

## North Rigton Parish Council

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

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Amanda Martyn (from 7.50), Tim Bennett, Steve Young, Neil Creeney, and Mike Richards (Clerk).

**1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Stanley Lumley (County 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 3 May 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 individuals to take part in the exercise were agreed as:

- Steve Young (Lead)
- Peter Raybaud/Lindsay Nichol
- Tom and Francesca Jenkinson
- Jo Williams
- Nigel Martyn
- Barney Brockhill (clerk to contact to ensure he is still available)

The clerk will forward the above names to NY Police to set up the exercise.

b) Bus shelter A658 – the Chairman has re-examined the structure and, contrary to the initial assessment, the structure is quite robust, although it is full of rubbish and is very unsightly. Councillors discussed the responsibility for maintenance etc of the shelter and although strong views were expressed that it should be the responsibility of NYCC, it was acknowledged ultimately that it was owned by the Parish Council and therefore was its responsibility. It was then agreed that the individual who had originally constructed the shelter, be approached regarding the possibility of him carrying out maintenance and repair. The clerk then informed councillors that he had received notification from a company, advertising the supply and installation of a bus shelter for some £1995. Councillors then discussed the use of the existing shelter/bus stop and it was felt that as use was fairly limited it would not perhaps be good use of public funds to spend such an amount. Following further discussion, it was agreed that if repair and maintenance was not feasible, the shelter should be removed and the Council await reaction, before considering the next steps. It was also agreed that our NYCC councillor be approached for a possible alternative solution.

c) HBC Local Plan – Ashville College meeting

The Chairman and Councillor Young had attended, on behalf of the Parish

Council, along with seven parishioners. The Chairman had made a presentation which set out the concerns of the Parish arising from the proposals for significant housing developments, to the west of Harrogate. Councillor Young congratulated the Chairman on her excellent presentation and also commented that much surprise had been expressed by the other participants, on North Rigton's position in this matter.

Councillor Young then commented that HBC was planning for the future but the Parish Council is concerned about the present. He is to write to the NYCC Councillor, Don McKenzie, setting out his personal concerns and those of the Parish Council, using historical and current evidence to support the contention of the adverse impact on the Parish, of the proposed housing developments. He encouraged other councillors to do the same and he will circulate a template response document for this purpose.

The Chairman then set out the position for the proposed two new development sites at Green Hammerton and Cattal – both are substantial and will bring infrastructure, the proposed 600 houses to the west of Harrogate will not. The cost of hiring Ashville College had been £300 and contributions were requested from participant Councils. Councillors agreed a contribution of £50 was appropriate.

The Chairman summed up the discussion by affirming that this ad hoc group would continue and would serve to be a "thorn in the side" of HBC, with regard to these planning proposals.

- d) Mouchel traffic survey – the Clerk had circulated the consultation paper, which was not wholly relevant to the Parish. He had responded on behalf of the Council, referring specifically to the problem of traffic flow through the village, both now and in the future, given the proposed housing developments. Councillor Young indicated that he had also responded, on a personal basis.
- e) Additional sites consultation – the timetable for the consultation meetings for additional sites for housing developments was circulated. An electronic version is due and the clerk will forward to all councillors.

#### **4. Administration**

4.1 The Clerk had forwarded HBC's "Budget Proposals" document for councillors' attention. He will respond on behalf of the Council, with comments specifically about the need for grass cutting and the costs which now fall on the Parish.

4.2 The Internal Audit report had now been received. The clerk informed councillors that all recommendations had been met, with the exception of the VAT claim, which will be submitted once all invoices for recent substantial works had been received and paid.

4.3 Insurance –the clerk notified councillors that he had arranged for insurance cover at a cost of £308.92 pa for the next 3 years, with Aon, who had quoted on the basis of a 10% lower fee compared with the other lowest quote received. He will notify Aon that the new storage facility needs to be added to the assets included for cover.

4.4 NYCC and HBC councillors. The Chairman informed councillors that following the retirement of John Fort, our new NYCC councillor is Stanley Lumley who was unfortunately unable to attend tonight's meeting. Christine Ryder had resigned as HBC Councillor, due to pressure of other commitments. The Chairman will write to Christine, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressing thanks for her hard work in supporting the Parish over a number of years.

## **5. Finance**

5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £40.00 to R Chambers for Internal Audit
- £149.79 to Yorkshire Water for installation approval;
- £1306.00 to PM Dickson for the storage shed;
- £55.00 reimbursement to M Richards for computer repair
- £96.00 to K Farrington for the heavy duty extension lead
- £63.00 to T Massey for the Festival banner
- £308.92 to Aon for insurance policy
- £1500.00 to D Harper for garden works
- £13.17 to M. E Hopkins for sundry items

Councillors approved the above 9 items.

5.2 Approval of future expenditure

- £1039.60 to Yorkshire Water for connection of water supply
- £231.00 to S Keane for gardening services
- £19.97 to T Birtwhistle for repairs to play equipment

Councillors approved the above 3 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 a future meeting for councillors' approval.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 HBC had notified approval of the Plum Tree Cottage application. The new or extended driveways to Letefield House and the property on Brackenthwaite Lane had been examined by planners and, as both were constructed from permeable materials, planning permission was not required.

7.2 No notifications of other planning applications had been received. The clerk will follow up.

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

8.1.Crag Lane bench – it was agreed by all that the refurbishment work carried out by the Driffield family had been to a high standard. Unfortunately however, other items, such as a miniature windmill had been added to the site. The Clerk will write to the family, commending the quality of the bench, but informing them at the same time that NYCC policy is not to allow roadside memorials.

8.2 A Further communication had been received from Beckenham Rugby Club, regarding the proposed memorial adjacent to Almscliff Crag. They are now proposing to install a roadside stone memorial, rather than the plaque originally agreed. The clerk will write back, reminding them that this is contrary to NYCC policy.

8.3 “Fly posting” - numerous notices had been posted around the village regarding the disappearance of a dog. The clerk had contacted the dog’s owner asking that the notices (some 3 months old) now be removed, but many still remain. He will make contact again.

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

9.1 Whale play equipment – is in need of repair, but specialist tools will be required. The Chairman will establish the cost of specialist repair and refer back to councillors..

9.2 Village Garden litter bins – following HBC’s new policy for the emptying of “green” bins, it seems the only solution is for a licence to be purchased for two bins which must be assigned to a specific village address. Councillors agreed that the Chairman be authorised to obtain a licence for this purpose, assigned to her property, and be reimbursed the relevant cost

9.3 Village Festival – the Chairman presented the draft accounts of the very successful event, which showed an excellent surplus of £2162.25. Feedback received had been of an excellent day, enjoyed by all who attended. It was felt that the one day event, replacing the previous years 2 days had been a success. There was some discussion about perhaps attracting more people from Huby, but although this was felt to be of some merit, it may well present an insurmountable problem, as the current circumstances, with regard to cooking etc, were at full capacity. Any significant increase in attendance would require substantial changes to cooking etc

arrangements. The Chairman thanked all who helped on the day and particularly the Square and Compass/ Adie Scott, for providing beer, lager and wine. A meeting is to be held in September/October to discuss various issues arising and identify areas for improvement.

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

10.1 A communication had been received from the Church, asking for assistance from the Parish Council, in meeting the significant (£2200+) costs of grasscutting. Councillors were sympathetic towards this request, but it was felt that no significant contribution could be made in the current financial year, as no provision had been made in the precept. As an interim measure, it was agreed that the Council would undertake the grass verge cutting outside the Church, for the next three cutting cycles. The possibility of a more significant contribution will be considered when next year's budget is set.

10.2 The Chairman brought councillors' attention to the growing problem of "Himalayan Balsam", a "pernicious and invasive" plant which had recently appeared in village hedgerows. If left to grow, this plant will spread very quickly, choking all other natural wild plants and vegetation. To prevent this happening, the flowers from the plants need to be picked before the seed heads form (which, when ripe, explode, spreading the seeds far and wide). The Chairman will add a note to the Parish News asking parishioners to help by picking the flowers. Councillors also approved the appointment of a contractor (to be paid £15 per hour) to clear these plants in the hedgerow down Hall Green Lane.

10.3 Noted that Andrew Keane is still to construct the stone wall (now at the front of the Village Garden) in Autumn.

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

Wednesday 6 September 2017

Wednesday 1 November 2017

at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Signed

(Chairman)

Date