

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 7.30 in St John's Church, North Rigton

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Lisa Edwards, Tim Bennett, Amanda Martyn and Mike Richards (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Massey (Vice Chairman) and John Ellacott. NYCC Cllr Stanley Lumley and HBC Cllr Victoria Oldham also submitted apologies for absence.
- 2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.** There were no requests for agenda variation or declarations of interest.
- 3. Approval and signing of minutes,** matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5th May were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Bennett. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

- 4. Administration.**
 - a) Venue for September meeting. As the School will be closed, the Chairman has again booked the Church. Consideration will be given to continuing with this location after the next meeting, as it may prove more convenient. That being the case, a contribution of £20 per meeting to cover the cost of heating and lighting was agreed.
 - b) The clerk explained the difficulties he had experienced in trying to get a ruling from YLCA and the NALC solicitor regarding changing the names of the Trustees of the "Memorial Hall Land" (the Village Garden) to the "Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, of North Rigton Parish Council" Although he has supplied what was deemed to be sufficient evidence, the solicitor now requires sight of the complete Trustee document. The original document is believed to be held by a firm of Leeds' solicitors, but despite numerous requests, nothing has been forthcoming. The Charman does not want to release the copy Trust document held by the clerk for fear of loss. Councillors agreed that a photocopy of the document be obtained from a commercial source and forwarded to YLCA.
 - c) Common Land, at the top of Rigton Hill. A legal ruling has been obtained which states that although the land has been registered with HM Land Registry as belonging to Sycamore Barn, it is in fact Common Land and must always continue as such. A sign has been erected on the land, stating that it is private land, which clearly it is not. The clerk will write to the "landowner" setting out the correct facts and requesting that the sign be removed.
 - d) Election 2022. The Chairman asked councillors to identify and talk to local residents who may be interested in standing for election to the Council in the elections in May 2022, as some of the current councillors had expressed their intentions of not standing for re-election at that time.

5. Finance

- a) The schedule of payments for the period 5 May to 14 July, as shown below, was approved.

M Richards March		
Salary		£198.96

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Salary	£198.96
HMRC - PAYE	£45.24
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BHIB insurance premium	£296.43
Stuart Bush grasscutting	£185.00
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SWARCO	£3,764.40
NYCC - VAS Pole	£600.00
R Chambers - audit fee	£40.00
Colton Signs	£45.80

Councillors approved the above 12 payments.

b) The clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim in excess of £3400 was due to be made.

6. Planning

a) Applications received.

- i) Ye Old Byre, Crain Syke Farm – 21/02707/FUL, erection of single storey rear extension. Councillors had reviewed, and whilst the extension will only be visible from neighbouring properties on the same site it was considered that there was a risk of over development. The response will be to neither object nor support the application but to seek assurance over previous planning approvals for the site as well, as noting the potential over development.
- ii) Crain Syke Farm Cottage – 21/02439/FUL, new dormer extension and new garage
Same response as i) above.

b) Decisions

- i) Ye Old Byre, Crain Syke Farm – 20/03693/FUL, change from agricultural land to domestic garden GRANTED
- ii) Land at 427536 451629 Beckwithshaw, relocation of existing livestock handling building. WITHDRAWN
- iii) Brackendale, Hall Green Lane – 21/02110/FUL, erection of detached garden store/garage. GRANTED
- iv) Fairview Farm, Brackenthwaite Lane – 20/04182/FUL, erection of replacement annexe. GRANTED
- v) Barn at 427455 451430 Shaw Lane – 21/01876/PBR, conversion of agricultural building to 3 dwellings. GRANTED

Councillors noted the above decisions.

c) Other

- i) The Parish Council has been informed by a local farmer of plans by Railtrack to construct a layby on the A658, to facilitate access to the track for maintenance etc work. Councillors expressed concern at the potential misuse of such a layby on the busy A658, with improper parking and rubbish dumping being of particular concern. The clerk will contact NYCC Highways to express the Parish Council's concerns and objections.

ii) Parish Council Planning Protocol – Councillors reviewed the existing policy and agreed the following conditions would continue to apply:

- Multiple dwelling applications exceeding 4 would be unlikely to be approved;
- Every application must be considered on its merits;
- Prime consideration is the maintenance the village envelope which should not be extended.
- Applications should conform to the nature and style of the majority of other properties in the village.

7. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) VAS – there had been some comments on the Community Facebook page, expressing doubts about the effectiveness of the equipment and its location on Church Hill. Councillors observed that all such concerns had been considered previously (as recorded in the minutes of the 6 January) As agreed, data will be downloaded in the next 3-4 weeks and a decision made then regarding possible re-location, should the data support this.

b) Picket fences. The clerk has approached 2 potential suppliers and is awaiting responses over prices and availability.

c) Letter to Karl Battersby, NYCC Corporate Director. Awaiting response.

d) Village approaches. Cllr Martyn had circulated an example of wild flowers being planted in the verges of an approach road to Rotherham District Council. Councillors agreed it presented an attractive alternative to grass but felt it would be difficult to maintain on the scale exemplified. It was agreed to perhaps plant wildflower seeds in small manageable sections and to await the annual seed/bulb supply arrangements from HBC.

e) Grass verge cutting within 30mph limit. There had been a number of comments regarding recent instances of only partial cutting at a given time. Although all verges were cut eventually, councillors felt that complete coverage should be carried out in one session. The clerk will notify the contractor of this requirement.

Grass verge cutting outside 30mph limit. An alternative contractor had been approached for a quotation but had not responded as yet. The previous contractor provided the details of the contractor who had purchased his grasscutting equipment and the clerk will contact the individual for a quotation.

f) Traffic incidents on Rington Hill and Hall Green Lane. Both incidents reported to the police and NYCC Highways respectively. Responses awaited.

g) Traffic calming measures. Speed bumps had been suggested as a possible means of slowing traffic on Rington Hill. Councillors considered that a) the larger vehicles, such as tractors, would not be deterred by this measure, and b) speed bumps could present a significant problem for all traffic going up the hill with snow on the ground. Alternative options will be considered.

h) Car parking. The significant problems experienced previously had thankfully not recurred, although there were still isolated examples of irresponsible parking. The clerk will maintain contact with the local PCSO and report any future incidents.

8. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

a) Village Picnic. Due to coronavirus regulations, the original event planned for June

could not take place. The scaled down event has been rearranged to take place on 11 September.

- b) Defibrillator maintenance. Cllr Ellacott had reported previously that the rota system for monitoring the operational state of the defibrillator was no longer in place as he was happy to undertake the check himself on a regular weekly/10 day schedule. The clerk will confirm with Cllr Ellacott that he is happy to continue with this arrangement.
- c) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is to be celebrated throughout 2022 but the main focus will be the extended Bank Holiday week-end of Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. On the Thursday, beacons will be lit across the country and also in the capital cities of Commonwealth countries. The Chairman thought that the Parish Council should organise the lighting of a beacon on Thursday 2 June 2022, in conjunction with other Parish groups. Councillors agreed. The Chairman will also follow up the option of planting a "Queen's Oak" at a suitable public location in the Parish. The clerk will submit an application for a Tree Protection Order for this (when location finalised) and also the "Millennium Oak" situated in the field adjacent to Hall Green Lane.

9. Other matters

- a) Generator. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bennett for undertaking to store the generator in his garage. He was also liaising with the Weeton Show Committee who had requested the loan of the generator for the forthcoming Show. The clerk will draw up a loan and disclaimer/indemnity agreement for the loan of the generator.
- b) Hall Green Lane bench. The Chairman recorded the thanks of the Parish Council to the local family who had replaced the collapsed bench. The plaque from the old bench will be affixed to the new bench in due course.
- c) Website re-design. The Chairman reported that the local volunteer who had offered to carry out the re-design was no longer available. She has researched other possible options and has identified a company "Rocketsparks" who would be able to develop a new website which would include all the existing groups and information but presented in a much improved format. She has forwarded to councillors an outline of the proposed re-designed website and asked for councillors to respond with thoughts and comments. A strict tendering exercise would take place with at least two other companies being approached for quotations. The work will be awarded to the company providing the best value in terms of cost, product content and technical support. Councillors were content with this proposal.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 1 September 2021, at 7.30pm at St John's Church, North Rigton

Signed

(Chairman)

Date