

**North Rigton Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 7.30 at the Village School**

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Edwards, Amanda Martyn, Tim Bennett and Mike Richards (Clerk).  
In attendance Cllr Stanley Lumley (NYCC)

**Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received from John Ellacott, and Victoria Oldham.

1. **Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.** There were no declarations of interest and no requests for agenda variation.
2. **Approval and signing of minutes,** matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 January 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 reported that the Speedwatch team were somewhat disappointed at the results of the numerous exercises, in that only one vehicle had been captured as exceeding the speed limit. Further exercises are due to be held once the weather and visibility improves, moving into Spring, at different sites. The Chairman has recommended that the timing of the exercises is changed to be irregular so that drivers are not expecting the presence of the Speedwatch team and will therefore be less likely to change their driving habits and the exercise will thus be more effective. The situation will be reviewed if, and when we can purchase speed warning signs.
- b) Basketball post on School playing field. The Chairman had contacted Skelton's (who originally installed the post and who have contracts with a number of schools) who thought that another school may well be interested and they would remove the post if this were confirmed.
- c) Rigton Hill – 20mph zone. The clerk had contacted the NYCC Highways Officer who confirmed that the location and circumstances did not meet the official requirements for a 20mph zone, but as the Parish Council had indicated the possible availability of funds for such a scheme, it may well be worth pursuing with the Highways Office. The clerk will follow up.

**3. HBC Local Plan – update**

The Chairman reported that the Inspector had now completed his examination and review of all documents and proposals. North Yorkshire Highways are pursuing relief road options and non-road options to relieve the traffic in both Knaresborough and Harrogate, (cycle routes and park & ride). No attention is being paid to the western sector but the prospect of a new western route (a bypass) was raised by several people at the hearings. A further meeting of the Western Arc Group is to be held on 14 March, and the Chairman will report back any relevant issues.

#### 4. Administration

4.1 Governance – the clerk had previously circulated the Council’s updated governance documents, namely Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations. He had further updated the Risk Assessment following Councillors’ comments and asked that all the updated Governance documents be formally adopted. Councillors agreed to adopt the revised Governance documents.

4.2 “Welcome Card” – the Chairman circulated a copy of the draft Welcome Card, which is intended to be given to new residents in the Parish, giving them an introduction to the Parish and including salient information. Councillors congratulated the Chairman on producing an excellent document but it was suggested that the Card should be headed “North Rigton Parish Council” specifically, to avoid potential confusion with the Parochial Parish Council.

4.3 Specific role of Councillors. The Chairman suggested that Councillors needed to be the “eyes and ears” of the Parish and report issue and matters arising either to the clerk or directly to the agency concerned (eg NYCC Highways), making sure that the clerk is copied in to any correspondence, email etc. Councillors agreed.

*Cllr. Lumley arrived at this point*

#### 5. Finance

5.1 Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

M Richards – January salary	£226.90
M Richards – February salary	£226.90
Donation – British Legion	£75.00
Donation – School	£100.00
J Robshaw – tree surgeon	£180.00
Pannal PC – Local Plan contribution	£500.00

Councillors approved the above 6 items.

5.2 The clerk reported that he had submitted an invoice to NYCC for the cutting of “visibility splays” (ie grass and vegetation growing at road junctions throughout the Parish, reducing visibility) for £171.65 and this had been received.

#### 6. Planning

6.1 Applications received

a) 19/00701/FUL – Fairview Barn - erection of single storey extension, garage conversion to provide additional living accommodation. Councillors discussed but the Chairman was of the opinion that there were no grounds to oppose this development but there was a probability that another application would follow to erect a new garage. Councillors agreed to respond with no objection.

b) 19/00232/FUL - Spring House Farm – demolition of existing stables and erection of new. Councillors considered that there was insufficient information available. The application is to build a large barn containing stables “compartments” but the size

and scale is unclear. Councillors agreed not to object.

## **7. Highways, footpaths, verges**

7.1 As reported previously, the footpath down Hall Green Lane is badly overgrown, with parts missing in places. The possibility of the Parish Council undertaking some work to reconstitute the footpath along the lines of stripping off the overgrown covering and then filling in with road “skim” had been discussed, but the lack of funding to provide the necessary labour was an insurmountable problem. However, a suggestion was made that young soldiers from the Army Apprentices College (AAC) may be able to provide the necessary manpower, as it was understood that the Colonel in charge was keen to sponsor involvement with local communities and a project such as this may well be appropriate. If a source for the necessary material can be found, the clerk will approach the AAC Commandant, to explore possibilities.

7.2 A resident had raised the possibility of extending the footpath from where it emerges from Leyfield Farm and meets High Moor Road, to Beeston’s Lane. The Chairman has identified the owners of the fields along the potential route, but the originally interested resident has not progressed her position. If this interest is rekindled, the clerk will contact landowners to gauge the likelihood of progress being made.

7.3 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Cllr Lumley confirmed that the revised NYCC policy, allowing parishes to purchase and operate their own VAS equipment, had now been approved. The Signs can only be temporary and erected at approved sites, with all costs falling on the parish. Furthermore, the Signs can only be those which display the actual speed limit, not the ones which record the speed of vehicles etc. Cllr Lumley is prepared to support the Parish in obtaining VAS with a grant of £1000 next year. Councillors discussed and agreed to reconsider possibilities when full details of eg costs, become available.

7.4 Litter pick – 16/17 March, the clerk will collect the equipment etc from HBC. Filled litter bags will be left at the War Memorial for collection by HBC. Cllr Lumley confirmed that roadside litter on the A658 was the responsibility of HBC. In the absence of Cllr Oldham, this item was deferred until the May meeting.

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

8.1. Tour de Yorkshire. An application for grant assistance to purchase, for example, a gazebo for the provision of refreshments had been considered, but due to practical difficulties and the assessment by a local cyclist that crowd participation and interest could be minimal, it was decided not to pursue this initiative.

8.2 Play equipment – as discussed previously, the play equipment in the Village Garden requires repair/replacement at considerable cost. The Chairman has obtained quotes from a specialist supplier for three different options:

1) To remove damaged equipment and refill the gaps with wetpour - £1400

2) Remove the damaged wooden equipment, but leave the rest - £900  
3) Remove all the equipment, bar the House and the 2 “Springers”, and fill with wetpour £1550. This would leave a “blank canvas” for additions to be made when affordable. The Chairman was going to price long lasting new equipment but was approached by a local resident with experience in playground design, who suggested that the best option may be to consider installing “multi-play” equipment. She undertook to produce a specification for the project and approach potential suppliers for costings. The Chairman will await the results of this initiative before reporting back to Councillors. Councillors agreed that, no matter what equipment were finally agreed on, the best overall option would be number 3 above, but to defer for 2-3 months.

8.3 Village Gala – Date 15 June 2019. A planning meeting is to be held this week.

8.4 Grasscutting contract. The clerk will contact the contractor who submitted the lowest quotation to confirm the quality and standard of performance required

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35.**

**Date of next meetings:**

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

Wednesday 3 July 2019, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date