

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on 3 January 2018 at 7.30 at the Village School

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

1. Apologies for absence –Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Steve Young, Stanley Lumley (County Councillor), and Victoria Oldham (HBC Councillor)

2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.

Councillors had no declarations of interest to make and no variations to the agenda were needed.

3. Reports on matters from the previous meeting

- a) Himalayan Balsam – the Chairman summed up the position. Nothing further to be done until the Summer, when necessary action to curb the spread of this pernicious weed will need to be considered.
- b) Hall Green Lane bench – the Chairman confirmed that the bench had been repaired.
- c) Bus Shelter A658 – the Chairman was pleased to report that, the bus shelter had been repaired, at a minimal cost.
- d) Communication with the MP, Julian Smith. Mr Smith's new role with the Government means his availability for more local meetings may be compromised. The clerk will write to his office again to clarify the position.

4. Approval and signing of minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 1 November were agreed as a true record and councillors approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

5. Administration

HBC Local Plan – The Borough Council has now agreed the Local Plan and has set up a consultation process for all interested parties to comment. The details of the consultation process, commencing on 26 January and running to 9 March, have been uploaded to the Parish website. Individuals are encouraged to respond to the consultation but the Parish Council will continue with its liaison with HAPARA (who have the benefit of the involvement of a number of experts in the planning field) before submitting what is hoped to be a more informed and focussed response.

6. Finance

6.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £24.99 to M Richards for computer virus protection
- £120 to Yorkshire Mole Control for eradication of moles in the Village Garden
- £501.60 to IT & GE Lishman for verge and hedge cutting

- £90 to Crain Syke Farm for repairs to the Garden tap and ground renovation
- £1041.68 to A & S Keane for contracted gardening services, plus repairs to bus shelter and bench

Councillors approved the above 5 items.

6.2 Approval of future expenditure

- £1143.00 to Richard Crooks partnership for architectural services re St John's Church (to be offset by VAT reclaim and reimbursement from ~~AUCA~~ AVCA)

Councillors approved the above.

6.4 Precept

The clerk confirmed that he would be submitting the precept application for £7300 by the due date.

7. Parish Plan

7.1 The update of the Parish Plan is in abeyance for the time being. The Chairman observed that there were now a number of new people in the village and due consideration needed to be given to this fact in any refresh. She will discuss the matter with Cllr Young in the next couple of months.

7.2 Neighbourhood Watch. Zone responsibilities have recently switched and there is a need to consider coverage of St John's and Brackenwell Lane – leaflet drop will be made later in the year to assess interest.

8. Planning

8.1 The clerk reported that the processing of planning applications was now working well, although the accessibility of links to planning documentation seemed to be causing some problems. He advised councillors to use the generic website address to access the planning portal

8.2 Recent applications – the clerk confirmed that he had responded on the 5 recent applications – 3 were no objection, one was no support or object but expressed concern over the nature of the proposed cladding, and the other was similarly no support or object but with concern expressed over the location of the new garage. The Chairman asked for an update on the application for the new build at Briscoe Ridge and the situation with the caravan off the A658. The clerk will follow up.

9. Highways, Footpaths, Verges.

9.1 Traffic and speeding concerns. Councillor Young (the Road Safety Lead) apologised for his absence, but submitted the following report:-

“Following a number of exchanges I have been able to persuade NYCC speed awareness team that the original monitoring was sufficiently flawed to warrant a re-

run. A new 7-day monitoring phase will commence on Wednesday 10 Jan after the schools have returned fully. The fire officer responsible for deploying the device has agreed to meet me to discuss the best location and aspect for the device to be positioned. I will inform the group of villagers who helped with the petition that this is happening and will also make all residents on the hill aware and ask them to minimise parking on the hill if at all possible between the 10th and 17th January. This request will also be posted on the village website. With the road to Burn Bridge being closed from 8 Jan for three months it is inevitable that the volume of traffic using North Rigton as a short-cut will increase, so it is no bad thing that the speed monitoring starts on the 10th”

9.2 The clerk reported that he had been in contact with NYCC Highways and had been made aware that NYCC councillors were considering revising the policy on the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) by parish councils (hitherto prohibited) The clerk will forward the information to Cllr Young and monitor the position and, if applicable, include as an agenda item for consideration in the future.

9.3 Grass verges – the clerk confirmed that, despite further requests to NYCC, there would be no work on improving/recovering the footpaths in the Parish. Councillors deplored this fact but accepted that financial constraints were the cause.

10. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

10.1 Whale play equipment – as reported previously, is in need of repair, but the only quotation for this work received so far is significantly in excess of the expected cost. The Chairman has contacted HBC’s Parks and Leisure Department for assistance, but no response has been received as yet.

10.2 Carol singing – Councillor Bennett reported that the event had been very successful and enjoyable, with over 40 people involved at various locations in the village. The Chairman however, regretted that there had been no visible audience and she would like to encourage this feature for the future. Councillors agreed.

10.3 Book exchange. The Chairman reported that she had been in contact with the organiser, indicating that there was agreement (from the Rector) for the church porch to be used for this purpose. This has been fed back to the organising group for their consideration and the next steps.

10.4 Annual Litter Pick – this has been arranged for the week-end of 17/18 March. The Chairman will make the necessary arrangements for the provision of the equipment and Cllr Massey will act as the volunteer contact.

11. Any other business

11.1 A request had been received from the Chair of the School Governing Body regarding approval for the use of the school playing field, for recreational purposes by village residents. The Chairman had located a minute reference, dated 5 July 2010, which confirmed that NYCC had indicated its approval for such use. The clerk will retain this reference on file for future inspection if necessary.

11.2 The Chairman requested that the clerk arrange for the licences for two “brown bins” to be retained for garden waste etc from the Village Garden. The clerk confirmed that he will arrange.

11.3 The clerk reported that he had received a communication from HBC regarding the registration of “Common Land”. This refers to Hill Top Common, the Village Garden and the Village Green. It would seem that these areas should have been specifically re- registered as such in 2015 but unfortunately were not. The re-registering would have given increased protection against development but as the sites are so small, this is not a realistic threat.

12. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 7 March 2018

Wednesday 2 May 2018

Wednesday 4 July 2018

at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date