

Report by the Chairman of North Rigton Parish Council

Electors a meeting on Thursday 8th May 2014

I can report that the council decided to hold the precept, that is the amount of money we claim from Harrogate Borough Council, for the 2nd year running. This is despite some of our fixed costs continuing to rise.

Your notification of the precept will have indicated that there is a small increase in the amount you have to pay, we understand that this is because the money is being taken from fewer properties in the parish this financial year.

A large part of our income, approximately 50% is spent on the village environment and garden. The Council feel that this is very important and therefore to be able to continue with this work our fund raising activities need to continue, mainly through the BBQ & the PIG. However it might be the time to start to look at other means of fund raising in the future.

Community:

The new seat, bought with Jubilee funds is located on the village green We still plan to spend some money on creating a bank of shrubs, behind the village signs at the three entrances to the village on, Church Hill, Hall Green Lane and High Moor Road, hopefully this work will begin this year.

Party in the Garden was a huge success. The generosity of those who get involved, both in time, effort and giving enabled the profit from this event to reach an all time high of £1,892.07

Well done and thank you to everyone who made these events so successful.

Plans are well under way for the 2014 events. Saturday 7th June the BBQ in the Village Garden, this is a ticket event and Sunday 8th June the Party in the Garden.

The annual litter pick was held in March with 22 residents helping over the two days. The Parish Council are aware that several members of the community are active in collecting litter at other times of the year too, and I would like to record our thanks to all those residents who attempt to look after the area make our community a pleasant place to live.

Thanks to our Borough Councillor, Christine Ryder, we have acquired 5 new litter bins which have been located at various locations around the village. We do however have to make arrangements for these bins to be emptied ourselves, which we are currently able to cover.

Parish Plan:

There have been several actions resulting from the Parish Plan:

1. **Christmas Carolling** was enjoyed in December. The event started at the Christmas Tree in the Village Garden and progressed through the village. Everyone retired to the Square & Compass where the Rigtonics, the local community choir, entertained the customers. With the collections around the village and in the S&C we raised £250 to be shared between St Gemma's and St Michael's Hospices.
2. We have held three **Community Teas** on the first Thursday of the month, starting in March, at the Square & Compass, where between 16 and 22 parish residents have met for a cup of tea, a cream scone and a chat with neighbours. The event is open to all ages and two further dates are booked, 5 June & 3 July. Hopefully if we continue with a good attendance the event will continue throughout the Autumn and Winter months.
3. The first **Parish Walk** was held on Saturday 3 May. Andrew & Sue Batcup, who led the walk, report that it was not well attended. This could be for various reasons.

Three further walks are planned, 14 June, 12 July & 6 Sept after which a review will be undertaken.

4. Discussions have taken place about the possibility of creating a **Community Room** or space in the Parish Church. 22 residents attended a public meeting on 1 May at St Johns, where their ideas were sought. Representatives from the church, the school, the Parish Council and Almscliffe Villages Association, representing the Community. The discussion was wide ranging and the aim is to form a steering group to discuss and research the possibilities, and

present a proposal to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme carried out a review when one co-ordinator left the village. This resulted in two co-ordinators extending their areas, and several residents joining the scheme.

(If anyone would like to have further information packs or signs, please contact me after the meeting)

Visual & Physical Amenities:

We continue to have works carried out on our verges, on the village green, in the village garden, and I would once more like to thank Sue and Andy Keane for all their hard work in these areas. Hill Top Common continues to be cut on a voluntary basis.

Our latest request for Commuted sum payments has provided us with a pair of goal posts and a Basket Ball net which were installed in the Church Hill playing field in July resulting in the inaugural football match between Huby & North Rigton. Unfortunately Huby won the trophy, however a great time was had by all, and I am assured that North Rigton are already practising for the re-match to ensure a better result this year.

Highways matters:

The damage to the verges through the village and throughout the parish have been a continuing concern recently. Although the Parish Council looked into various options to improve the situation, the verges did recover slightly over the summer months and we are continuing to have discussions with North Yorkshire Highways and Harrogate Borough Council about the problem.

We have once more attempted to have the old sign poles in the village removed. There are 3 of them and as there has been no action by Highways we will be removing them ourselves in the near future.

We continue to send information to Highways about the various pot holes and crumbling roads in the parish. Some work has been carried out but it is piecemeal, and it appears unlikely that we will get any better repairs carried out in the near future.

We have made repeated requests to renew the line markings in the village, particularly near to the village school and at the mini roundabout, and at last, at the end of April work was carried out.

Planning:

The council still find many of the decisions inconsistent.

North Rigton Parish Council submitted objections to the Harrogate Development Plan Document, based upon the proposal that there should be in excess of 15000 houses built to the West of Harrogate with no planned road improvements to accompany the proposals. The plan did not even consider the roads and villages to the south of Harrogate who would be affected by the traffic from these developments heading to Bradford, Otley & Leeds.

The Harrogate Development Plan Document was submitted for inspection in February.

Our objections were accepted by the inspector and we were invited to speak at the hearings.

The Inspection began at the end of April, and the Inspector indicated on day 2 of the hearing that he was likely to reject the plan. HBC were given the opportunity to revise or withdraw the plan. This is currently under discussion and the HBC will decide their actions at an Extraordinary Council meeting on Wed 14 May

Communications:

We would encourage you to continue to use the Parish Council web site and sign up to automatic messages, which will greatly improve communication in the parish. www.northrigton.org

May I remind you of the the dedicated e-mail address for the Parish Clerk, Mr Mike Richards: northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Mary Hopkins

08/05/2014