

North Rigton Parish Council
Meeting held on 9 January 2019 at 7.30 at the Village School

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Edwards, John Ellacott, Tim Bennett and Mike Richards (Clerk).

Apologies for absence –Apologies for absence were received from Amanda Martyn, Stanley Lumley and Victoria Oldham .

Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for agenda variation.

1. Approval and signing of minutes, matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 November 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 Chairman presented a report by Stephen Young which confirmed that various exercises had been undertaken in October and November but only with limited success as reported previously. The speed of traffic 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 will be repeated later in the year when lighter conditions prevail. As requested, the clerk had contacted NYCC over the possibility of implementing a 20mph speed limit on Rigton Hill but had received a negative response which explained that the lack of accident statistics on this road would mean that the scoring system which is used to determine the implementation of such traffic calming measures, would not be triggered. Furthermore, NYCC’s funding constraints would also mitigate against any such action. Councillors asked the clerk to contact NYCC to enquire whether funding by the Parish Council for the erection of 20mph speed signs, for example, was permissible.
- b) Basketball post on School playing field. Cllr Ellacott has taken photos of the post and its location, in preparation of placing an advert on Ebay, as discussed. However he had discovered that the post is actually set in concrete and cannot therefore be easily removed. Councillors discussed and concluded that the best course of action may be to cut down the post for scrap. The Chairman then observed that Skelton’s (who originally installed the post and who have contracts with a number of schools) may be able to remove the post and it be offered to a school, for a nominal fee. She will follow up.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch. The clerk had invited the PCSO to attend this meeting to discuss the co-ordinating of arrangements between Huby/Weeton and North Rigton, but due to a prior commitment he was unable to attend. To defer until March meeting.

2. HBC Local Plan – update

The Chairman undertook to circulate the revised timetable for the Inspector’s review sessions. Matter 14 is the one of main interest to North Ripton as it relates principally to traffic issues. The Chairman is proposing to attend this session and would welcome support from other councillors. She had attended the latest meeting of the “Western Arc” protest group who were proposing to engage a traffic consultant to represent the views of the group at the Matter 14 hearing. This will obviously incur extra costs and contributions from group members are being sought. Councillors again confirmed the contribution of £500 towards the cost of the main report, with a sum of up to £100 as contribution towards the extra cost.

3. Administration

3.1 Governance – the clerk had previously circulated the Council’s updated governance documents, namely Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment. Councillors had provided a number of comments which he had actioned, but the Risk Assessment still needed further amendment. The clerk will circulate all the updated documents for formal adoption at the March meeting.

4. Finance

4.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

M Richards Nov	
Salary	£226.90
M Richards Dec	
Salary	£226.90
M Richards - Computer security (Avast)	£59.99
Yorkshire Water	£6.08
Mole man	£80.00
A&S Keane - garden services	£189.00
A&S Keane - garden services	£763.00
Yorks Water	£12.59
J&M Hopkins - flyer printing	£38.00
HBC -playground inspection	£66.00
I Lishman - grass cutting	£432.00

Councillors approved the above payments and two councillors duly authorised the payment approval forms.

4.2 Councillors authorised the clerk to pay to HBC the fee (£39x2) for the two bins in the Village Garden (garden waste collection) and £180 for the pruning of the three apple trees in the Garden.

4.3 2019/20 Precept. Councillors discussed the likely financial activity for the next financial year. It is expected that the most significant area of expenditure will be the cost of repairing/replacing the damaged play equipment in the Garden. Accordingly, the Parish Council is very grateful for the offer from Almscliffe Villages Community

Association, for the play equipment repairs to be designated as a “project”, thus meeting the conditions for inclusion in Harrogate Borough Council’s “Lotto” scheme. This initiative will provide for 50% of all Lotto sales to be allocated to this “Good Cause”. Nevertheless, the cost of repairs/replacement will be significant, so councillors reluctantly agreed to apply for an increase in precept of £500.

5. Planning

5.1 No new planning applications were received.

5.2 Enforcement – the boundary wall at Barn Elm House was not in accord with planning approval. The Enforcement Officer concluded that, although the wall was not as per approved plans, it was not harmful to the surrounding area and no enforcement action would be taken.

5.3 Decisions – Fairview Barn – erection of single storey extension

REFUSED

High Croft – extensions and alterations to garage

APPROVED

5.4 Other.

i) Planning notice at “Land at 427289 451502- (Deer Farm)” The clerk had enquired of HBC Planning the nature of this notice, but it apparently refers to the original planning application for an “agricultural workers dwelling” already objected to by the Parish Council.

ii) Wayside Farm – noted that building work has commenced – clerk again contacted HBC Planning who indicated that this was based on the approval for a single storey extension- councillors cast some doubt over this as there appears to be more materials being used than would be necessary for a single storey. Progress to be monitored.

6. Highways, footpaths, verges

6.1 Noted that the pathway along the A658 from Huby to the top of Church Hill has been completely cleared by NYCC. The Parish Council raised this problem with NYCC on numerous occasions and it is pleasing to see the outcome. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the footpath down Hall Green Lane, which is badly overgrown, also with parts missing in places. It has been examined by the Highways Inspector who has decreed that it is not a formal footpath under the responsibility of NYCC. Councillors were disappointed at this outcome, but then discussed the possibility of the Parish Council undertaking some work to reconstitute the footpath. This would be along the lines of stripping off the overgrown covering and then filling in with road “skim” The actual work would need to be completed in part by volunteers, as currently the Parish Council does not have funding for this purpose. The clerk will pursue possibilities.

6.2 A resident has raised the possibility of extending the footpath from where it emerges from Leyfield Farm and meets High Moor Road, to Beeston’s Lane. The Parish Council strongly supports this proposal but firstly, approval would be needed from the landowners of the fields through which the path would pass. Such information should be available through HM Land Registry.

6.3 Salt bins – the Parish Council did not accept NYCC’s decision re the Brackenwell Lane/Church Hill bin, not meeting its scoring system to remain the responsibility of NYCC. The clerk will contact NYCC asking for a detailed explanation of the scoring which applied. Councillors were also asked to report back to the clerk those bins adjacent to their properties which still required replenishment, so that he can report back to NYCC.

6.4 Litter pick – arranged for 16/17 March at 10.00am. The clerk will arrange the necessary equipment and litter bags to be provided by HBC.

7. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

7.1 Play equipment – as discussed previously, the play equipment in the Village Garden requires repair/replacement at considerable cost. The Parish Council is very grateful therefore, for the offer from Almscliffe Villages Community Association, for the play equipment repairs to be designated as a “project”, thus meeting the conditions for inclusion in Harrogate Borough Council’s “Lotto” scheme. This initiative will provide for 50% of all Lotto sales to be allocated to this “Good Cause”. A leaflet is being circulated throughout the Parish explaining how to register for the Lotto and thereby support fund-raising for this worthy cause (and also stand a chance of winning £25,000!)

7.2 Village Gala – Date 15 June 2019. A planning meeting will be arranged in February/March.

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

Date of next meetings:

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

Wednesday 1 May 2019, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date