

## North Rigton Parish Council

### Meeting held on 2 November 2016 at 7.30 at the Village School

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Neil Creeney, John Fort (County Councillor), and Christine Ryder (Borough Councillor)

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

Councillors had no declarations of interest to make.

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

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September were agreed as a true record and councillors approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

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

- a) Almscliffe Crag – memorial. The Clerk read out his response to Tim Green, one of the individuals from Beckenham Rugby Club who had enquired about the possibility of erecting some form of memorial, following the unfortunate death of Paul Skelly. Tim Green had responded, suggesting that their intention was now to have a “very small, low/no maintenance marque” as a memorial. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write back to Tim Green, indicating that the Parish Council (and landowner) would be in favour of this proposal, as long as it was affixed to an existing tree with no further decoration.

- b) Traffic speed control. The Clerk confirmed to councillors the cost of the temporary VAS scheme – this would be £6,000 + VAT for 4 years (ie £1500 +VAT per annum), but at the end of the 4 years, the equipment would be returned to NYCC. Councillors discussed this issue and it was agreed unanimously that such cost could not be justified and the Parish Council would not proceed with this initiative. Councillors suggested that John Fort and Christine Ryder should be made aware of the details of this scheme – it was felt strongly that parish councils should not have to pay significant sums to control the speed of traffic. The Clerk has made further enquiries about the Community Speedwatch scheme, and it would seem that this scheme will suit the needs of the Parish. A minimum of six individuals from the community is required to undertake training before implementation of the “Speedwatch” exercise. Councillors agreed to promulgate the details of this in the Parish News, to seek volunteers and then take the initiative forward.

4. Beeston’s Lane resurfacing. The Clerk had not received a response from NYCC on this matter. He will follow up as a matter of urgency.

**UPDATE** – the day after the PC meeting, a response was received from NYCC Highways which revealed that some £20,000 had been spent on the resurfacing, but did not fully explain the reasons why Beeston’s Lane had been chosen, other than

that it was in a maintenance plan. The clerk will follow up again, stressing again that there are other roads within the Parish eg Dunkeswick Lane, with a much greater need for resurfacing.

## **5. Administration**

### **4.1 Parish consultation meeting.**

The Clerk had circulated the output from the consultation meeting. Other than a number of comments about planning, there were no issues raised relevant to North Rigton, which received a response from HBC officers. The main issues of concern, relating to housing development to the west of Harrogate, were referred (to be included) in the Harrogate Local Plan Briefing.

**4.2 Harrogate Local Plan.** The formal consultation over the Plan is to run from 11 November to 23 December 2016. Councillors discussed the possible implications for the Parish and concern was expressed about the uncertainty surrounding the Development Limit (DL) apparently created by HBC, which displayed several anomalies such as the exclusion of well established properties within the village. The Clerk will contact Rebecca Burnett to ascertain how the DL was drawn up and whether it can be amended to reflect a more accurate position.

The Chairman then drew councillors attention to possible draft proposals for Harrogate “relief roads” , one of which, the so-called “Red Route” would pass through the Parish. Councillors discussed the implications of this proposal but it was felt that the Council’s stated view should be “The Parish Council is aware of various proposals for diverting traffic away from Harrogate, but is unable to comment further or adopt a formal position until more detail is available.” The Clerk will seek more information from Rebecca Burnett.

The Chairman then informed councillors that she and the Vice Chairman were to attend a meeting with other local parish councils to discuss the concerns over the “Red Route.” She will report back to councillors after the event.

## **5. Finance**

**5.1 Approval of expenditure.** Items for approval were:

- £66.00 to HBC for “ROSPA” inspection of the play area;
- £28.80 to Oliver Connolly for website hosting;
- £77.00 to SLCC for annual membership;
- £120 to PKF Littlejohn for external audit fee (the Clerk however, is to challenge this as he considers no fee is payable, due to the Council Council’s turnover being below £10,000)

Councillors approved the above 4 items.

## **6. Parish Plan**

6.1. Community Room – the Chairman updated councillors on the latest position. The Church architect had produced an estimate for all the works proposed, including water supply and installation of toilet facilities, amounting to some £39,000 (including fees of £6,500). Councillors were surprised at the significant cost but confirmed the previous agreement that the Council would provide up to £2,000 towards architect fees. The balance of funding needed would be met from other donations, a grant of £3,000 from HBC and fundraising events. A Cheese and Wine evening is to be held on 11 November to publicise the Community Room proposals.

6.2. Parish Plan refresh –Councillor Young informed the Council that proposals for a revisit of the Plan are in hand and he will present his ideas to the January meeting for councillors’ approval. The design of a “Welcome Pack” will also be included.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 The Clerk informed Councillors that no new planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

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 has written to Sean Wright asking for details of what is actually required but has received no response. He will follow up.

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

8.1. The Clerk has approached NYCC informing them of the state of the footpaths as below:

- 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.

NYCC have responded, acknowledging receipt, but have not as yet proposed any action. The Clerk will follow up.

8.2 Councillor Massey had also raised the issue of the footpath from Rigton Hill to High Moor. She had elected to write to NYCC privately and received a response

which basically explained that for a footpath to be created:

- a) the landowner must be involved and in agreement
- b) there must be no complications with access to fields etc
- c) any costs must be met locally – NYCC has no budget for this.

After discussion, councillors agreed that given the above conditions and the fact that three separate landowners are involved, pursuit of this initiative was not viable.

8.2 Flooding on Brackenwell Lane. The Chairman reported that Yorkshire Water had uncovered the drain, which has collapsed – YW now maintain that it is not their responsibility. There are also flooding problems on Hall Green Lane where another drain has collapsed. This will likely cause flooding problems in the adjacent field, as will the flow of water past Swindon Close which needs to go down the road to the next drain rather than into the field. The Chairman has written to Christine Ryder - the Clerk will raise the issue with NYCC.

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

9.1 The grant of £500 from John Fort's Fund has now been received and the generator has been ordered.

9.2 Lottery bid for Village Garden developments is being prepared by the Chairman.

9.3 ROSPA safety inspection report received – very minor maintenance work required.

9.4 Remembrance Day – wreaths ordered. Chairman encouraged other councillors to attend the ceremony.

9.5 Christmas events – Councillor Bennett reported that arrangements for the Carol service were in hand.

#### **10. Any other business**

No other business reported

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

Wednesday 4 January 2017

Wednesday 1 March 2017

at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date