

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at North Rigton School

7th January 2015

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),

In attendance – PC Marie Scott (Community Police Officer)

Apologies for Absence – John Fort (County Councillor) and Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor)

2. The Parish Council meeting had been preceded by a presentation from Mr Dave Jones, from Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS), over the provision of a defibrillator, for use in the community. In addition to councillors, 6 parishioners heard a very interesting and thought provoking presentation on the advantages of having a locally based defibrillator unit. Based on the presentation and the views of councillors and parishioners the Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a defibrillator unit and the wall cabinet for its display and storage. The Square and Compass had agreed for the unit to be located on an outside wall, but the exact location is still to be determined. The clerk will obtain full details of the cost and supply arrangements etc from YAS.

3. Community policing.

PC Scott gave a brief description of her background and experience. She is very pleased to be in this area and is anxious to play her part. She did admit though, that having the responsibility for policing 17 parish councils and 11 schools, meant that her input may be limited! She asked to be kept informed of village events and she would do her best to attend wherever possible. Councillor Batcup enquired about the latest crime statistics for this area and PC Scott was pleased to be able to report no occurrences since those last reported. A pleasing statistic.

Following a suggestion from the Chairman, PC Scott agreed to put in an occasional appearance at the School around leaving time, to monitor parking arrangements etc..

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

Reports on matters arising from the meeting of 5 November 2014:

2.1. Bank mandate. Clerk reported that the updated mandate had finally been completed and accepted by the bank. He presented a draft letter for councillors' approval, detailing the appalling incompetency of the Bank, regarding the revised mandate, which he proposed to send to the Bank, copied to the Bank's CEO, and the Banking Ombudsman. Councillors agreed to this course of action.

2.2 Trim trail. There has been no further progress, although Andrew Keane has examined the equipment and discovered that there are metal rods in place to support the wooden struts. The wood is rotten, but it may be possible to replace the struts, use the metal rods, and rebuild the facility. Chairman will follow up again.

2.3 Superfast broadband. The company offering this service is to carry out a survey of "sight lines" within the village to confirm the feasibility of the scheme. There must be a clear sight to the mast on the Chevin, to the repeater aerial(s) in the village and hence to subscribers. The Chair stressed that the Parish Council is not leading or sponsoring this service, merely supporting it for the benefit of parishioners. It is up to individuals to express an interest in the service. Informative leaflets will be distributed throughout the village – Councillors Massey and Scott volunteered for this.

2.4 Carol singing. Very successful and enjoyable event, with over 50 participants. Some £220 was raised for the two hospices. Parish Council will meet the cost of the mince pies provided by the pub..

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. Finance.

6.1 Approval of expenditure.

Petty cash reimbursement to £100 (£87 expended)

Sound system - North Rigton School have purchased a sound system for £529.17, with a contribution from Almscliffe Villages Community Association of £250. Further enhancements (radio mikes, speakers) are also planned, costing a further £500. Chairman proposed that the Parish Council contribute £250 towards this equipment, but with the proviso that it is available for village use. The clerk will draft a note, to be retained on file, specifying this agreement (to be signed by a representative from the School).

The above items of expenditures were **agreed** by councillors.

7. Parish Plan

7.1 Community Room update. A further meeting is planned with representatives from the Church, Parish Council, school and Almscliffe Villages Community Association. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider assisting with any initial expenditure on planning, architect fees etc.

7.2 Village Walking Group. 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.

7.3 Community Tea. Chairman asked for a volunteer to organise the next meeting on 5 February. Councillor Martyn agreed to take this on. The March meeting would be discussed at the February event.

8 Planning

8.1 The updated Planning Control List was circulated. Councillors agreed that this was a useful summary, but felt that it would also be helpful if the Council's responses to HBC (the individual councillor's comments, summarised by the clerk) were copied to every councillor. The clerk agreed that this would be done.

8.2 HBC Local Development Plan. A consultation meeting is to be held on 4 March and representatives from Parish Councils are invited. The Chairman will attend on behalf of North Rigton. Clerk will submit the attendance form.

9 Highways, Footpaths and Verges

9.1 Grass cutting. County Councillor Fort had followed up. The verges on the A658 will continue to be cut and the roads into the village will get a "3 feet cut" but that is the limit of NYCC plans. Councillor Fort suggested that it would be best to wait until grass cutting commenced before considering engaging a private contractor to deal with any other areas.

9.2. Miscellaneous. A number of potholes had reappeared, the road surface on Hall Green Lane just below the school had seriously deteriorated, and a water "stream" had appeared outside Swindon Close. In addition, there were a number of "dead" or damaged road signs within the village – can we remove them?. The Clerk will raise the above with NYCC.

9.3 Councillors will be pleased to hear that NYCC now plan to provide street lighting to illuminate the area immediately adjacent to the level crossing.

10. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

10.1 Registration of land. Chairman thought that the Village Common was already registered, but the Village Garden and Village Green would need to be. Clerk will obtain the necessary forms from NYCC.

10.2. Playing Field. Weed killer had been used to mark out the area of the football pitch. NYCC have said that this contravenes Health and Safety regulations and must not be used. An alternative needs to be found as the white lines will gradually disappear.

10.3. Dog fouling on playing field. There have been several incidents of this recently. Chairman will produce a notice, to be affixed to the gate, requesting dog owners to respect what is a children's play area and to place all dog waste in the bins provided.

10.4. Removal of soil heap in Village Garden. Andrew Keane estimated the cost of removal to be in the region of £1500-£1900. It was thought best to leave this until Spring and then obtain three quotes from suitable contractors.

10.5. HBC rubbish collection. There had been some confusion over collection days, following bank holidays. The Chairman has prepared a schedule of collection dates which will be placed on the notice board.

11. Correspondence.

None

12. Any other business

None

13. Dates of next Meetings:-

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Wednesday 6 May 2015

Meeting closed at 21.35 hrs.

Signed

Chairman