

## North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 5 January 2022 at 7.30 in St John's Church, North Rigton

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

1. **Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received and accepted from HBC Cllr. Victoria Oldham.
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 10th November were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Ellacott. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
4. **Administration.**
  - a) Website re-design. The Chairman reported that good progress had been made with the re-design and she had circulated some suggestions/questions for councillor review/comment. She also asked for feedback on the possibility of including advertising links for local businesses (on payment of a small annual fee) Councillors agreed with this suggestion. It is hoped to have the new website up and running by February.
  - b) Village of the Month bird boxes. Locations have now been identified as: The Village Garden (2), Hill Top Common, tree opposite Village Garden, School, Brackenwell Lane, Crag Lane, Church Yard and the "Woodland Walk" (Cllr Hopkins land) Volunteers are being sought to install the boxes.
  - c) Cllr Lumley gave a brief outline of the new structure of Local Government in North Yorkshire. The Government had decided that there would be one Unitary Authority, based on North Yorkshire County Council, to cover North Yorkshire (but excluding City of York Council) The existing Borough and District Councils are to be abolished and the new authority comes into being on 1 April 2023. Committees have been set up involving councillors and senior officers from the 7 councils and NYCC, to consider best practice and make recommendations for the way forward. Area Committees (loosely based on current Parliamentary constituencies) are to be established, each with some 15 councillors from the new Unitary Authority, which will have 90 councillors as against the current 300+. They will have political accountability for the discharge of statutory functions and services at local level. It is intended to offer the opportunity for parish councils to take on more responsibility for relevant activities eg grass cutting, if they so wish, but no firm arrangements have been decided. Cllr Lumley affirmed there was still much to be done but all parties were now working well together. 90 councillors will be elected on 5 May 2022 and will serve for five years on the
    - county council to 31 March 2023,
    - and • shadow unitary council to 31 March 2023,
    - and • unitary council from 1 April 2023 to May 2027.After that, the next elections will be May 2027, and then every four years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Lumley for his presentation.

*Cllr Lumley left the meeting at 8.20.*
  - d) TPO for "Millennium Oak" – HBC had responded to the clerk's request, stating that a TPO was not appropriate until a planning application had been submitted or a development proposed which could impact upon the tree. Councillors were not happy with the response and the clerk was instructed to question this statement with HBC. The Chairman also undertook to research the specific conditions of TPOs.
  - e) Elections. Parish Council elections will be held on 5 May 2022. The Chairman

asked councillors to confirm whether they would be standing for re-election. She was obviously aware that Cllr Martyn would no longer be eligible to stand as she had moved out of the Parish and she would like to identify possible replacements as appropriate. The clerk will establish the timetable for the election process.

## 5. Finance

a) The schedule of payments for the period 10 November to 5 January, as shown below, was approved.

<b>M Richards Nov Salary</b>	£235.16
<b>M Richards Dec Salary</b>	£198.96
<b>HMRC - PAYE</b>	£45.24
<b>HMRC - PAYE</b>	£9.04
<b>A&amp;S Keane-wood for fence</b>	£84.63
<b>Yorks Water</b>	£7.90
<b>M Richards -defib pads</b>	£57.00
<b>M Richards security software</b>	£74.99

b) Banking arrangements. As reported at the November meeting, the Parish Council's bank (HSBC) will be making charges from 1 November and there will be a standing charge of £5 per month, plus additional charges for other services such as cash deposits. Cllr Ellacott suggested the Unity Trust Bank may be a viable alternative option. The clerk agreed to make appropriate enquiries with that and other banks such as Lloyds.

c) 2022-23 precept. The clerk confirmed that the unchanged precept demand had been submitted and accepted by HBC.

## 6. Planning

### Decisions

a) Field Head Farm.

b) Broomhill, Crag Lane

Councillors noted that both applications had been approved, which was not contrary to the Parish Council's submissions.

c) Enforcement - Land Comprising Field At 429576 449760 Harrogate Road – dumping of waste on agricultural land. The Enforcement Officer had confirmed that the matter had been forwarded to NYCC, as the authority responsible for Waste and Minerals.

### Applications

d) - 21/04863/FUL – Field Head Farm-conversion of stable to form dwelling and garage. Councillors expressed some concern at the size of the development and also the confusing information about the apparent obliteration of the footpath. The Chairman undertook to produce background for the response, but councillors' views were to neither support nor object to the application.

e) - 21/05050/CLEUD - Norbeck Cottage, Leyfield Farm, High Moor Road – erection of detached garden room and garage. As a retrospective approval for lawful development, councillors did not feel sufficiently well placed to be able to comment.

## 7. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) Blocked drains on Rigton Hill, High Moor Road, Hall Green Lane. Urgent reminder sent to NYCC for the blocked drains and also the need for re-cutting drainage channels into the ditches on Hall Green Lane and Church Hill.

b) VAS – Data has now been downloaded, and as expected, records very little evidence of vehicles travelling above the speed limit. This could, of course, be an indication that

motorists are taking notice of the flashing speed limit sign, but councillors feel that it is more likely that the layout of Church Hill has more of an impact on reducing speeds rather than the VAS itself. Consequently, the direction of capture is to be reversed in the first instance, to collect traffic speeds coming out of the village. Further consideration will also be given to an alternative location.

c) Picket fences – the first white picket fences are to be installed at the 30mph limit signs on Church Hill. The impact on reducing traffic speeds will then be evaluated before further installations on Crag Lane, Hall Green Lane and High Moor Road, adjacent to The Common, are considered.

d) Brackenthwaite Lane – safety improvements. Following repeated pressure from a local resident, NYCC Highways have now agreed to the following improvements to the sharp bend at Rudding House Farm:

- installation of hazard markers adjacent to Rudding House,
- “SLOW” road markings to be installed in both directions, and the clearing of the vegetation from the base of the downhill bend sign.

Unfortunately, no timescale has been set for the above improvements.

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

a) The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Activities are planned nationally for the extended Bank Holiday and weekend, 2 – 5 June 2022. Initially the first event planned, in conjunction with AVCA, is the lighting of the beacon on Almscliffe Crag. Volunteers are being sought to make up the small team to undertake this function. Other events will be organised in due course.

b) Commemorative tree on Church land. The Rector has not yet received formal approval for the tree. Councillors decided to proceed with the purchase of a suitable tree in the meantime.

c) Village Garden hedge. The clerk reported that a successful request had been made to the Woodland Trust and some 30 saplings will be delivered in March/April. The Chairman confirmed that arrangements were in hand to plant the saplings. She also formally recorded the Parish Council’s thanks to Andrew Keane for the repair and refurbishment of the fencing.

d) Village Gala – the Chairman confirmed that the event was planned for 18 June. The Square and Compass will provide the licensed bar and also the “pizza kitchen” It is hoped that the Harrogate Ukulele Band will again perform.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35**

**Dates of next meetings:**

Wednesday 2 March 2022, at 7.30pm, at St John’s Church, North Rigton

Wednesday 11 May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

Wednesday 6 July

Signed

(Chairman)

Date