

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at North Rigton School

6th May 2015

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

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chairman - Mary Hopkins - proposed by Amanda Martyn and seconded by Tim Bennett – elected nem con.
Vice Chair – Andrew Batcup had resigned as he is leaving the Parish. Barbara Massey was therefore proposed for election by Mary Hopkins. Seconded by Amanda Martyn and was duly elected nem con.

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

Reports on matters arising from the meeting of 4 March 2015:

2.1. Village stocks – now professionally repaired at a cost of £190. Clerk will submit the insurance claim (£100 excess)

2.2 Defibrillator. The “I-pad” version (which caters for paediatric use) has now been installed on the Rigton Hill external wall of the Square and Compass, Information signs will be added to the Notice Board and on the wall of the Square and Compass..

2.3 Community Room. Regrettably there has been no further progress on this issue. The Chair feels that there is some resistance from Church officials and therefore the Parish Council should leave the matter in abeyance for the time being. Councillors agreed.

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. Clerk – pension arrangements. The Clerk reported that it was now a legal requirement for all employers to put in place pension arrangements for all employees, given certain qualifying conditions. The Clerk informed councillors that he did not meet these qualifying conditions but, nevertheless a formal registration process had to be followed to comply with legal requirements. He assured councillors that this would be completed to meet the legal deadline of October 2015.

4.2 Clerk's salary. The Chairman suggested that as the Clerk had now gained sufficient experience and was meeting all performance requirements, an increase in salary to pay point 18, was now appropriate. (This would involve an increase of some £10 per month). Councillors agreed to the increase, w/e/f July 2015.

4.3 Insurance renewal – Councillors agreed to continue cover with Zurich, at a cost of £324.10

4.4 Parish Plan. It was agreed that a review of action points should now be undertaken. It was thought that the best time would be later in the year, possibly involving the original respondents via email. The Chairman agreed to take this forward, in consultation with Councillor Batcup due to his significant involvement in formulating the Plan.

5. Finance.

5.1 Approval of expenditure.

Repair of Stocks - £190.00 to G Butler (Stonemason)

Electrical installation of Defibrillator - £162.00 K Farrington.

The above items of expenditure were **approved** by councillors.

5.2 Annual Accounts

The Accounts had been approved at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors agreed the accounts should be submitted to the external auditors. The Clerk suggested that it was now appropriate to revalue the Council's fixed assets, as this had not been undertaken for some time. Councillors agreed and the Chairman then drew councillors attention to the "Bradley Benches" which she felt may need to be brought into the ownership of the Parish Council in the future, following the death of the last member of the Bradley family still resident in the Village. It was agreed that before this could be done, the surviving sister should be contacted to see what course of action she would want to pursue.

5.3 Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk went through all the requirements of this document, explaining how he felt the Parish Council complied with all requirements. Councillors confirmed that they were happy for the Chairman and Clerk to sign off the return, for submission to the external auditors.

6. Planning

6.1 Planning Control List was circulated for councillors' consideration. Discussion then followed over the application for three wind turbines at High Moor Farm. Councillors considered what was the best approach for objecting to what was unanimously defined as an undesirable development. It would seem that the most appropriate, effective planning objections would be "detriment to the Green Belt" and "negative impact on landscape". The Clerk will submit the Council's response, based on these statements. The Chairman, however, did make the point that the Council should not automatically object to the principle of wind turbines – if such developments were of an appropriate size and scale, and did not go against local circumstances, it may be reasonable for them to be accepted.

6.2 Planning Protocol – circulated for councillors' information. It was agreed to extend the document by adding the requirement for the Clerk to ensure that all planning applications (from a current date) were uploaded onto the Parish website, for the information of all parishioners.

7 Highways, Footpaths and Verges

7.1 Noted that NYCC, in this financial year, will now only be cutting "visibility splays" within the Parish, and therefore alternatives will have to be sought for the maintenance of all other grassed areas. It was felt that initially, views should be sought from Sue Keane as to whether she had the capacity to carry out this function.

7.2 HBC bulb supply. HBC is again offering to supply bulbs to parishes. Acting on advice from Sue Keane, it was decided to apply for a supply of daffodil bulbs, to be planted in Autumn.

8 .Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

BBQ and Party in the Garden. To be held on the weekend of 13/14 June. There will be a football match between North Rigton and Huby/Weeton before the BBQ so it is hoped this will help increase numbers attending. Two tables and two gazebos are to be purchased (at a maximum cost of £200) – councillors agreed. Erica Hall is to arrange a "Flower Pot Fiesta" on the same lines as last year's successful "Decorate a Bike" event.

9. Correspondence.

An email had been received from a parishioner questioning the banning of dog walking on the school playing field. Councillors discussed this issue at length and on balance decided that the Council's position may need to be reconsidered. The clerk will write to the parishioner explaining the Council's position, but will make the point that dog walking will only be allowed on the strict understanding that all owners must undertake to remove and dispose of all droppings appropriately. The views of the School and Education Authority will also need to be considered.

10.Any other business.

The Clerk reminded councillors that, to avoid negative audit comment, it would be prudent to identify and earmark necessary areas of expenditure for this financial year. Councillors agreed for this item to be included on the agenda for the July meeting.

Dates of next meetings:

1 July 2015 at 7.30pm at the Chapel Hall

2 September 2015 at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

4 November 2015 at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35.

Signed

Chairman