

North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 6 January 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) and 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 4th November were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Bennett. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
4. **Reports on matters arising.**
The Chairman summarised a number of issues from the last meeting:
 - a) The building on Briscoe Ridge Lane was now identified as one which in fact had had planning approval.
 - b) Brackenthwaite Lane – following resident pressure, NYCC has undertaken to carry out some traffic calming action. The Chairman observed that there now seemed to be a slight loss of momentum from residents, but she recognised that further steps towards traffic calming could be taken and she raised the possibility of picket fences being erected at a suitable point on the Lane. Councillors agreed to consider.
 - c) Village handyman – Andrew Keane had expressed an interest in this role. The clerk will circulate a suggested job description for councillor comment and addition.
 - d) Other highways concerns. The clerk will notify NYCC by way of the Parish Portal, ie unsatisfactory repairs to the Dunkeswick Lane road surface, failure to implement the 40mph speed limit on the approaches to Nab Hill Bridge and the pothole on Rigton Hill adjacent to the Square and Compass.
5. **Vehicle Activated Signs and traffic calming**
 - a) The Chairman summarised the position. The options for locations were Church Hill Hall Green Lane and Rigton Hill. Of these three, because of sight lines, Church Hill was seen as the best option for the initial siting. Potential other locations are to be considered in due course, although the sight line for Rigton Hill is likely to be a problem. In addition the recent speed tests there did not reveal significant evidence of excessive speed, although there was a substantial increase in traffic volume – some 1900+ vehicles per day compared with 800+ in 2011. Cllr Ellacott confirmed that in his experience conducting the Community Speedwatch exercise, the impression of excess speed was not confirmed via the speed gun readout. The Chairman suggested an alternative option for Rigton Hill could be the extension of the 20mph limit. Councillors agreed and Cllr Ellacott also suggested requesting NY Police to carry out infrequent radar speed checks. The clerk will follow up both options. Councillors then discussed the quotations from the two NYCC approved suppliers. The cheaper option was considered to be acceptable once the data capture details were confirmed. If data capture and downloading thereof is included, this option will be pursued. The clerk will confirm the necessary details. The

Chairman then agreed to place a marker at the exact location for the pole to be installed by NYCC to house the VAS.

b) Picket fences. Councillors agreed that picket fences or other features should be added to the current stone pillars which house the “North Rigton” signs on Church Hill, High Moor Road and Hall Green Lane. It was felt that the additional structures would impress on motorists the notion of entering a village environment and adjust their speed accordingly. There was also the possibility of erecting some form of picket fence on Brackenthwaite Lane, in discussion with the concerned resident.

6. 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
Lishman – grass verge cutting	£480.00
S Bush – grass cutting	£185.00
Bowman Ltd – tree felling	£1200.00
A&S Keane – grounds maintenance	£383.25
Yorks Water	£8.04
Royal British Legion - wreaths	£75.00
Playdale – play equipment deposit	£3764.70
Playdale – balance payment	£10567.50
M Richards – defib battery	£240.00
M Richards – computer security software	£74.99
Bank charge	£15.00

Councillors approved the above 14 payments.

b) The clerk reported that he had received confirmation from S Bush of Moorland Garden Services that rates for grass cutting etc would be held at 2020/21 prices for 2021/22.

Councillors agreed to extend the contract on that basis.

c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) HBC had notified the clerk that there was only £182 available (under the former Commuted Sums system) to be spent on verges. Councillors suggested this could be put towards the installation of roadside picket fences, but further consideration needs to be given towards the possibility of CIL being receivable through the number of known developments in the Parish, such as the barn conversions. The clerk will follow up.

6. Planning

a) Applications received.

i) 20/04183/FUL – Fairview Farm, Brackenthwaite Lane – change of use of agricultural buildings to residential. Councillors discussed and agreed that as the building is isolated and the adaptations would have no negative visual impact, the Council’s response would be Category C, not supporting nor objecting to the application.

ii) 20/04044/FUL – 3 Reginald Villas, Harrogate Road – erection of 2 storey extension. Council response is Category A – No objections. (NB – application

subsequently approved)

iii) 20/03693//FUL – Ye Old Byre Crain Syke Farm, High Moor Road. Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage Council response is Category A – No objections.

iv) 20/03999/PBR – Derelict Barn, Shaw Lane – conversion to 1 dwelling. Council response is Category B, ie Objects as this is further intrusion in the Green Belt and the distance from the road requires construction of a road way, being further detriment to the Green Belt.

7. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) Brackenthwaite Lane – flooding. NYCC Highways appear to have resolved the “pond” on the corner by clearing the blocked culvert, but this may only be a temporary measure. Position to be monitored, a new drain may be required.

b) Brackenwell Lane – water issues. As reported previously, the Chairman has met with Senior Engineers from HBC on two occasions. It was concluded that the builder of the “affordable” house should be contacted for information about the drainage system and potential problems. The Chairman was advised however that this is the responsibility of the residents concerned and the Parish Council is unable to do any more.

c) Dunkeswick Lane/Hall Green Lane/ A658 junction. A resident reported 2 incidents of vehicles travelling up Dunkeswick Lane and failing to stop at the A658 junction. A consequence of one of these incidents was the complete demolition of the bus shelter, which has now been removed by NYCC. The Chairman is suggesting that rather than siting a new shelter at the current location, it would be better to replace the dilapidated wooden shelter at the bottom of Church Hill, which is more frequently used. Councillors agreed and the clerk will contact NYCC to raise the question. With regards to vehicles failing to stop at this junction, the NYCC Highways engineer has been contacted and is considering whether improved signage would help solve the problem.

d) Flooding on Crag Lane and Hall Green Lane – reported to NYCC Highways.

8. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

a) Village Garden play area and equipment. All work has now been completed and children and families are enjoying the new facilities. As reported previously, this would not have been possible without significant funding from AVCA and an associated charity. The Parish Council is very grateful for this support.

b) Defibrillator maintenance. Cllr Ellacott reported that the rota system for monitoring the operational state of the defibrillator was no longer in place as he was happy to undertake the check himself on a regular weekly/10 day schedule. He had recently reported to the clerk an apparent malfunction and the battery has now been replaced, demonstrating full functionality.

c) Western Arc. The Chairman reported that she was continuing to attend these meetings, although she was doubtful about continuing her involvement with the

HBC Transport Group as this group was concentrating heavily on Harrogate and Zero Carbon issues, rather than matters affecting local villages. She was also meeting (remotely) with Julian Smith MP, to stress the unsatisfactory situation of future and current traffic flow through the village consequent upon the housing developments to the west of Harrogate. She had already had a meeting with the other MP concerned, Andrew Jones.

9. Other matters

- a) Community Facebook page. Councillors discussed and concluded that a specific FB page for the Parish Council was not needed.
- b) Designation of Polling Station – the Chairman was pleased to report that following discussions with HBC, the Community Room in the Church, would be designated as the polling station for this Parish.
- c) Website re-design. The website is in need of updating. The Chairman has reviewed other Parish Council websites and identified their website providers. She and the clerk will explore these and other options.

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

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3 March 2021, remotely via Zoom, unless coronavirus restrictions lifted.

Further meeting dates:

5 May 2021

7 July 2021 – venues to be confirmed

Signed

(Chairman)

Date