

# North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at North Rigton School

9th May 2018

Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey, Lisa Edwards, Tim Bennett, John Ellacott & Mike Richards (Clerk) Also present Councillors Stanley Lumley (NYCC) and Victoria Oldham (HBC)  
Apologies for Absence – Amanda Martyn.  
Also present three parishioners.

## 1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chairman - Mary Hopkins - proposed by Barbara Massey and seconded by Tim Bennett – elected nem con. Councillor Hopkins did state however, that she would continue to serve as Chairman only for a year or so, and Councillors would therefore need to plan accordingly.

Vice Chairman – Barbara Massey was proposed for re- election by Mary Hopkins. Seconded by Lisa Edwards and was duly elected nem con.

## 2. Approval and signing of Minutes; Reports on Matters arising

Reports on matters arising from the meeting of 7 March 2018:

2.1. Water/flooding Church Hill – as discussed in detail at the Annual Parish Meeting, a meeting is to be held on 22 May with Yorkshire Water, the Parish Council, concerned local residents and hopefully, representatives from NYCC and HBC. Regrettably, Councillors Lumley and Oldham indicated that they would be unable to attend due to prior commitments but the Clerk will make contact as necessary to see if alternative representation is possible (subsequently Councillor Oldham confirmed that in her view this was not a HBC responsibility) A local resident then took the opportunity to mention other water/flooding issues on Rigton Hill – this will be followed up with Yorkshire Water. Councillor Ellacott asked who was responsible generally for “spring water” and was advised that this is normally the responsibility of the landowner, not NYCC or Yorkshire Water.

2.2 Community Speedwatch/speeding traffic – the Chairman confirmed that all necessary preparations had been made and the Speedwatch initiative would be pursued in the very near future. With regard to the installation of Parish Council provided Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), Councillor Lumley confirmed that this was still being considered at committee level at NYCC and he hoped the results of a survey on this topic would support the move for locally provided equipment.

2.3 Grass cutting – the Chairman confirmed that existing arrangements would continue for this year but the contract will be re-tendered in the Autumn and the clerk will contact other Parish Councils to compare costs.

2.4 Local villages book exchange – the Chairman had responded to the invitation for North Rigton to be involved, suggesting the porch of St John’s Church as a suitable location for the books but no response from the organiser had been received (although the initiative is in place at Weeton and Huby)

2.5 Residential caravan at Wayside Farm – the clerk has contacted HBC on two occasions for an update on enforcement action only to be informed that the matter is still “in hand”. There has now been no progress on this issue for some six months – the clerk will email the Planning Officer again, copying in Councillor Oldham in an attempt to elicit positive action.

There being no other amendments or comments, the minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman.

## 3. Requests for further order variations and Declaration of Interest – None.

## 4. Administration

4.1. Parish Council insurance – Agreed that the renewal notice from BHIB, with a reduced premium of £278.03, be accepted. The clerk will also submit a claim to the insurers for the damage to the “whale”.

4.2. Allegiance with HAPARA – the Chairman informed Councillors that HAPARA (Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents’ Association) were establishing a “fighting fund” to pay for legal advice to oppose the salient parts of the HBC Local Plan, which are also relevant to North Rigton. Councillors agreed in principle to make a contribution although no amount was specified – the Chairman will report back once she has a “feel” for the

level required. Councillor Ellacott advised caution as HAPARA would be looking after their own interests first which would not necessarily chime with those of this Parish. Councillors noted and agreed with this point.

4.3. Election – the clerk reminded Councillors that the following forms needed to be completed:

- a) Declaration of Acceptance – to be held by clerk
- b) Election expenses – nil returns required – forward to HBC by 31 May
- c) Financial Interests – forward to clerk, who will submit to HBC. (For existing Councillors with no change, the form does not need to be completed, the clerk will notify HBC)

## 5. Finance.

### 5.1 Approval of expenditure.

Parish Council insurance - £278.03 to BHIB Insurance Brokers

Contribution to mole clearance - £55.00 – O. Connolly

YLCA membership - £199.00.

The above items of expenditure were **approved** by councillors.

5.2 Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk went through all the requirements of this document, explaining how he felt the Parish Council complied with all requirements. Councillors confirmed that they were happy for the Chairman and Clerk to sign off the return, although submission to the external auditors is not now required as the Council meets the requirements for exemption from external audit. The clerk also explained that although the Annual Internal Audit Review had been satisfactorily completed, formal finalisation had not been possible due to an unfortunate family issue concerning the internal auditor. This will be signed off in due course.

5.3 Annual Accounts - The Accounts had been approved at the Annual Parish Meeting.

5.4. Application for internet banking – the clerk confirmed that he had made the necessary submission to HSBC and he was awaiting notification from the Bank that arrangements were in place.

## 6. Planning

### 6.1. Decisions notified

Crag Cottage – conversion of garage – Withdrawn

Fairview Barn – erection of 2 storey storage building – Withdrawn

Fairview Barn – erection of extension to form swimming pool – Refused

High Fold – demolition and erection of replacement single storey extension – Approved

The Chairman asked about the application for a new farm building on High Moor Road, but the clerk confirmed he had received no update – he will follow up with HBC.

6.2 Planning applications received since the last meeting - none.

## 7 Highways, Footpaths and Verges

7.1 The Chairman raised the subject of the pond on land adjacent to Fairview Barn, which constantly flooded on to Brackenthwaite Lane and was a hazard to traffic. No-one has laid claim to the pond and Councillor Oldham confirmed that she would take the matter up with local farmers to obtain further details if possible. She also suggested that an enquiry to Land Registry could unearth legal ownership.

7.2 Flooding on Church Hill and Brackenwell Lane. As discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, a local resident had been able to get Yorkshire Water (YW) to carry out an in-depth investigation to try and identify the source of the problem (this despite several previous attempts by the Parish Council which had resulted in YW denying any responsibility!) Whilst this investigation had not proved conclusive, several possible causes had been identified which will be followed up. A meeting, involving all interested parties (YW, local residents, the Parish Council and, hopefully, NYCC and HBC) had been arranged for 22 May. Previous to this, the clerk had contacted YW separately and a technician had collected water samples for analysis, to confirm whether the water was from a YW water main, or from the water table. Results are still awaited.

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

8.1. The Chairman referred to the necessary repairs to the “whale” and soft play area raised previously. She stressed that unless repairs to the surface were carried out, there was a strong risk that the next ROSPA inspection would have serious consequences for the playground. The clerk reported that the total cost of the repair (£2328.00) would be offset by the insurance claim for the damage to the whale and recovery of VAT, which would mean that the net cost to the Council would be some £1400. On this basis, Councillors agreed to proceed with the repair as specified.

8.2. Village Fete (now North Rigton Gala) – arranged for Saturday 16 June. The day will commence at 2.00pm on the School playing field, with the inter-village football match. There will be the usual games and a bouncy castle etc in the field and then activities will move to the Village Garden at 5.00pm for the Hog Roast etc. The Chairman reported that some equipment (gazebo, tables and perhaps the Barbeque) would need replacing. Councillors agreed to these purchases as necessary.

8.3. Litter bin – the Clerk was authorised to order a bin (with front opening gate) for the Garden.

8.4 Litter pick – again, a very successful event. See the report in the Parish News.

8.5 A Councillor raised the subject of the basketball post on the Church Hill play area, commenting that it was never used, and would perhaps be better located in the school playground. Other Councillors agreed but the question was raised as to who should take on the task and what it would cost (the post is embedded in concrete and it would not necessarily prove to be a simple task) The Chairman will make enquiries.

## **10 Any other business.**

There was no other business.

### **Dates of next meetings:**

4 July 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village School

5 September 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village School

7 November 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village School

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 9.35.

**Signed**

**Chairman**