

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on 12 May 2016 at 7.30 at the Village School

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman) Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Amanda Martyn, Tim Bennett, Neil Creeney, Steve Young and Mike Richards (Clerk).

Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor) John Fort (County Councillor) from 9.15

1. Election of Chairman

Mary Hopkins was elected unopposed as Chairman, and Barbara Massey was also elected unopposed as Vice-Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence –There were no apologies for absence.

3. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.

No variations or declarations of interest were noted, but the Chairman took the opportunity of welcoming Messrs Creeney and Young to their first meeting as newly elected councillors. She explained how the Parish Council operated, particularly stressing that there were no sub-committees and that a key area of “business” was the scrutiny and review of planning applications. The arrangement is for the clerk to circulate via email, all planning applications received, to all councillors with a minimum of three responding so that a corporate view can be provided to the Planning Authority. She stressed the need for at least three responses and the clerk will issue reminders before the due date, if insufficient responses have been received.

4. Approval and signing of minutes, matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 March were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman..

Reports on matters arising.

- a) Electoral Commission – Boundary changes. Following discussions with the Borough Council, it is now understood that the proposed change of boundary affecting North Rigton will no longer happen and the Parish will remain in Washburn ward. Huby and Weeton Parish will also become part of this ward. This still remains, however, to be ratified by the Electoral Commission;
- b) Grass verge cutting – based on current experience, more frequent grasscutting may be needed, possibly one cut every three weeks. This will obviously incur extra cost, so the position will need to be monitored;
- c) Community “Speedwatch” – the clerk contacted North Yorkshire Police and was informed that the scheme is under review, but is likely to be “rolled out” again in the coming months. He will follow up and make the necessary arrangements to take part in the scheme at the next opportunity. The clerk also mentioned that he had been contacted by a firm which supplied portable, flashing, speed warning signs. When he enquired of the firm the costs of such equipment, he was informed that NYCC have forbidden the installation of this equipment in the

County. The Chairman suggested that John Fort be approached to investigate this ruling. The clerk undertook so to do;

- d) Community Room – two sets of draft plans to extend the useable area of the Church have been produced, but little further progress has been made. The Chairman is to meet with the Church architects and a possible joint meeting with the Parochial Church Council is under consideration.

5. Administration

5.1 Insurance renewal – the clerk informed councillors that the Council’s insurance policy was due for renewal from 3 June and the current arrangement with Zurich provided for continued cover based on the fixed term agreement for three years, with no increase in premium. Councillors noted this arrangement.

5.2 Parish Plan – councillors agreed that a refresh was due and this would be discussed in detail at the next meeting. Included in this discussion would be further consideration about the “welcome pack” for new residents. Councillors also discussed the action points from the Plan and agreed that positive progress had been made on the website and carol singing, but there had been no further interest in a Book Club and although the Walking Group had met on several occasions last year, there did not now seem to be the enthusiasm to continue.

6. Finance

6.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £335.72 insurance premium, payable to Zurich Insurance PLC, as above at 5.1.;
- £1104.55, payable to Andrew Keane for repairs and renovation to the village garden;
- £191 re membership to YLCA (Yorkshire Local Councils Association)

Councillors approved the above amounts for payment.

The Chairman also asked for approval to purchase three more “pop-up” gazebos and two collapsible tables, at a cost of some £200 – councillors approved this request.

6.2 Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounts. The Clerk circulated copies of the Annual Return, which had been explained in detail at the Annual Parish meeting. Councillors referred back to the July 2015 meeting when the effectiveness of the system of internal control had been reviewed and resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

6.2.1 Annual Accounting Statement – councillors had no further questions and approved the Accounting Statement and the submission of the return to the external

auditors.

7. Planning

7.1 Notification of planning approval for Rigton Close and High Fold had been received. Notifications of the decisions on the planning applications for Beck Close and Kent House were still awaited.

8. Highways, Footpaths, Verges.

8.1. Grass verge cutting by residents seems to be working well although a councillor did ask what would happen if a resident were away for a considerable length of time? In answer, it was thought that given the community spirit within the village, a neighbour (or neighbours) would step in to assist.

8.2. Bulbs –the annual offer of bulbs for planting from HBC was again available. The clerk will respond, requesting 500 daffodil bulbs.

8.3. The Chairman remarked upon the deplorable state of the road surface on Brackenwell Lane. The clerk will raise the matter with NYCC Highways.

9. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

9.1.Improvements to the Garden – work has now been delayed until after the BBQ and Party in the Garden (for obvious reasons!)

9.2. BBQ/PitG – arrangements are well in hand. The Chairman was pleased to announce that the field behind the Garden had again been made available by the landowner, and it would be used for the Tug of War and as a children’s play area, (with the proviso that the stack of old hay/straw bales be removed to avoid the risk of injury to the children playing in the vicinity).

9.3. The Chairman informed councillors of an approach from a former resident who was writing an article about cricket in the village. Existing village residents who had played for the cricket team had been identified and invited to a “cricket tea” and a talk on cricket in the village, to be held on 7 July at the Square and Compass.

10 Any other business

10.1. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council Contact List now needs to be updated – the Clerk will produce an updated list for circulation.

11. Review

Councillors Fort and Ryder arrived at this point, having been delayed at other meetings. The Chairman summarised issues raised, particularly item 4.a) re boundary changes (also congratulating Councillor Ryder on her re-election and appointment as Deputy Mayor) and 4 c) Speedwatch where Councillor Fort agreed to look into the apparent banning by NYCC of portable speed check equipment.

11. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 29 June 2016, at the village school. The agenda will include the review and update of Standing Orders, Risk assessment and Code of Conduct – the clerk will circulate the current versions prior to the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date