

## North Rigton Parish Council

### Meeting held on 3 March 2016 at 7.30 at the Village School

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman) Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Amanda Martyn, Tim Bennett, Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor) and Mike Richards (Clerk).

In attendance, Steve Young, parishioner

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Jo Scott and John Fort (County Councillor).

- 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 6 January were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman..

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

- “Speedwatch” The clerk has contacted North Yorkshire Police and will follow up to make suitable arrangements for a speed monitoring exercise to be undertaken in Spring. A number of residents have volunteered to take part;
- Flooding. The Flood Officer is still to meet with the Chairman. A useful summary of flooding issues has been received from a resident on Crag Lane, which will be passed on to the Flood Officer.
- Crime statistics – a response has not been received from PC Scott regarding the previous figures. The clerk will contact her again.
- “5 Houses” application- no further developments, but Councillor Bennett read out an email he had received from the developer for High Fold (the property adjacent to the “5 houses” site) which explained the circumstances surrounding the High Fold planning application, particularly the “expansion of the domestic curtilage.” Councillors were content with the explanation and the consensus view was not to oppose the application.
- Council elections –. The Chairman indicated that she had not been made aware of any other potential candidates so far, but was hopeful that this would change. Councillors passed their application forms to the clerk who will add the necessary electoral roll details and then submit to HBC, by the 7 April deadline.

## 4. Administration

4.1 Boundary changes – details of the consultation exercise on the proposals over future ward boundaries for the Borough Council had been circulated previously. Councillor Ryder produced a map from HBC, showing the changes proposed. Councillors were alarmed to see that the proposal was to take North Rigton out of the Washburn ward and move it into Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale, at the same time moving Huby and Weeton Parish into Washburn ward. Councillors felt that North Rigton should remain in Washburn ward, along with the other parishes which comprise the Almscliffe Group (including Weeton and Huby). Councillors agreed that local residents should be informed of this proposal, via the website, and be urged to take part in the consultation.

4.2 .Internal Audit – the clerk informed councillors that he had arranged with a former colleague from the Audit Commission, to conduct the annual internal audit process, for a fee of £40. Councillors approved this arrangement.

4.3 Annual Parish Meeting – confirmed for 11 May at 7.00pm at the village school.

## 5. Finance

5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £1833.50 for gardening services, per contract, to Sue Keane;
- £1000, plus c.£200- this is in respect of alterations to the village garden ie removal of the mound. The Chairman had previously received quotes of £1300, £1900 and £3600 for this work, which Councillors had deemed too high. Andrew Keane has approached another contractor who has agreed to do the work for £500, plus an additional £500 to turf the whole area with good quality turf. The additional sum of £200 (approx) is for Andrew Keane to oversee the project, to ensure it is carried out to specification, to the required standard. (The actual amount will be Andrew's daily rate, times the number of days involved)

**Councillors approved both the above amounts.**

The Chairman then suggested that it would be appropriate to create a base for the storage facility, at the same time. It would need to be 4mx3m. Councillors agreed.

## 6. Parish Plan

6.1. Community Room – a meeting is to be held next Tuesday. The Chairman and Councillor Martyn will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

6.2. Next steps – as discussed previously, a revision or update of the Plan will be considered next year.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 Other than the High Fold application mentioned above, no other applications had been received since the last meeting. In addition, no planning decisions have been received, either.

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

8.1. Litter pick – arranged for the week-end of 12/13 March. Councillors indicated the day(s) they would be available to take part.

8.2. Hall Green Lane problems – water and slurry is running down Hall Green Lane. In addition, no action has been taken regarding the speed hump and the yellow lines outside the school. The clerk had contacted NYCC Highways again, bringing these issues to their attention, but the response received demonstrated apparent ignorance of the actual issues eg the Highways Inspector's review indicated no problem with the speed hump when it is obvious that the hump is completely ineffective, having been "flattened" out by the recent highway repair work. The clerk will contact Highways again. Highways acknowledged the damage to verges, apparently caused by farm vehicles, but stated that, as there was no apparent health and safety issue, they would take no action.

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

9.1.Improvements to the Garden – see 5.1 above, work should commence in April

9.2. Councillors discussed the possibility of a stone wall being built to the front of the Garden. It was agreed that a stone wall would improve the appearance of the Garden and would be a better option than the current fencing. The Chairman will enquire of potential cost and the clerk will clarify if the wall and the proposed store requires planning permission.

## **10 Any other business**

10.1. Grass cutting/stripping. It was agreed that the first "cut" should be timed for the second week in April. The clerk will organise this with R Burnett, as per the previous arrangement.

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

Wednesday 11 May 2016, at the village school.

**This meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting, which commences at 7.00pm. The Parish Council meeting will start at approximately 8.00pm**

Signed

(Chairman)

Date