

**North Rigton Parish Council**  
**Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 3 March 2021 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. Stanley Lumley (NYCC)

- 1. Apologies for absence** –There were no apologies for absence as all councillors were present, but Cllr Oldham indicated that she may not be able to attend due to another meeting.
- 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 6th January were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Massey. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 4. Reports on matters arising.**  
The Chairman advised that the question of the village handyman was in abeyance currently, although Andrew Keane had expressed an interest in the role. Councillors had agreed with the suggested job description, but consideration was being given to the likely frequency of individual jobs and it was now felt that an ad hoc approach, rather than a formal timed schedule of work, would be better. Further consideration will be given to the best way forward.
- 5. Western Arc Co-ordination Group**  
The Chairman had circulated a summary of the responses received to the WACG consultation paper. Lengthy discussion ensued over the feasibility of the following traffic issues:

- Speed bumps
- Chicanes
- Reduced speed limits
- Extending 20mph limit throughout the village
- Close Dunkeswick Lane to through traffic and monitor with fixed camera
- Amending road junctions and widening roads

Such further action would, of course, be in addition to the already agreed traffic calming measures, such as the installation of VAS and picket fences. Cllr Lumley, whilst agreeing with the above suggestions, observed that his experience elsewhere indicated that constructing chicanes sometimes had the opposite effect to that intended, in that some motorists would accelerate to beat oncoming traffic, rather than slow down and give way. He also advised that NYCC has no fixed cameras throughout the County and NY Police seldom reduced or amended speed limits unless there was significant evidence of serious traffic issues (ie accidents and deaths) The Chairman then reported that she had had separate

discussions with the 2 local MPs who had both expressed their support for the measures to reduce carbon emissions in the WACG/HBC debate, but were not inclined to lobby for traffic calming measures sought by the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that a submission be made to WACG, Cllr MacKenzie (NYCC Executive Member for Access) and NYCC Highways, stressing the Council's concerns over volume and speed of traffic, with suggestions of how this can be mitigated. The clerk will draft the report and circulate to councillors for comment, before submitting. As a further thought, the Chairman observed that the May elections for a new Police and Crime Commissioner would present an appropriate opportunity for all residents to approach candidates to confirm their support for the Parish Council objectives, when elected, and she encouraged councillors to do this.

## **6. Highways, footpaths and verges**

- a) VAS. The Chairman summarised the position. An order had been placed for the purchase and installation of a VAS, to be initially located at the top of Church Hill. The adjacent Willow tree will need to be trimmed to facilitate the sight line when the camera is reversed (as per the NYCC protocol re "temporary" placement) and the responsibility (NRPC or NYCC) needs to be established. The Chairman also referred to the overhanging bough which extended across the road. The clerk is to meet with the NYCC Highways Officer and this, along with other issues, such as picket fences, will be covered. Further locations for VAS placement will be considered in due course, based on experience; this may be the purchase of an additional VAS or rotating use of existing. Unfortunately, due to demand and covid-19, it is unlikely the equipment will be installed before the end of March, as originally planned, but will be early in the new financial year.
- b) Picket fences. Councillors reconsidered the impact of picket fences with regard to emphasising to motorists that they are entering a residential area. Adding to the existing stone pillars may not achieve this effect and consequently, it was agreed to explore the possibility of erecting picket fences in addition to the stone structures. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of erecting some form of picket fence on Brackenthwaite Lane. The clerk will discuss these options with the Highways Officer as noted above at 6a)
- c) Psychological Traffic Calming report. The clerk had previously circulated the report and, whilst councillors agreed there were some interesting concepts in the report, most would require financial input from NYCC and this was unlikely to be forthcoming. Nevertheless, concepts from the report, such as "visual" road narrowing would be borne in mind, should funding become available from other sources.

*Cllr Lumley left the meeting at this point, 8.40pm.*

## **7. Finance**

- a) The schedule of payments for the period 1 November to 5 December, as shown below, was approved.

M Richards Nov Salary	£198.96
M Richards Dec Salary	£198.96
HMRC PAYE	£45.24
HMRC PAYE	£45.24

Yorks Water	£6.37
M Richards – computer half share with KOPC	£293.99
NYCC speed test	£132.00
M Winterbottom – bushes trim	£109.25
M Richards – cartridges (half share)	£27.49

Councillors approved the above 9 payments.

b) 2021-22 Budget. The clerk had circulated the draft budget for the forthcoming financial year. Forecast expenditure was £14,620.00 against forecast income of £14,375, resulting in a minor deficit of £245.00 to be financed from existing funds. Both amounts included £4100 for VAT paid and reclaimed. Councillors had no questions and agreed the draft budget.

## **8. Planning**

a) Applications received.

No planning applications received in the current period. The Chairman commented that the residential caravan was still present at Wayside Farm, Harrogate Road. The clerk confirmed that he had reported the issue to HBC Enforcement, but follow up action is still pending. He will raise again with HBC.

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

a) Village Garden play area and equipment. The Garden and new play equipment continue to be well used. There are however, two issues of concern - 1) there have been incidents of larger groups of parents and children apparently meeting in the Garden as a social event which is clearly against current covid-19 regulations. Councillors discussed and agreed that this was not a Parish Council responsibility as signage clearly defines authorised use of the Garden within covid-19 regulations. If however, significant abuse becomes apparent, any person observing should contact NY Police via the non-emergency number (101) – 2) irresponsible car parking. There have been several complaints about cars being parked on the roadside and pavement, blocking the way for pedestrians and those with prams and pushchairs. The Chairman observed that this was most likely people from neighbouring villages as village residents tended to walk to the Garden. She did acknowledge that parking was a problem but nevertheless cars should not be parked irresponsibly. The Council has agreed to produce a leaflet to be placed on the windscreens of offending cars, asking drivers to have regard for pedestrians. Councillors agreed to take copies of the leaflet to distribute accordingly.

b) Grass cutting contract. The current contractor had proposed a contract for three years, based on current rates uplifted only by an increase at the applicable annual rate of inflation. Councillors agreed.

c) A658/Hall Green Lane bus shelter. NYCC had stated that replacement of the demolished bus shelter was not possible as insurance details of the offending motorist were not available. The clerk had contacted NY Police who provided the necessary details which were passed on to NYCC. NYCC is now proceeding with a

claim against the insurance company for replacement of the bus shelter. The Parish Council is suggesting that the replacement shelter be located at the bottom of Church Hill, to replace the dilapidated wooden shelter, as it is believed that this bus stop is more heavily used. A decision from NYCC is awaited.

d) Dog fouling. There seems to have been a recent increase in this unpleasant feature, on grass verges, school playing field and open fields. Could all dog owners please use plastic bags to pick up after their dogs and place the bags in the bins provided.

#### **10. Other matters**

a) Parish Council Facebook page. Following further consideration, Councillors had now decided to set up a Parish Council FB page as the Community page was working well with some 184 participants. There were some initial issues with advertising requests on the Community page but this has now been resolved.

b) HBC has set up a network of “digital champions” to help residents across the District to “upskill with digital technology” This was intended to be via face to face meetings but obviously, due to the pandemic, cannot now happen. Accordingly, a telephone helpline has now been established which will help with such topics as setting up email addresses, how to download apps, how to use Zoom, how to research on the internet etc. A poster, advertising the scheme will be placed on the notice board, website and FB page. This could be particularly helpful with the national census in May, which is to be collected digitally. Councillors agreed with the promulgation of this initiative

c) Website re-design. As reported previously, the website is in need of updating. A local resident has volunteered to take this on and as well as improving the design, she will ensure all legal requirements for access and use are met. The Parish Council expressed its gratitude for this offer.

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

#### **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday, 5 May 2021 remotely via Zoom starting at 7.00 pm, unless coronavirus restrictions are lifted. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Further meeting dates:

7 July 2021 – venues to be confirmed

8 September 2021

Signed

(Chairman)

Date