

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on 7 March 2018 at 7.30 at the Village School

Present: Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Tim Bennett, Amanda Martyn (from 7.55), Neil Creeney, Steve Young and Mike Richards (Clerk).

In attendance: Stanley Lumley (County Councillor) until 8.20, and Victoria Oldham (HBC Councillor).

1. Apologies for absence –Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mary Hopkins.

2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.

In the absence of the Chairman, Barbara Massey took the Chair. Councillors had no declarations of interest to make but as Councillor Lumley had to attend another meeting it was agreed that Highways and other related issues (particularly item 4) would be dealt with first.

3. NYCC issues

a) The clerk confirmed that he had reported the water flooding problems on Church Hill to Highways on numerous occasions and, although action had been taken in the interim to erect “Ice” warning signs, these signs were in the wrong location and should be at the bottom of Church Hill just before the junction with the A658, **not** at the top of the hill adjacent to the flood site. There was also discussion about the possible source of the flood (from the field behind Brackenwell Lane??) and Councillor Oldham had been involved in the initial investigation but had been unable to provide a definitive solution. Councillor Lumley will follow up on the location of the ice warning signs and the clerk will contact Yorkshire Water again about the possible cause of the flooding.

b) Councillor Young (as Road Safety Lead for the Parish Council) then introduced the topic of the so called “West Harrogate Scheme (part of the HBC Draft Local Plan) This scheme involves upgrades to roads leading to and from the various committed and proposed housing developments to the west of Harrogate. Of major concern to this Parish Council is the proposed upgrade of the minor rural road from Beckwithshaw to North Rigton, allegedly to alleviate traffic congestion. Recent traffic surveys (via “95 Alive”) have shown that up to 3,000 vehicles per day have passed through North Rigton often at excessive speeds. The Parish Council and residents are very concerned at this fact currently and dread the potential consequences of the inevitable increased traffic flow following road upgrade for the proposed housing developments. The Parish Council is very concerned as, once again, HBC proposals for housing developments take account of the affected villages and roads adjacent to the developments but completely ignore any impact on North Rigton which always seems to lie just beyond any map purporting to show potential consequences. Councillor Lumley responded by confirming that he had discussed with Councillor Don McKenzie (NYCC lead on Highways) the road upgrades for the West Harrogate Scheme but Councillor McKenzie had indicated that there was no plan to upgrade the rural road in question and the map detailing this was incorrect. Notwithstanding this, the Parish Council remains very concerned at the current volume and speed of

traffic through the village (which will inevitably increase with the aforementioned housing developments, even without the road upgrade)
Further discussion followed on other aspects of the Local Plan and, whilst councillors agreed that the need for additional housing must be met, it was felt that the options for alternative sites such as those at Flaxby and Green Hammerton would cause fewer issues with regard to traffic and associated problems. The discussion concluded with Councillor Young stressing the need for the implementation of traffic calming measures for North Rigton and asking for political support (from Councillors Lumley and Oldham) for North Rigton's case. Both councillors agreed to this and Councillor Lumley suggested that the Parish Council puts together a package including the views of the Council but also the data from the "95 Alive" monitoring exercise. He will support and put forward this package. He also suggested that the Parish Council contacts Councillor McKenzie for clarification re the (apparently) erroneous proposal for the rural road upgrade. The Parish Council will also consider the possibility of contacting the constituency MP, Julian Smith.
Councillor Lumley left the meeting at this stage, at 8.20pm.

4. Response to HBC Local Plan Consultation

Councillor Massey explained to councillors how the Council's response had been formulated. Several councillors commented that, with regret, they had been unable to offer significant input to the response due to work and other commitments. Nevertheless, they had reviewed the submission and were very content with the response. Councillor Young provided his suggested amendments to the draft submission. The clerk will amend the response accordingly and submit to HBC before the deadline of 9 March.

5. Reports on matters from the previous meeting

a) Traffic and speeding concerns – discussed at 3(b) above
b) Vehicle Activated Signs – the clerk confirmed that he had contacted the relevant officer at NYCC Highways who had indicated that councillors were considering additional evidence on this issue but a decision would not be forthcoming until the summer. The clerk will keep under review.

6. Approval and signing of minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 January were agreed as a true record and councillors approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

7. Administration

a) Election arrangements – the clerk distributed the candidate election packages to all councillors present and explained the requirements for completion of the nomination and candidate acceptance forms. He would need to input electoral register details to the forms before submission to HBC. He suggested that completed forms could either be delivered to his home address or left at the Square and Compass, marked for his attention. He would complete all necessary arrangements and deliver completed forms to HBC by hand as required, before the 6 April deadline.

b) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) The clerk explained the background to this new legislation which comes into effect on 25 May this year. The emphasis is on

the security of personal data held by all companies and organisations including parish councils. A Data Protection Officer must be appointed and initial guidance indicated that this could not be the clerk/RFO. This guidance has however, been rescinded, so he suggested that the most appropriate option would be for him to take on this role. Councillors agreed.

c) Annual Parish Meeting – arrangements. To note that the date of this meeting has been changed to 9 May, to accord with the election timetable. Councillors agreed the format would be as in previous years and refreshments would not be provided.

8. Finance

8.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £99.95 to S Young for printing of the Local Plan flyer and associated expenses;
- £114.00 to S. Keane for inspections and garden services
- £70.83 to Oliver Connolly (1&1) website hosting

Councillors approved the above 3 items.

8.2 Approval of future financial arrangements

The clerk sought approval to institute internet banking arrangements which would allow him to make all payments via bank transfer, removing the need for cheque signing by two councillors. This would be much more efficient and whilst it would remove the traditional security of direct oversight and approval by councillors, he would institute a control mechanism which would mean all payments would be presented to the Council, normally before processing, for approval, along with copies of bank statements showing payments made, plus a reconciliation statement of both bank accounts, detailing opening and closing balances at the end of each period. Councillors formally approved this new arrangement.

9. Planning

9.1 The clerk reported that the following decisions had been received:

17/05252/PBR – Rigg Farm, Briscoe Ridge Lane – prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling – REFUSED;

17/05056/FUL – Spout House, Church Hill – erection of double garage, infill of covered terrace, , conversion of garages and alteration to fenestration – APPROVED

17/05325/FUL – Old Farmhouse, Crain Syke Farm, High Moor Road – erection of two-storey extension – APPROVED

17/05469/FUL – Crag Cottage, Crag Lane – conversion of garage to form an annexe including formation of three roof lights and alteration to fenestration – APPROVED

17/04949/FUL – Brackendale, Hall Green Lane – erection of porch and first floor extension with terracing – APPROVED

17/04309/FUL – Bracken Farm, Brackenthwaite Lane – demolition of existing farm

house and erection of new dwelling – APPROVED

Councillors noted the above, all of which were in line with the Council's views.

10. Highways, Footpaths, Verges.

10.1 Councillors had expressed concern at the deterioration of the grass verges adjacent to and below the School, on Hall Green Lane, due to the parking of cars. The clerk has reported these concerns to the Head Teacher who had undertaken to include reference to the problem in the monthly newsletter. Councillors understood the difficulties faced by parents and others at busy times but hoped that some action could be taken to improve the condition of the verges. The placing of wooden stakes to prevent parking was suggested, but councillors considered that this would not be appropriate.

10.2 As discussed at 3a) above the clerk will contact Yorkshire Water again and suggest the introduction of dye into the water in the ditch in the field behind Brackenwell Lane to ascertain whether this is the source and cause of the flooding problem on Church Hill.

11. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

11.1 Whale play equipment – as reported previously the cost of this repair, plus reparation of the “wet pour” surface as recommended following the ROSPA inspection, is in excess of £2,000. Whilst the amount of the VAT reclaim will fund these repairs, councillors agreed to discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

11.2 Village Gala/Fete – this is to be held on 16 June. A set-up meeting has been arranged at the Square and Compass on the 8th March.

11.3 Annual Litter Pick – confirmed that this will take place on the week-end of 17/18 March. Councillor Massey will co-ordinate arrangements on Saturday 17th and Councillor Hopkins will do the same on Sunday 18th.

12. Any other business

Councillor Hopkins had submitted a short report on dog fouling in the village and the lack of responsibility of some owners who were either failing to use plastic bags to collect the mess or were leaving the filled plastic bags on the grass instead of using the litter bins. This unpleasant and unsatisfactory feature will be reported in the next edition of Village News, and all dog owners will be asked to act more responsibly.

12. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday 9 May 2018

Wednesday 4 July 2018

at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date