

## North Rigton Parish Council

### Meeting held on 4 January 2017 at 7.30 at the Village School

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

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from, Amanda Martyn, 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 2 November were agreed as a true record and councillors approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

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

- a) Community Speedwatch – the Clerk confirmed that he had received two expressions of interest from residents to take part in the exercise. Councillors indicated their willingness to take part if no other volunteers came forward. The Clerk will include another reference to Speedwatch in the January/February Parish News, asking for more volunteers and indicating that the initiative will take place in Spring.
- b) Community Room – the Chairman updated councillors on the latest position. Some 40 people had attended the Cheese and Wine evening in November and the overall message from those present had been positive. The Chairman has met with the Chair of the Steering Group but it would seem little progress has been made. However, a formal application was made to the Diocese on 11 December. Outcome awaited.
- c) Harrogate Local Plan – Councillors discussed HBC's Planning Portal and the comments and objections recorded. It was agreed that the Portal was not very user friendly but Councillors were pleased that the Parish Council's response had been successfully uploaded and particularly the traffic survey, undertaken by a local resident, more than adequately supported the points made regarding traffic volume and the consequential potential problems. Councillors formally thanked the resident for her hard work and efforts in collecting the traffic data. The Chairman reported that she had met with Christine Ryder to discuss the Plan. She had pointed out that the HBC traffic surveys, with regard to the impact of the potential increase in traffic volumes consequent on the proposed new developments, were flawed, in that they only included roads up to and including Beckwithshaw. She had also commented that some of the findings eg for Brackenthwaite Lane, were irrelevant and incorrect. Councillor Ryder noted all the points made.  
Councillors agreed to await developments before considering any further action.

#### **4. Administration**

##### 4.1 Pension arrangements.

The Clerk notified councillors that he had taken the appropriate action with regard to statutory requirements. A pension scheme is not required.

4.2 Parish precept – The clerk informed councillors that he had applied for the precept for 2017/18 based on the current amount ie no increase as previously agreed. The precept will be reduced by a grant from HBC of £66.

#### **5. Finance**

5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £584.00 to Sue Keane for gardening services;
- £624.00 to HGI for the generator;
- £499.80 to R Burnett for grass strimming;
- £528.00 to J Inman for grass verge cutting

The Clerk will follow up with NYCC regarding payment for grass verge cutting in 2016.

Councillors approved the above 4 items.

#### **6. Parish Plan**

6.1. Parish Plan refresh –Councillor Young informed the Council that he is still working on ideas for a refresh. He will present his ideas to the next meeting for councillors' approval.

#### **7. Planning**

7.1 The Clerk confirmed that he had responded according to Councillors views on the applications for Bracken Farm and Bracken Lodge (ie no objection) and had recorded an objection to the proposed building on Briscoe Ridge Road, due to unacceptable incursion into the Green Belt.

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

8.1. The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded the Chairman's email regarding the unsatisfactory condition of Hall Green Lane due to mud and slurry running down the road and the failed drainage cut-ins. Response awaited.

8.2 A letter had been received from the Driffield family requesting permission to

erect a bench on Crag Lane, in memory of the late Mrs Driffield. Councillors discussed the request and whilst there was no specific objection, there were a number of considerations:

- 1) The proposed site cannot be outside the 30mph limit;
- 2) There is already one bench on Crag Lane;
- 3) Ongoing maintenance must be implicit in any arrangement.

It was suggested that the best option may be to approach the Bradley family (the sponsors of the existing bench) and explore the possibility of replacing that bench with a new one, and agreeing joint responsibility for maintenance etc. The Clerk will draft a response and circulate for Councillors agreement.

8.3 Flooding on Brackenwell Lane. The Chairman had contacted John Fort and Christine Ryder regarding the unsatisfactory situation of flooding on Brackenwell Lane. Despite the efforts of local residents and eventual input from Yorkshire Water, the problem has not been resolved. The flooding appears to be caused by a blocked drain which is in land probably owned by HBC. As Yorkshire Water are now maintaining that the flooding (and blocked drain) are not their responsibility, the Parish Council is urging either HBC or NYCC to intervene so that unsatisfactory situation can be resolved. Responses are still awaited.

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

9.1 Garden improvements – no developments, the Lottery bid is being prepared by the Chairman. The Chairman asked for approval to purchase a substantial litter bin for the Garden. She had located a suitable bin at a cost of some £500 – councillors were surprised at this cost and the Clerk undertook to compare prices from other suppliers, but councillors approved the purchase of a bin within this limit.

9.2 Community use generator. The Chairman confirmed that the generator had now been delivered and would be stored at Swindon Close, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Martyn. The generator is for community use, particularly for vulnerable residents during electricity outage. Vulnerable individuals will need to be identified, and, should there be a need, priority for use defined. (this exercise will be part of the Parish Plan update). Councillors also agreed that, subject to conditions, the generator could be made available for private functions, at a nominal cost.

## **10. Any other business**

The Chairman informed councillors that the Police had been informed about the black Nissan Navara, which had been parked on Church Hill, for some two months, but were unable to take any action as the vehicle was taxed, tested and insured and was not causing an obstruction. Councillors felt however, that the vehicle being parked at the side of the road for such an extended period was not acceptable (unless it does indeed

belong to a resident). The Clerk will contact the Police again to attempt to gain more information to hopefully resolve the issue.

**11. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 1 March 2017

at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date