

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on 5 September 2018 at 7.30 at the Village School

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Amanda Martyn, Lisa Edwards, John Ellacott, and Mike Richards (Clerk). In attendance, 1 parishioner.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Tim Bennett, Stanley Lumley (County Councillor) and Victoria Oldham (Borough Councillor)
- 2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.**

It was agreed that item 7.2 would be brought forward to be discussed after item 3. Councillors had no declarations of interest to make.

- 3. Approval and signing of minutes, matters arising.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 July 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 reported that Steve Young, who is lead contact on behalf of the Parish Council, was to meet with the NY Police representative this morning (5 September). This meeting will result in the most appropriate site(s) for the exercise being identified, plus arrangements made for the training of all volunteers. The clerk will follow up with Steve to confirm arrangements.
- b) Residential caravan at Wayside Farm. The clerk had again contacted the Enforcement Officer at HBC for an update, following the officer's previous response, which confirmed that the case was still "live". The further update from the Enforcement Officer indicated that he had been informed that the caravan had now been moved into the curtilage of the house and was to remain in situ until a house extension had been completed, although he has not revisited the site to confirm this statement. Councillors were not entirely happy with this response as, a) there is no confirmation that the caravan has in fact been moved and b) there is no current planning application in place for the proposed extension. Councillors agreed no further action at the moment, but the overall situation would be kept under review.
- c) Basketball post on School playing field. Approach still to be made to Almscliffe Tennis and Bowling Club, to see if use could be made of the post in its new, proposed Games Area.
- d) Village Garden waste bin. Now installed.
- e) Playground repair – the Chairman confirmed that repairs to the whale and the soft pour area had now been completed. She asked Councillors to consider setting aside a sum, earmarked for repairs and maintenance to the play area and

play equipment. Councillors agreed and the clerk will take this into account when setting future budgets for Council approval.

4. Flooding, Church Hill (agenda item 7.2 b/f)

4.1 Following the apparent lack of action when raised previously, the clerk had again raised the issue with NYCC Highways and it has now been confirmed that NYCC engineers are planning to excavate down on what appears to be a blocked drain before the end of September, with a view to undertaking repairs to the system between the Crag Lane and Brackenwell Lane junctions. While this problem is being resolved they are also hoping to investigate the problem of water issuing from the grass verge on Brackenwell Lane. Depending on the complexity of the issue, this may not be resolved immediately. If it is a collapsed drain that can be repaired, this will be fixed, but if the water is coming from the land it may need to be piped into a proper drainage system which unfortunately may need further planning and programming. This is a very pleasing response that hopefully will, at long last, resolve this problem. The clerk will keep the issue under review and will contact Highways again if no action has been taken within the stated timescale.

4.2 The Chairman added that the flooding problem on Rigton Hill had been investigated by NYCC as requested, and a collapsed drain had been repaired. It is still unclear however, whether the problem has been fully resolved. Any recurrence will be followed up with NYCC.

5. HBC Local Plan – update

Councillor Massey had attended the recent meeting of the “Action Group” (Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents’ Association (HAPARA), Pannal, Beckwithshaw and Hampsthwaite Parish Councils, Duchy Residents Association, and North Rigton PC) The HBC Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination, on 31 August and the Action Group had all submitted objections, based on the concept that there was insufficient infrastructure (particularly highway and traffic concerns) to support the planned housing developments, to the west of Harrogate. Further submissions can be made and, to this end, as it was concluded that traffic was the main concern, it is proposed to appoint a firm of professional traffic consultants to formulate a report. The cost of this professional advice is however, significant and is likely to be some £6,000 (plus VAT) Contributions towards this sum were agreed as:- Pannal PC £2,000, HAPARA £1,000, and £500 from North Rigton, Beckwithshaw and Hampsthwaite PCs, plus £500 from the Duchy RA. Councillor Massey observed that, in her opinion, HBC’s response to previously submitted public concerns regarding the inevitable increase in traffic, had been dismissive, and professional input therefore was essential. Councillors confirmed the previous decision to allocate £500 as a contribution to the costs of the traffic consultants and it was also agreed to produce a flyer asking for resident contributions toward a fighting fund to help offset the £500 contribution (which was not budgeted for in the precept demand) Councillor Edwards asked how much had been received so far, following the request for contributions in the last edition of the Village News – the clerk responded that he had so far received £125, with, he understood, a further £50 received by the Chairman. The Chairman agreed to draft the flyer and submit to Councillors for comment.

6. Administration

6.1 Governance – the clerk reported that good practice required an annual review of the Council’s governance documents, namely Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment. Update/amendment is also obviously required when there has been a significant change in, for example, financial procedures. To this end he will circulate the above documents, with relevant changes, highlighted for Councillor agreement and approval. He will also circulate the updated Asset Register, following the internal audit recommendation.

6.2 Neighbourhood Watch – the Chairman reported that existing arrangements needed to change as there were a number of gaps in coverage and low activity elsewhere. She proposed to draft a flyer encouraging existing and new residents to join and quoted the recent incident of the bogus fish sellers as a good example of a suspect issue to be reported. Councillors agreed to her proposal and the clerk was also asked to follow up with Trading Standards, requirements for the establishment of a No Cold Calling Zone.

6.3 Village/Parish Welcome Pack – A lot of thought had been given to the most appropriate design and content of the pack, and the Chairman concluded that, in her opinion, it should take the form of a simple, precise, printed postcard showing details of the Parish Council with a clear pointer to the Parish website, where all relevant details are available. Councillors thought this a really good idea and a suitable design for the postcard would be sought.

7. Finance

7.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £77.66 to A Scott for lager etc for Gala
- £356.77 to R Burnett for strimming
- £528.51 to Glasdon for garden waste bin
- £2328.00 to Park Lane for playground repairs

Under the new payment arrangements, Councillors approved the above 4 items and 2 Councillors signed the approval sheets.

7.2 The Chairman then informed Councillors of a Yorkshire Bank account which had been set up many years ago and named the "War Memorial Fund". As the money had been raised from rental for an allotment on the site of the village garden, the account balance has been transferred to the Parish Council. She was pleased to inform Councillors that the balance transferred was £1414.24. Councillors were also pleased to note this amount and it was suggested that this sum (as a "windfall") be earmarked for the purpose set out at 3e) above, ie playground repairs etc.

8. Planning

8.1 Planning applications – the clerk confirmed that no new applications had been received.

8.2 Decisions

Rigg Farm – change of use, agricultural building to dwelling – APPROVED

Fairview Far - erection of 2 storey storage building - REFUSED

8.3 Enforcement. The clerk reported that he had received no further response to the previously reported possible breaches of planning control at Harrogate Riding Centre, Rudding House and Leyfield Farm. He will follow up with the Enforcement Officer.

9. Highways, Footpaths, Verges.

9.1 Salt/Grit bins. As previously reported to Councillors, the clerk had contacted NYCC Highways who confirmed that the two bins on Brackenwell Lane were to be removed as their usage did not meet the NYCC standard. The Parish Council may take over ownership of the bins but they would no longer be replenished by NYCC. The Parish Council has the option of paying £75 per bin for a biannual refill or, could opt for a (probable) lower cost local supply. Councillors agreed to, in the first instance, encourage NYCC to retain the two bins and consider future options if this is not possible.

9.2 Grass cutting. As raised at the last meeting, the significant cost of grass cutting was noted – the clerk will research other potential contractors to submit tender for this function.

10. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

10.1 Village Gala – the Chairman confirmed that she will be arranging the first meeting for next year's Gala, and also stressed the importance of this event for Parish Council finances.

10.2 The Chairman reported that unfortunately, moles were again present in the village garden, and the mole contractor is to set up a permanent trap until the problem has been eradicated.

11. Parish matters

Councillor Martin undertook to procure the Remembrance Day wreaths from the Royal British Legion as previously. The Chairman reminded Councillors that this was the centenary year and that the Parish Council should be well represented at the ceremony. She also asked for a volunteer to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and Councillor Ellacott indicated his willingness if there were no other volunteers.

The Chairman remarked, for the November meeting agenda, that the topic of donations to local organisations should be included. The clerk noted the point.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30.

Date of next meetings:

Wednesday 7 November, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 2 or 9 January, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date