

North Rigton Parish Council

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

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Amanda Martyn, Lisa Edwards, John Ellacott, Tim Bennett and Mike Richards (Clerk). In attendance, Stanley Lumley (County Councillor) and Victoria Oldham (Borough Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies for absence as all councillors were present.

Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests. There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Lumley asked if agenda item 7 (Highways) could be discussed after item 3 to allow him to move on to another meeting – Councillors agreed.

2. **Approval and signing of minutes**, matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 September were agreed as a true record after the insertion of “if the Inspector deems it appropriate” at line eight of item 5 after “Further submissions can be made...” The clerk also apologised for the misspelling of Councillor Martyn’s name at item 11. Councillors then approved the minutes to be signed by the Chairman.

Reports on matters arising.

- a) Community Speedwatch – the Chairman reported that the various exercises had been partly successful in that the speed of traffic had clearly dropped when drivers saw the team in “hi-viz” jackets with radar “guns”, but unfortunately increased again when the exercise concluded. Only one driver was recorded exceeding the 30mph limit (at 35mph) The exercises are to be repeated at different locations, at staggered times, rather than just at rush hour as on the previous occasions. Councillors discussed and the general view emerging was that a 20mph limit should be pursued for Rigton Hill. Cllr Lumley advised that strict guidelines and criteria applied with regard to implementing a 20mph zone and application would need to be made through both HBC and NYCC. Nonetheless, Councillors decided that applications should be made to both NYCC and HBC for the implementation of a 20mph limit on Rigton Hill. The clerk will follow up.

Cllr Lumley then confirmed that NYCC had formally confirmed the revision to its policy which would allow parishes and other similar bodies, to purchase and install Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) The revised policy and guidelines will be in place by April 2019 and it is expected that NYCC will be able to enter into arrangements for bulk purchase which should result in a much cheaper cost for parishes to purchase this equipment.

- b) Basketball post on School playing field. Cllr Bennett has approached Almscliffe Tennis and Bowling Club, but they do not wish to take up the offer. It was suggested that the post be advertised on Ebay – Cllr Ellacott agreed to make enquiries re feasibility.

- c) Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman informed Councillors of the unofficial “whatsapp” scheme operating in Huby, whereby members of the scheme receive alerts (via whatsapp) of irregular incidents occurring in the village. It’s unclear how the scheme actually works and the Chairman agreed to follow the matter up with the Chairman of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that a “joined up” approach was needed for the two neighbouring parishes and there was a need to involve the neighbourhood PCSO in the discussion. The clerk will invite the PCSO to attend the January meeting of the Parish Council.
- d) No Cold Calling Zone – the clerk reported that he had received confirmation from Trading Standards that it was indeed possible to establish a village wide NCCZ but practical difficulties suggest this not to be the best option. After further discussion, Councillors agreed not to pursue.

3. HBC Local Plan – update

The Chairman confirmed that she had seen the draft report of the Traffic Consultants and that she was somewhat disappointed with its content, in that it did not refer to the specific concerns of this Parish (which were also of concern to other neighbouring parishes) There is the opportunity to correct this omission as a meeting has been arranged with the consultants, which she and Cllr Massey will attend. Councillors confirmed the contribution of £500 towards the cost of the report.

4.Highways, footpaths, verges (item 7 b/f)

4.1 A658 bus shelter. The clerk presented the three quotations he had received, all of which were around £3,000 for a suitable version. Discussion followed over the pros and cons of proceeding and it was concluded that, at the moment, this was not a high priority. Cllr Lumley confirmed that, if a bus shelter were acquired, NYCC would not adopt the Parish Council’s asset. This means that future costs of maintenance and repair would fall upon the Parish Council.

4.2 Salt/grit bins – councillors agreed to check the bins located close to their home and report back to the clerk if the bins hadn’t been replenished. The clerk will then contact NYCC. He will also raise the issue of the bin located at the end of Brackenwell Lane and request that this be maintained by NYCC as previously.

4.3 Church Hill flooding – NYCC commenced excavation and found that the foul sewer adjacent to the land drainage had collapsed. Yorkshire Water (YW) were asked to repair it while the excavation remained open. YW then attended and jetted their blocked sewer, relieving some of the pressure on the system that was seen to be discharging and contaminating the surface water system. NYCC will return in due course to complete any outstanding repairs and re-instate the damaged verge. This will hopefully finally resolve this longstanding problem.

4.4 Footpaths - The deplorable condition of footpaths on Church Hill, Hall Green Lane and along the A658 between Huby and Church Hill, and also between Church Hill and Hall Green Lane, has been communicated to NYCC Highways on several occasions. A resident has also raised with the Parish Council and NYCC, the poor state of the footway from the A658 up Hall Green Lane. The NYCC Highways Officer has now inspected these footpaths and has agreed only to:

- have the grass cut back and the leaves removed and cleared on Church Hill
- ensure the footway along the A658 between Hall Green Lane and Church Hill is

cleared and an order will be raised to cut back any encroaching grass and vegetation. The footway between Huby and Church Hill is considered to be in a good condition and is wide enough for pedestrians. As the grass is cut annually the Officer considers that no further maintenance is required as it does not represent a safety concern. With regard to Hall Green Lane, NYCC, whilst accepting the Parish Council's contention, confirms that, due to lack of funds, no action can be taken to reinstate the footpath.

The Parish Council does not accept the negative responses and will continue to press for a satisfactory outcome.

4.5 Brackenthwaite Lane – Councillor Oldham commented that she had followed up the issue of the roadside “pond” and had been informed by a local farmer that the problem arose (potentially a blocked drain) following road work undertaken by NYCC. The clerk will raise again with Highways.

Cllrs Lumley and Oldham left at this point.

4.6 Irresponsible parking – The Parish Council has received numerous complaints about inconsiderate car parking on the pavements throughout the village. It would be appreciated if due consideration could be given to other road users and particularly to pedestrians. She asked Councillors to look out for inconsiderate parking and affix a notice on windscreens asking motorists to desist in future.

5. Administration

5.1 Governance – the clerk had circulated the Council's governance documents, namely Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment, which he had updated. Councillors had provided a number of comments which he had actioned. He referred to the Risk Assessment, which, in his view, needed to be extended. Following discussion, Councillors agreed that the play area and playing field needed to be added, as did reference to the Parish Council's assets. Cllr Ellacott commented that Health and Safety was a significant risk to the Council, and it was important to evaluate that and other risks.

6. Finance

6.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

- £35.90 to M Richards for printer cartridges
- £94.46 for petty cash reimbursement
- £226.90 to M Richards for Sept salary
- £226.90 to M Richards for Oct salary
- £692.28 to R Burnett for grasscutting
- £40.00 to Yorkshire Mole Control for moles removal

Under the new payment arrangements, Councillors approved the above 6 items and 2 Councillors signed the approval sheets.

6.2 The clerk provided copies of the half yearly budget statement, showing the financial position to date with a projection for future receipts and payments to the end of March 2019. The Parish Council's accounts are in a healthy state with a suitable balance to offset any unexpected contingencies.

6.3 Request from the Church. The clerk had received a request from the Treasurer of St John's Church, for assistance from the Parish Council with regard to maintenance and grasscutting. Councillors discussed and it was agreed that in addition to the annual donation of £100, the Parish Council would arrange for the grass outside the Church to be cut.

6.4 Donations – Councillors agreed the following donations:

- £100 to the Church
- £100 to the school
- £100 to the Village News
- £75 to the Royal British Legion

6.5 Precept – Initial thoughts were that no change in the precept demand for 2019/2020 would be needed, but the clerk will prepare an outline budget for the next meeting, for Councillors' consideration.

7. Planning

7.1 Planning applications – the clerk confirmed that no new applications or decisions had been received.

8. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

8.1 Play equipment – the Chairman reported that most of the wooden play equipment was now badly damaged due to the dry weather causing cracks and splinters. A consultant had examined the damaged items and concluded that, although some repairing was possible, those repairs could easily then damage the "undamaged" areas. The overall recommendation was to remove all the equipment and replace with a wet pour surface. Funds could then be raised to replace the equipment in the future. The cost of replacement is likely to be significant, so alternative sources of funding eg grants, may well need to be sought. The Chairman observed, however, that obtaining grants may well be difficult, as the play area already exists. It is more likely that funds will have to be raised through fundraising activities and the precept (but see 6.5 above)

8.2 Apple trees – now in need of pruning. The clerk will approach a tree specialist he has used, for a quotation for pruning.

8.3 Village Gala – the Chairman confirmed that the date had now been set at 15 June. She stressed the need for additional help, both on the day and for preparation.

Also an alternative organiser for the Flowerpot Festival is needed. Cllr Ellacott volunteered to take over the management of finances from the Chairman. Any ideas for new activities would be welcome.

8.4 Carol singing – organised for 16 December. Cllr Bennett will again make the necessary arrangements.

8.5 Parish map – Councillors agreed not to pursue this issue.

9. Parish matters

The Chairman circulated a “Parish Postcard” which she had designed, which showed information on the village and Parish, for newcomers, although initially it could be issued to all residents, promulgating such areas as the Neighbourhood Watch arrangements. Councillors agreed to review the content and feedback to the Chairman any suggested additions/changes.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50.

Date of next meetings:

Wednesday 9 January 2019, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 6 March 2019, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date