

# North Rigton Parish Council

## Meeting held on 7 September 2016 at 7.30 at the Village School

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Tim Bennett, Neil Creeneey, Steve Young, Amanda Martyn, John Fort (County Councillor), Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor) and Mike Richards (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies for absence as all councillors were present.
- 2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.**

Councillors had no declarations of interest to make. The order of the agenda was revised to allow Councillors Ryder and Fort to leave at 8.30.

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

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 June were agreed as a true record and councillors approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

### Reports on matters arising.

- a) “Speedwatch” The Clerk informed Councillors that he had followed up the issue of speed warning equipment with NYCC Highways. It was confirmed that NYCC do not allow the installation of “private” equipment. NYCC supplied equipment is an option but the cost is some £6,000 over 4 years. In addition, priority for this equipment will be given to those parishes which have utilised the Community Speedwatch procedure. 20mph warning signs/equipment is only available in those areas where there has been a notifiable RTA in the recent past. Councillors discussed other traffic calming options, such as “speed bumps” and chicanes but none was felt to be suitable. The prospect of increased traffic flow due to housing development west of Harrogate was also raised and Councillor Fort suggested that a baseline of traffic flow and speeds be established now for future comparison purposes. He suggested that there could also be a possibility for the developer of the new housing to pay for or contribute to the installation of speed warning signs through CIL. The Chair’s understanding, however, was that such financial aid through CIL would not be forthcoming as the levy is collected by HBC and controlled on a central basis.

it was agreed that the clerk would contact NYCC Highways (Darren Griffiths) again to seek absolute clarification of what is possible and also to ask for the latest data on traffic speed/volume through the village, to be made available.

- b) Almscliffe Crag – memorial. The Clerk read out his responses to the two individuals from Beckenham Rugby Club who were enquiring about the possibility of erecting some form of memorial, following the unfortunate death of Paul Skelly. In brief, he had explained to the two individuals the difficulties arising from the erection of a roadside memorial. Councillors discussed the various implications and Councillor Fort concluded by confirming that the NYCC

policy would not permit anything along the lines of a shrine – planting a tree with possibly a plaque may be possible but would need to be licensed. The Chairman undertook to contact the landowner and ascertain whether the planting of a tree would be acceptable and whether he is prepared for his contact details to be notified to the interested parties. The Clerk will update the two individuals on the position.

- c) Road surface – Brackenwell Lane. No response had been received from NYCC Highways, but following a further approach from the Clerk, NYCC Highways confirmed that all necessary corrective action, in their view, had now been completed. The condition of the surface still leaves something to be desired, in the Council's view. This fact was put into stark contrast when the Chairman informed councillors of the recent work undertaken by NYCC on Beeston's Lane – the surface had been completely stripped out and totally resurfaced along its length. Councillors were astonished at what was seen to be a total waste and misdirection of public funds. Questions were asked as to the cost of the project and why and how had the decision been taken to undertake what was perceived as totally unnecessary expenditure when there were many other more deserving cases within the village alone. The Clerk will take up the issue with NYCC and report back to councillors.

#### **4. Administration**

##### **4.1 Internal Financial Control and Governance.**

The Clerk confirmed that he had corrected the paragraph numbers in the Standing Orders and Messrs Creney and Young then signed the declaration re observance of the Code of Conduct.

- 4.2 Councillor Fort brought Councillors' attention to the new arrangements for notifying power cuts – the procedure is now to dial "105" to be connected directly to the power cut line. He also brought Councillors up to date on education matters – NYCC school results were again of a high standard but he warned of the possible drawbacks which may be a consequence of the move towards academies.

- 4.3 Training The Clerk had previously circulated available training courses and Councillor Massey is to attend the course on Chairmanship in October.

- 4.4 Parish Council Consultation meeting. If a Parish Council submits any questions to the meeting, the protocol requires that the Council should be represented at the meeting. However, as NYCC Highways is not to be present at the meeting (and North Rigton's main concerns lie within this area of responsibility) it was not felt necessary for any councillor to be present on this occasion. Consideration will be given re attendance at the next meeting in six months time.

#### **5. Finance**

- 5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £474.30 to Burnetts for grass verge strimming;
- £793.00 to S Keane for garden and grounds maintenance;
- £45.00 to YLCA for training (see 4.3 above)
- £620 to D Harper for work to the Village Garden

Councillors approved the above 4 items.

## **6. Parish Plan**

6.1. Community Room – as reported previously the Chairman confirmed that the project to re-order the Church (ie the moving of pews) was proceeding, and a grant of £3,000 from HBC was on offer, plus other financial contributions from the Parish Council and Almscliffe Villagers Association, also being available. Final approval from the Diocese is required and this is being sought. The Church itself has also applied for a grant to fund the installation of toilet facilities. Councillors were pleased to note that this long standing project now seems closer to becoming a reality.

6.2. Parish Plan refresh – Councillors Massey and Young have reviewed the Plan and identified several areas for updating, through a new, short and focussed questionnaire. Councillor Young observed that, in his view, some of the Action Plan points were somewhat vague and would need to be redrafted with a view to dealing with the major issues which emerged. The design of a “Welcome Pack” will also be included.

Councillors Fort and Ryder left the meeting at this point.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 The Clerk informed Councillors that no new planning applications had been received since the last meeting. He confirmed that the planning application for minor works at Morgan’s Garth had been approved.

7.2 The Chairman advised that she had been notified by HBC (Sean Wright) that CIL funding may be available to be spent in an area of the Parish Council’s choosing. To qualify for this funding, expenditure on the Village Garden needs to be quantified and notified to HBC. The Clerk will follow up.

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

8.1 Councillors discussed the state of footpaths in the Village and surrounding areas. Concern was expressed at the deterioration of the paths due to over growth of vegetation. The Clerk will approach NYCC Highways to enquire if maintenance work can be carried out on footpaths, as follows:

- Church Hill to the A658;
  - Hall Green Lane to the A658;
  - The path between the bottom of Church Hill to the bottom of Hall Green Lane (along the A658);
  - Footpath along A658 to Huby and also to Nab Bridge.
- Councillor Massey also asked for the agenda of the next meeting to include reference to the footpath from Rigton Hill to High Moor.

8.2 Flooding on Brackenwell Lane. The Chairman reported that the HBC Flood Officer had indicated that any local “interference” with water flow would mean that any flooding problem which may arise would be deemed the responsibility of the individuals concerned, and would therefore not be a matter for HBC. In this context, it was noted that the new occupants have erected a new fence and “smoothed” the waterway. In addition, the drain behind the old garages has become blocked and, Yorkshire Water has partly unblocked it and will return in due course to complete the procedure.

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

9.1 Garden developments – The Chairman updated councillors on the developments with regard to the Garden:

- Building the retaining wall is the next part of the project;
- The Chairman is preparing an application for Lottery funding which will include the cost of all works undertaken so far, plus the cost of the store and shelter and associated works and building the front wall;
- The grant from Councillor Fort’s fund has been approved and will go towards the purchase of the “community use” generator.

9.2 Party in the Garden/BBQ – the Chairman reported that both events had been a great success with an overall profit of £1918. The “Flowerpot Festival” had also been very popular and had contributed to success of the weekend. Thanks to Erica Hill for her efforts.

## **10. Any other business**

10.1 A Councillor had been approached by a resident to enquire whether the Parish Council would buy a Yorkshire Flag for the Church to fly on Yorkshire Day. The Chairman responded by confirming that this was not possible as the Church is only able to fly the Union Flag.

10.2 Remembrance Sunday poppies. Councillor Martyn confirmed that she will obtain the poppies/wreaths from the British Legion as previously. The Chairman will represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Church but asked that as many councillors as possible should also attend. The ceremony is on Sunday 13 November at 9.30am.

**11. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 2 November 2016

Wednesday 4 January 2017

both at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date