

## North Rigton Parish Council

### Meeting held on 4 November 2015 at 7.30 at the Village School

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman) Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), , Amanda Martyn, Jo Scott, Tim Bennett, and Mike Richards (Clerk).

**1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Andrew Batcup, Christine Ryder and John Fort.

**2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.**

None.

**3. Approval and signing of minutes,** matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 September were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **Reports on matters arising.**

- a) Car parking – the Chairman informed councillors that she had obtained examples of signage and distributed examples. Councillors agreed the format and the Chairman was authorised to arrange for signs for the Village Garden and for outside the Square and Compass;
- b) “Speedwatch” – the Clerk explained that this exercise involved residents using Police supplied equipment to monitor the speed of traffic in the village. Motorists caught speeding would be issued with a formal warning by the Police. Councillors agreed to pursue this initiative and the Clerk was instructed to contact Councillor Fort in order to make the necessary arrangements;
- c) Devolution – Councillor Fort had provided information on devolution proposals at the last Parish Council meeting. Since then Harrogate BC has submitted its four preferred options. Councillors agreed to wait for further developments before considering any further action;
- d) Dog fouling – the Church has written several letters to the owners of the dog in question, without response. Councillor Ryder has been approached to suggest the best approach for the Parish Council to take and has provided names of relevant contacts at HBC. After further discussion, Councillors agreed that:
  - 1) The Clerk should write to HBC, bringing the matter formally to the attention of officers, and
  - 2) An informal approach should be made to the dog owners (possibly via email) reporting receipt of the complaint from the Church and asking what action is proposed to resolve the problem.

#### **4. Administration**

4.1 Parish consultation meeting – a report of the meeting had been circulated. Of the items discussed, two were particularly relevant to this Parish – 1) Responses from NYCC Highways Dept, and 2) New proposals for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), formerly Commuted Sums. With regards to NYCC responses, the Clerk agreed that at times he had received the standard “your email will be dealt with within 21days” response, but normally, as he had established contact with a named individual, he was able to get satisfactory responses/action much more quickly. He did not consider this a problem. Item 2) CIL arrangements is dealt with later in the agenda.

4.2 Clerk pension arrangements – although the Clerk’s salary falls below the statutory level for pension purposes, there is still a requirement that the Parish Council needs to be formally registered for this purpose. The Clerk confirmed that he has registered accordingly.

4.3 Crime statistics for the period to September 2015. The Clerk circulated the statistics provided by the Community Police Officer, Marie Scott. Councillors were pleased to note that no incidents had been reported in the Parish.

#### **5. Finance**

5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £50 contribution to T Birtwistle for maintenance of Hill Top Common;
- £217.80 to R Burnett for verge cutting
- £31.00 to M E Hopkins for Garden map;
- £145.06 to Yorkshire Water for planning application;
- £60.00 to Lis Moore for two years Internal Audit fees;
- £326.16 to Amanda Martyn for BBQ and PitG expenditure (receipts supplied)

Councillors agreed and approved the above six items of expenditure.

5.2 Receipts - £245.22 received from NYCC in lieu of grass cutting service, previously provided. The Chairman then raised the issue of donations and the following were agreed:

Church - £150

School - £100

British Legion - £60 (cost of wreaths + donation)

## Parish News -£50

5.3 Calculation of Precept for 2016-2017 – The Clerk will provide a detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the January meeting, with particular reference to the amounts raised through fundraising events (BBQ and PitG) and the likely impact of a full year of additional grass cutting costs. (which the Chairman estimated at some £2000)

5.4 CIL – the Chairman explained the concept of CIL – a levy on developers, payable to HBC for new building developments, which can then be distributed to Parish Councils to help fund defined projects. HBC now seem to be placing certain restrictions on this arrangement, referring to the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. It is unclear if or how this will impact on North Rigton so the Chairman suggested that she and the Clerk arrange to meet with HBC Planning Dept to discuss this issue. Councillors agreed with this proposal.

## 6. Parish Plan

6.1. Community Room – The Chairman circulated the latest plan for a Community Room, attached to the Church, which had been produced by an architect on behalf of the PCC. Councillors discussed various options in design, but the Chairman stressed that this was very much a “first stab.” It was also very important to establish protocols around the project – who is involved, usage, capital costs, running costs etc. Councillor Scott asked how the project is to be funded? The Chairman responded by confirming that it would need to be a community project, as the church has no funds and with costs likely to be significant, Big Lottery funding is the only realistic option. Councillors agreed to support the project and the Chairman, Mary Hopkins, together with Councillor Martyn were nominated to represent the Parish Council.

6.2. Next steps – a revision or update of the Plan will be considered next year, but in the meantime, current activities such as the Community tea would continue. The next meeting is on 5 November with the next one to be in February. Carol singing – this is arranged for 20 December, starting at 6.30 and all proceeds will be donated to the local hospices as previously.

## 7. Planning

7.1 The clerk circulated copies of planning permissions received since the last meeting for:

- Rigton Brow
- Almscliffe Manor – 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension, erection of single storey extension;

- Square and Compass.

Also circulated was the refusal of planning permission for Almscliffe Manor, erection of agricultural building.

7.2 Councillors also discussed the application from Tatefield Hall for the erection of a deer shelter. The view of councillors was that the proposed deer shelter seemed to be far in excess of needs and there was a suspicion that it was intended for possible future alteration to a dwelling. Councillors agreed to register an objection to this application.

## **8. Highways, Footpaths, Verges.**

8.1 The water leakages on Hall Green Lane, outside the school and Swindon Close, have re-appeared, following the resurfacing work. The Clerk has notified NYCC Highways but when the inspector came to view, the leakages were not apparent. Councillors Hopkins and Martyn agreed to photo the leaks when they were again evident, and this evidence will be forwarded to NYCC.

8.2. Shaw Lane bridge – traffic calming. The clerk had brought this to the attention of NYCC and also the potential hazard of the large stones in the verges. NYCC had indicated that a Highway Inspector would investigate and recommend action. To date no action seems to have been taken. The clerk will contact NYCC Highways again, requesting information on any action taken or proposed.

8.3. Councillors commented on the missing “North Rigton signpost” at the Church Hill/A658 junction. This had been demolished by a car running down the hill and across the junction. The clerk will raise with NYCC Highways and request it be re-instated.

8.4. White van on Church Hill. A “Police Aware” notice has been affixed to the vehicle but as it has been abandoned (apparently) and has been in situ for some 2-3 weeks, the clerk was instructed to raise the matter with the Community Police Officer, asking for clarification of the position.

## **9. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities**

9.1 Garden developments – The back fence has been taken down and the front fence is to be replaced and a retaining wall is to be built. Two quotes for new fencing have been received - £4238 (supply and fit) against £1570 (supply only). The Council’s maintenance contractor has undertaken to install the fencing at a cost of £75 per day (estimating 2-3 days required). Removal of soil, roots and levelling is estimated at some £1800, plus the cost of a new self-closing gate (£600) and £1500 for the retaining wall. This gives an overall cost of some £5370. Councillors agreed the above, including fence installation by the maintenance contractor.

9.2 The Chairman then circulated a brochure with examples of the log cabin type structures proposed for storage and amenity facilities. Councillors agreed in principle with the buildings proposed and the likely overall cost of the project being some £8-

£9000, including water and electricity supply, building the front wall and installation of the building itself. Clearly, achievement of this project will be entirely dependent on receipt of Lottery funding. The Chairman indicated that she has already obtained the form for this application and is ready to proceed, given Council approval. Councillors agreed that this should proceed.

9.3 Forthcoming events – Litter pick. The next village litter pick will take place on the weekend of 12/13 March 2016. Detailed arrangements will be made nearer the time, but the clerk will include this information in the next edition of the Parish News

## **10 Any other business**

10.1 Local Transport Plan consultation – interested parties should note that NYCC is carrying out a consultation exercise on its Local Transport Plan. The new Plan, which will run from 1 April 2016, is entitled LTP4 and can be found on the Council's website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/lt4](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/lt4), along with the online survey. The closing date for responses is 30 November 2015.

## **11.Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 6 January 2016

Wednesday 2 March 2016

All meetings to be at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date