish Council.

11 Any other business

None

12 Dates of next Meetings:-

Wednesday 7 January 2015

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Wednesday 6 May 2015

Meeting closed at 21.35 hrs.

Signed

Chairman