

North Rigton Parish Council
Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 6 May 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) and Cllr Stanley Lumley (NYCC).

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 March were agreed as a true record and Councillors approved the minutes which were signed by the Chairman.

Reports on matters arising (which had been circulated prior to the meeting)

a) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The Chairman had contacted Beckwithshaw Parish Council regarding effectiveness of its recently installed VAS. Feedback from residents was positive and the Council is now researching the cost of add-on software which will provide data on such things as traffic speed and volume. Given this positive feedback, the Chairman suggested that the acquisition of VAS should now be pursued. All councillors agreed and went on to discuss the best site for the equipment. It was concluded that Rigton Hill, due to the perceived speed and volume of traffic would be the best option. Cllr Ellacott suggested that Church Hill could also be covered after perhaps a 6 months initial period on Rigton Hill. Councillors agreed. Cllr Lumley agreed to contribute £1000 from his Locality Budget and the clerk will contact NYCC to confirm the best siting for the VAS and he will also explore the cost of the additional software mentioned above.

b) Brackenwell Lane flooding – in abeyance due to Coronavirus restrictions and also due to dry weather. To raise again later in the year.

c) A658 litter – now resolved.

d) Rigton Gates level crossing – reported to NYCC Community Safety Officer who shared the Parish Council's concern over the enforced queuing on the A658 when the barriers were down, and he will investigate when normal traffic flow and train frequency returns.

4. Administration

a) Website access. A new law, coming into effect from September this year, lays down specific requirements for all local authority websites, including PCs. Refining the website to comply will not be straightforward and Cllr Lumley advised the Council to await NYCC and HBC's website developments, before taking action. Councillors agreed.

b) Council elections. The Chairman had been made aware of HBC's proposal to nominate Almscliffe Hall, Huby, as the polling station for this Parish, given the unavailability of the School. There had been no consultation with NRPC, and she considered this proposal to be unsuitable for a number of reasons and had suggested the Community Space in St John's as an alternative. The HBC officer is now considering this option, but a final decision cannot be made due to the current inability to make site visits.

5. Finance

a) Councillors approved the 2020/21 budget statement, previously circulated. Cllr Massey observed that the Gala income would not now be available and asked how the shortcoming could be met? The Chairman responded that other fundraising may be possible and the clerk confirmed that, in any event, reserves were sufficient this year to meet any such shortfall.

b) Annual Accounts (previously circulated) Councillors approved the accounts, subject to internal audit. The clerk confirmed that submission of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) to the external auditor was again not required, but would need to be completed for publishing on the Council's website. A Certificate of Exemption will need to be submitted.

c) Approval of expenditure. Councillors approved the following 6 items of expenditure.

M Richards Feb Salary	£191.16
M Richards March Salary	£191.16
HMRC PAYE	£44.04
HMRC PAYE	£44.04
Yorkshire Water	£6.20
O Connolly – website	£22.78

6. Planning

a) Applications received

20/01157/FUL - erection of pitched roof to extension, The Barn, Tatefield Hall, Councillors agreed there were no grounds to object, particularly as HBC had already approved the accompanying application.

20/01455/FUL – Brackendale, North Rigton – erection of garden store/garage Councillors discussed and agreed to respond with “No Objection”.

b) Enforcement – 19/00715/PR15, alleged conversion of outbuilding to a dwelling – the clerk reported that he had received a response from the Enforcement Officer, which suggested, based on a telephone conversation with the owner, that no breach of planning regulations had occurred. The Chairman felt further investigation was needed as she did not believe there had ever been a planning application to convert an outbuilding into a residential property and that the Enforcement Officer needs to visit the property to make a proper assessment. The clerk will contact the Officer again.

7. Highways, footpaths and verges

a) The clerk had been made aware of several instances where landowners had blocked off public footpaths passing through their land, using “protection against the spread of Coronavirus” as a reason. Cllr Lumley had responded, asserting that this was unlawful unless there was a very real risk of transmission. NYCC will ensure that the integrity of all public footpaths will be maintained for the future.

b) Responding to a request from a resident, the clerk had contacted NYCC to ask for “Give Way” or “Priority (direction)” signs to be installed prior to the Dunkeswick Lane bridge. A negative response had been received, stating that “there is insufficient space to install give way markings on the highway and visibility is not the best due to the bend” Councillors were not happy with this response and suggested that the Priority signs on the B6161 at Leathley, before the narrow bridge, were a

perfect example of what could be done on Dunkeswick Lane. The clerk will respond accordingly.

8. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities

a) Village Garden – ownership. The original Trust document for the land which is now the village garden, shows the actual names of the 2 Parish Councillors and clerk who were in post at the time. The Chairman is suggesting that a) the Parish Council should take over the Trust and be registered owners of the land, and b) the “owners” of the land should be nominated as the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk, not named individuals. Cllr Oldham was of the opinion that the Land Registry would, in fact, want actual names, not posts. Cllr Lumley suggested that the advice of YLCA be sought before taking any action. The clerk will pursue.

b) Common Land. The Chairman reported that the owner of Crain Syke Farm would be creating a bridleway from his property to the Common on Rigton Hill to allow horseriders to avoid the potentially dangerous bend at the top of High Moor Road. The riders would not cross the grassed area but use the track around as the route to Beeston’s Lane. He has obtained agreement for this from the owner of the land which joins his land, but the ownership of the strip of land into the Common is unclear. Whilst the DEFRA map and NYCC map are in accordance, the area defined in the Land Registry document differs. The ownership of this area of land needs to be determined. Cllr Lumley commented that whilst it was important to define the ownership of the land its actual status is not affected and it would always be defined as “common land” He again suggested that the advice of YLCA be sought to resolve this issue.

c) The Chairman explained the situation which had arisen regarding the strip of land between the Square and Compass and the Primary School. Ownership of the land has passed, via inheritance, to new owners. The Chairman commented that whilst the Planning Authority could give permission for a potential housing development, the appearance of the local environment would best be served by protecting the hedge (which runs from the pub to the School), thereby retaining the “street scene” Also that the Millennium Oak Tree was planted on this land and its status should be preserved. The clerk will prepare a submission for a “Hedge Protection Order” and a Tree Preservation Order.

9. Other matters

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45.

Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 7.30pm, remotely via Zoom, unless coronavirus restrictions lifted, to allow the normal venue of the village School.

Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 7.30pm (as above)

Signed

(Chairman)

Date