

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 7.30

Present: Mary Hopkins (Chairman) Barbara Massey (Vice Chairman), Lisa Edwards, John Ellacott, Tim Bennett, Amanda Martyn and Mike Richards (Clerk). Also in attendance Cllr. Victoria Oldham (HBC) and Cllr Stanley Lumley (NYCC).

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

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 1st July were agreed as a true record.

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

Reports on matters arising – all covered as part of the agenda.

4. NYCC/HBC – proposed reorganisation.

The Chairman had observed with interest the online seminar conducted by NYCC, although she had not formally registered as an “attendee” The seminar had set out the proposals of NYCC to become a Unitary Authority, maintaining its existing role, but also taking on the roles of the 7 District Authorities. Cllr Lumley, who has a dual role, as both a County and Borough Councillor, added that there was much work still to be done. The County Council was further forward as it had started preparations earlier, but all districts were now working on their own submissions and proposals. He is very proud of Harrogate Borough Council and many of its unique initiatives, but also stressed that his experience as a County Councillor and knowledge of the existing Unitary Authorities, ie Cornwall, Durham and Teesside, led him to believe that whatever option was chosen, would lead to a positive outcome. He also added that this reorganisation could well bring devolved power, possibly to Parish Council level. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lumley for his input and asked if a parish council response to the seminar was expected? Cllr Lumley said not at the moment and he would circulate any notes arising from the seminar.

5. Finance

a) The schedule of payments for the period 27 June to 31 August, as shown below, was approved.

M Richards June Salary	£150.20
M Richards July Salary	£150.20
M Richards Aug Salary	£150.20
HMRC PAYE	£88.00
HMRC PAYE	£88.00
RS Burnett - Cherry Tree pruning	£660.00
S Bush – grass cutting	£205.00
S Bush – grass cutting	£370.00
M Richards – printer cartridge	£20.49
M Richards – printer cartridge	£35.00
Colton Signs	£29.70
R Chambers – audit fee	£40.00

Councillors approved the above 12 payments.

b) The clerk undertook to provide a financial projection, comprising actual expenditure to date, plus projected expenditure to the year- end, for the next meeting. He will include all donations and significant planned expenditure on VAS and tree removal (see xx below)

5. Planning

a) Applications received and responded to.

- i) 20/02481 Almscliffe Barn, Leyfield Farm No objection
- ii) 20/03017/TPO Wharfedale View, North Rigton No Objection
- iii) 20/02456/FUL Calm Waters, Shaw Lane No Objection
- iv) 20/02037/FUL North Rigton Primary School Neither support nor object to,
but concern expressed about possible impact on neighbouring properties.

Councillors confirmed their agreement with the responses.

b) Councillor Oldham confirmed that there had been no progress with the Brackenwell Lane development, as the scheduled planning committee meeting had been cancelled. She undertook to keep councillors informed of any developments.

c) Briscoe Ridge Lane. As recorded previously, a building can be observed at this location, particularly at night due to excessive lighting, but no planning application appears to have been made. The clerk had contacted HBC Enforcement, but no action seems to have been taken – he will follow up again.

6. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) Brackenthwaite Lane – numerous points for follow up have arisen from the resident questionnaire regarding traffic flow and potential traffic calming measures along this road. The Parish Council continues to support the initiative and will assist with approaches to the appropriate authorities where appropriate. In particular, the clerk will contact NYCC to raise concerns over the visibility splays at the Brackenthwaite Lane/ High Moor Road junction

b) VAS – the clerk had obtained a further favourable quotation for the supply and installation of this equipment. Councillors had decided that the best option would probably be solar powered rather than re-chargeable battery power. The clerk will confirm the technical specification of the equipment and contact NYCC Highways again to ascertain the requirements for siting and installation. Cllr Lumley confirmed that £1000 from his Locality Budget was available as a contribution towards the cost of this equipment. Councillors agreed to await the outcome of the “AJ1 Fund” bid (expected end September) before proceeding with the order.

c) HAPARA – the Chairman reported on the latest meeting of this action group. The group is now concentrating on the “Parameters Plan,” developed from the Local District Plan. This intention of this plan is to consider development sites within the western arc as a whole in terms of infrastructure, public transport and sustainability. HBC has undertaken to consult HAPARA on the draft Parameters Plan and this consultation will take place before the end of September. The Chairman sought councillors’ approval for her continuing involvement with HAPARA and all agreed that this involvement should continue, given the relevance of HAPARA’s oversight of, in particular, traffic issues connected to the housing developments.

d) Wild flower planting. The Chairman commented that a local resident had planted wild flower seeds on the verge adjacent to Brackenwell Lane. She thought this to be an excellent initiative which, if extended, could enhance the appearance of the village overall. She encouraged councillors and residents to identify suitable further sites and follow suit with wildflower seed planting.

e) Items raised previously for follow up:-

- traffic queues at Rigton Gates level crossing. Now that traffic flows have returned to normal, the Chairman asked councillors to record the times when they witness traffic congestion on the approaches to the level crossing, and inform the clerk who will raise again with NYCC;

- some road signs within the Parish are becoming obscured by vegetation. To raise again with NYCC.

7. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

a) Village Garden play area and equipment. The Chairman confirmed that the original supplier identified for the supply and installation of play equipment was apparently no longer interested and an alternative supplier had been identified. Unfortunately the cost of the revised contract was some £2,000 higher than the previous one and exceeds available Parish Council and AVCA funding. However, new grant funding has been identified, and the Chairman is hopeful of a successful bid, which would make the scheme viable. Councillors will be kept informed of developments.

b) Trees – there are at least 4 trees in the Garden of which the Chairman is becoming increasingly concerned about safety aspects. She is suggesting that the trees be removed or at least heavily trimmed back or reduced. Councillors agreed with the Chairman's suggestion and a number of tree surgeons were identified as potentially suitable for the task. Councillors will provide details to the Chairman.

8. Other matters

Cllr Bennett raised the issue of bins and rubbish being left out on the roadside all week. He said this is very unsightly and it diminishes the appeal of the village. Councillors agreed and the clerk will add a comment to the Village News asking residents to only leave out bins and rubbish the day before collection is due, and an additional notice would be put on the Community Facebook page.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7.30pm, remotely via Zoom, unless coronavirus restrictions lifted.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date