

## North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2020 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).

- 1. Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received from, Amanda Martyn, Cllr. Victoria Oldham (HBC) and Cllr Stanley Lumley (NYCC).
- 2. Agenda order variation and Declaration of Interests.** There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. Approval and signing of minutes,** matters arising.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 January were agreed as a true record and Councillors approved the minutes which were signed by Cllr Massey who chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

### Reports on matters arising

a) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The clerk had met with Darren Griffiths (NYCC Community Safety Officer) to discuss potential locations and the feasibility of installing VAS equipment. Three sites (Church Hill, Rigton Hill and Hall Green Lane) were considered and Darren agreed to provide potential siting points for installing VAS in these locations. He did advise however, that the perception of traffic speed normally exceeds the actual and he recommended conducting speed surveys, before proceeding with the purchase of this (expensive) equipment. Councillors then discussed their experiences with VAS locally, ie at Beckwithshaw and Killinghall. The Beckwithshaw equipment was not felt to be strikingly effective at first sight (possibly due to its location?) but the Chairman will contact the Chair of Beckwithshaw Parish Council and seek his views on its impact in reducing traffic speed. Councillors were more impressed with the VAS equipment in Killinghall and the clerk will contact Darren Griffiths to ascertain if this type of equipment would be available.

b) “Picket fences” – councillors discussed the option of erecting picket fences on the roadside of the three roads into the village. These fences have been used elsewhere (Little Ouseburn, for example) and have reputedly been effective in reducing traffic speed. They would be considerably cheaper than VAS. NYCC had confirmed that parish councils could construct their own fences, but installation would need to be carried out by NYCC. The clerk undertook to research the supply of suitable materials (possibly vinyl because of low maintenance requirements) and councillors agreed to investigate optimum location sites and report back to the clerk.

### 4. Administration

a) NYCC – funding for Supported Bus Services. The clerk had circulated a DfT initiative, via NYCC, which set out the requirements for submitting a bid for funding to provide a new, or additional bus service. Councillors agreed that a bid should be made for the Harrogate Bus Company to divert an existing service (possibly the 747?) through North Rigton at peak times. The clerk will initiate.

b) NYCC – consultation over a new policy on developer contributions for education. The clerk had forwarded the consultation to the Chair of School Governors for comment, but no reply had been received as yet.

c) VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – the Parish Council is not intending to hold such an event, but will support such a venture organised by residents.

## **5. Planning**

### a) Applications received

i) 20/00113/RG3 - demolition of garage block and erection of two 3-bedroom semi-detached houses, Brackenwell Lane. Councillors discussed at length this application and the many reasons to object. Councillors will forward their further thoughts to the clerk who will produce a summary response. He will circulate to councillors for agreement before submitting to HBC.

ii) 20/00228/FUL Spring House Farm, Rudding Lane, North Rigton. Councillors discussed and had NO OBJECTIONS to the proposed development.

### b) Decisions

19/04360/CLEUD Nab Hill Farm, Harrogate Road, North Rigton

Certificate of Lawful Use issued for retention of hard standing and use of land and premises within Class A use.

Councillors noted the above.

c) Enforcement – 19/00715/PR15, alleged conversion of outbuilding to a dwelling – the clerk reported that he had received a notice of the above which was incorrectly located as at Spout House. He had contacted the Enforcement Officer, correcting the location as Rigton Grange.

d) The Chairman reported receipt of the finalised HBC Local Plan. The issue for North Rigton was that the Parish had been reclassified as a service village (previously a secondary service village) This should give rise to encouragement of development to support existing local facilities, ie. church, school and pub.

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

a) The clerk had been contacted by a person from Pool who cycled along the A658 to Harrogate, enquiring about converting the existing footpath into a cycle track. Councillors discussed the feasibility of this request and agreed that whilst the footpath between Huby and Church Hill could accommodate cyclists, the footpath beyond Church Hill was overgrown and would not be suitable. In addition, there was no room for a footpath/cycle track around Nab Bridge. In conclusion, it was suggested that any cyclists wishing to pursue this question, should contact HBC, who had referred to the creation of cycle tracks throughout the District, as part of the deliberations over the Local Development Plan.

b) Concern had been expressed at the level of congestion around Rigton Gates level crossing, on the A658, following the increase in timetabled trains. The clerk will contact the NYCC Community Safety Officer to make him aware of this dangerous situation.

c) Flooding on Brackenwell Lane. This is now a recurring event and has been raised with the respective organisations involved on several occasions. None of the organisations has accepted responsibility. Cllr Oldham has already been contacted by two of the residents affected but the Chairman has also made contact to urge positive action from HBC, in the first instance.

d) Increasing amounts of litter have been observed along the A658. The clerk will contact the Borough and County Councillors, to request clear up action.

## **7. Finance**

a) Approval of expenditure. Items for approval were:

M Richards Dec Salary	£191.16
M Richards Jan salary	£191.16
HMRC PAYE	£44.04
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Yorkshire Water	£6.92
Computer security software	£69.99
School – donation and room rental	£106.00
Donation – Village News	£100.00

Councillors approved the above 8 items of expenditure.

b) The clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation for the 2 months ended 29 February. Councillors approved the statement and the Chairman initialled the bank statements to agree.

c) Councillors approved the payment of £75 to the Royal British Legion, in respect of Remembrance Day wreaths.

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

a) Play equipment – repair and replacement. As reported previously, the costs of this venture are significant and a bid was made for “Pocket Park” funding in association with AVCA. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful but the Chairman was pleased to announce that a local Charity Trust had indicated that it would provide a significant contribution towards the costs of refurbishing the play area. The Parish Council and AVCA will provide funds to supplement this donation and it is hoped that the project, as originally planned, can be completed by early summer.

b) Grass cutting – it was agreed to award the contract for 2020 to the previous contractor, on the same terms, but to require less frequent cuts in certain areas, eg Crag lane. Contract to commence beginning of April.

## **9. Other matters**

None.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25.**

### **Dates of next meetings:**

Wednesday 6 May 2020, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm. This is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 7pm.

Wednesday 1 July 2020, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm

Wednesday 2 September 2020, at the village school, commencing at 7.30pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Date