

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 4 November 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)

- 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 2nd September 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.

Noted that submissions had been made for a single unitary authority covering the whole of the existing NYCC, and for 2 new councils with an East/West split. Elections within the new authority/ies are likely to be delayed until 2022.

5. Finance

a) The schedule of payments for the period 1 September to 30 October, as shown below, was approved.

M Richards Sept Salary	£150.20
M Richards Oct Salary (incl arrears of pay award)	£234.96
HMRC PAYE	£88.00
HMRC PAYE	£88.00
S Bush – grass cutting	£185.00
S Bush – grass cutting	£185.00
A&S Keane – grounds maintenance	£467.00
Yorks Water	£8.04
HBC ROSPA Inspection	£66.00
Playdale – play equipment deposit	£3764.70

Councillors approved the above 10 payments.

b) The clerk provided a financial projection, comprising actual expenditure to date, plus projected expenditure to the year- end. Councillors were pleased to note the successful bids from the AJ1 Fund and the Banks Fund, which would facilitate respectively, the purchase of VAS equipment and full resurfacing of the play area in the village garden.

c) 2021/2022 precept. Councillors discussed the relevant factors to determine the precept demand:

- parish income – in normal circumstances, this has been substantially the surplus generated from the Village Gala. Councillors felt that it would not be prudent to include income from this source until the pandemic is over;
- parish funds – the projected outturn for the current financial year provided a balance of some £3000.00. “Normal” receipts and payments (excluding any contribution from Gala proceeds) are projected to result in a positive balance of some £500, but consideration is being given to the appointment of a part time handyman (see 6c) below);

- councillors were anxious that any increase in precept could be seen to be reasonable and justified, particularly given the increases in the last 3 years;

Given, the above factors, it was agreed to apply for a 5% increase in precept for 2021/22.

d) Clerk's salary – councillors confirmed their agreement with the increase in the clerk's salary, in accordance with the National Pay Award, effective from April 2020. The pay award provides for an increase from £10.16 to £10.44 per hour (an increase of £6 per month)

5. Planning

a) Applications received.

None.

b) Decisions

i) 20/02037/FUL – North Rigton Primary School – erection of single storey extension

APPROVED

ii) 20/02481/FUL – Almscliffe Barn – erection of timber garage block and demolition of existing garage.

APPROVED

c) Briscoe Ridge Lane. As recorded previously, a building can be observed at this location, particularly at night due to excessive lighting, but apparently no planning application appears to have been made. Further details have been supplied to the Enforcement Officer who is now investigating.

6. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) Brackenthwaite Lane – NYCC Highways engineer had met with the resident leading on the campaign for traffic calming measures along this road, and had agreed that a number of measures could be implemented, subject to funding being available. The Parish Council understands that the matter is still under consideration.

b) VAS – the Chairman and clerk had met with the Senior NYCC Highways engineer and potential locations for VAS equipment on Church Hill, Rigton Hill and Hall Green Lane, had been identified. It was agreed to install "speed pipes" on Rigton Hill to monitor traffic speed to confirm that VAS installation could have an effect. Locations for "picket fences" on the three entrance roads to the village were also identified, these being adaptations of the existing "North Rigton" walls. The Chairman observed that Brackenthwaite Lane would also have been an obvious candidate for VAS but for the fact that the speed limit on the majority of this road is 60mph. Councillors agreed to proceed with the purchase of a solar powered VAS, initially to be located at the top of Church Hill.

c) Concerns had been expressed about numerous shortcomings with regard to highways issues such as dirty road signs, overgrown, obscuring vegetation and potential new maintenance requirements (eg VAS and picket fences) Accordingly, councillors agreed, on a trial basis, to appoint a handyman to carry out these functions, subject to health and safety considerations and suitable insurance cover being in place. The Chairman will contact the current contractor to gauge interest in extending his role.

- d) Brackenwell Lane – water issues. The Chairman has met with a representative from HBC but no solution has been suggested. A further meeting with a Senior Engineer from HBC has been arranged when it is hoped some progress can be made. Cllr Oldham stated that she had a contact who specialised in legal issues which may well be relevant to this situation. She will provide contact details.
- e) Dunkeswick Lane – the Chairman commented that the recent repairs to the road surface, which had taken over a week, were, in her opinion totally unsatisfactory as they comprised patching and filling of pot holes, extension of the width of the road, without building up and strengthening the very edge of the road. This will again lead to the edges collapsing and presenting the same problems as presently. The clerk will bring this to the attention of NYCC Highways.
- f) The footpath between North Rigton and Huby, along the A658, is again becoming overgrown with vegetation, in places. The footpath on Church Hill is particularly badly affected. The clerk will raise with NYCC Highways.
- g) Nab Bridge – noted that repairs have again been carried out on the barriers, but the 40mph limit on both approaches has not been established. The clerk will raise with NYCC Highways.
- h) The Chairman had circulated a campaign document produced by the Western Arc Group which sets out the issues arising from the housing over development being proposed for the western arc, She suggested that the document be uploaded to the Parish website and all councillors agreed.

7. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

- a) Village Garden play area and equipment. Refurbishment and replacement work on the play equipment is due to start in w/c 23 November. The Parish Council would formally like to thank Almscliffe Villages Association for the substantial grant which has enabled this project to proceed. Thanks also to the Banks Fund grant which means that full resurfacing of the play area can proceed, rather than the limited patching previously planned.
- b) Trees – to note, overhanging and encroaching trees now removed, and hedges trimmed back.

8. Other matters

Cllr Massey confirmed that the “Coronavirus Assistance Group” was again operational to provide help for vulnerable residents in terms of shopping, prescription collection etc.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 6 January 2021 at 7.30pm, remotely via Zoom, unless coronavirus restrictions lifted.

Further meeting dates:

3 March 2021

5 May 2021 – venues to be confirmed

Signed

(Chairman)

Date