

## North Rigton Parish Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 7.30 in St John's Church, North Rigton

**Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman)), Barbara Massey, Tim Bennett, Amanda Martyn and John Ellacott. In attendance Mike Richards (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Lisa Edwards, NYCC Cllr Stanley Lumley and 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 14th July were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Martyn, seconded by Cllr Bennett. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

**4. Administration.**

a) Venue for meetings. Councillors agreed that the Church was proving to be a suitable location for meetings, and it was decided to continue with the arrangement, although improved lighting was needed. The Chairman suggested that a portable lamp be purchased and councillors agreed. As discussed previously, it was also agreed that a contribution of £20 per meeting to cover the cost of heating and lighting be made.

b) Changing the names of the Trustees of the “Memorial Hall Land” (the Village Garden) The clerk confirmed that he had sent the photocopy of the Trust document to YLCA for scrutiny by the NALC solicitor and, hopefully, for establishing a way forward to change the names of the Trustees to current members or, preferably, the “Chairman”, “Vice Chairman” and “Clerk” (of North Rigton Parish Council)

c) Common Land, at the top of Rigton Hill. The clerk confirmed that he had spoken with the individual who had erected the “Private Land” sign and made him aware of the legal ruling which designated the land as Common Land in perpetuity, even though it may have been properly registered into Sycamore Barn ownership via the Land Registry. He agreed to move the sign onto his own land. The clerk will write to all residents with properties adjacent to the common land, informing them of the legal ruling.

d) Website re-design. The clerk had circulated the three quotations received. One quote was clearly in excess of the others (“Narked Design” and “Rocketsparks”) and would not be considered. The Chairman declared an interest and absented herself from the following discussion. Further information regarding the cost of the migration of files and data etc from the current site was needed from “Narked Design” for an accurate cost comparison to be made. Councillors agreed that should total costs of the two quotations be similar, the website specification and ongoing support provided by Rocketsparks being superior, the contract would be awarded to that company.

e) NYCC request for 'call for evidence' on the national resilience strategy. The clerk had previously circulated the survey. Councillors held no strong views, and it was agreed the clerk would respond on behalf of the Parish Council

f) NYCC reorganisation – PC involvement in discussions? The Chairman reported that she had taken part in early discussions but not since the decision on a unitary council based on NYCC had been made. She had asked if any councillor could attend the

meetings but no one felt able to do so. This means, unfortunately, that the Parish Council will not have a voice in the discussions. She suggested therefore, that Cllr Lumley be asked to provide updates on progress and to identify opportunities for possible future Parish Council involvement, where appropriate. Councillors agreed.

## 5. Finance

a) The schedule of payments for the period 15 July to 7 September, as shown below, was approved.

<b>M Richards July</b>	
Salary	£198.96
<b>M Richards Aug</b>	
Salary	£198.96
<b>M Richards – print cartridge</b>	
	£34.98
<b>HMRC - PAYE</b>	
	£45.24
<b>Stuart Bush grasscutting</b>	
	£370.00
<b>Village News donation</b>	
	£100.00

Councillors approved the above 6 payments.

b) The clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim in excess of £3400 was due to be made.

## 6. Planning

a) Applications received.

i) 21/03772/CLEUD – certificate of lawfulness for change of use from agricultural field to domestic garden, Oakdene, Brackenthwaite Lane. Parish Council response “No comments to make”

ii) 21/03801/FUL - erection of replacement annexe, Fairview Farm, Brackenthwaite Lane. Parish Council response – No objection.

b) Decisions

i) Ye Old Byre, Crain Syke Farm – 20/03693/FUL, change from agricultural land to domestic garden  
GRANTED

ii) Ye Old Byre, Crain Syke Farm – 21/02707/FUL, erection of single storey rear extension.  
GRANTED

iii) Crain Syke Farm Cottage – 21/02439/FUL, new dormer extension and new garage  
GRANTED

Councillors noted the above decisions.

c) Other

20/00113/RG3 – erection of 2 dwellings and demolition of garage block adjacent to no. 13 Brackenwell Lane. Councillors noted but queried whether this was a permanent withdrawal or whether a revised scheme would follow? The clerk confirmed he had asked the question of HBC Planning but not received a conclusive response one way or the other.

d) Windmill Farm. The Chairman informed councillors of a Zoom meeting taking place between interested parties (Parish Councils, Community Groups, Cycling Clubs etc) and the developers. This is a further example of the substantial housing schemes planned to the west of Harrogate with the significant knock-on effects re roads, traffic congestion and volume, environmental damage, infrastructure etc. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding all the proposed developments, the HBC LDP and the

repeated assertion that there was still no chance of a Western By-Pass being built. Councillors again expressed concern at the negative effect on parishes such as North Rigton and remarked on the perceived negative, ineffectual response to the Parish Council letter to Karl Battersby, the NYCC Corporate Director. The Chairman undertook to follow up on the response to the letter.

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

a) VAS – the clerk reported that he had been unable to download the software for the extraction of data from the VAS but would do so after consulting the equipment supplier. Once the data has been analysed a decision will be taken as to possible relocation of the device (either by reversing the direction of capture or by moving to another site)

b) Picket fences. The clerk has now identified a supplier who can provide custom made “village gates” He circulated photos of the different types and will forward to councillors the website address of the manufacturer so that a more informed decision can be made. He then asked councillors to provide feedback on the preferred type of “gate” and the suggested locations for the “gates” on the village entrance roads, Church Hill, High Moor Road, and Hall Green Lane. The clerk and Chairman had already identified possible locations on Brackenthwaite Lane, but it was felt this should be discussed with local residents before any decision is made.

c) Grass verge cutting within 30mph limit. There had been a number of comments regarding recent instances of only partial cutting at a given time. Although all verges were cut eventually, councillors felt that complete coverage should be carried at least within a week. The clerk will notify the contractor of this requirement. Grass verge cutting outside 30mph limit. A contractor has now been appointed for this. The clerk will confirm the actual nature of the work to be carried out ie whether some hedge cutting is also included

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

a) Village Picnic. This is taking place on 11 September. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Square and Compass is attending with a pizza oven to provide pre-ordered pizzas and also that the Harrogate “Spa Town Ukulele Band” will be performing throughout the evening. The Square is also providing a licensed bar. Volunteers from 9am are requested to help with set up

b) Christmas carolling – The Parish Council has organised community carol singing for a number of years but now feels that the time has come to hand the event over to other members of the community. It would be very disappointing if this popular event did not take place, accordingly we are looking for volunteers to take over the organisation of the event.

c) The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. As reported previously, this is to be celebrated throughout 2022 with the main focus on the extended Bank Holiday week-end of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. On the Thursday, beacons will be lit across the country and also in the capital cities of Commonwealth countries. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should organise the lighting of a beacon on Thursday 2 June 2022, location to be decided. The option of planting a “Queen’s Oak” in the

Church grounds was also suggested. The Rector is happy with the proposal but needs to consult with the PCC and Church authorities.

d) The clerk reminded councillors that he had the cast iron sides of the collapsed village bench. It was agreed that the bench should be reconstructed and councillors would give some thought to the best location.

**9. Other matters**

None.

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

**Date of next meetings:**

Wednesday 10 November 2021, at 7.30pm at St John's Church, North Rigton

Wednesday 5 January 2022, at 7.30pm, at St John's Church, North Rigton

Signed

(Chairman)

Date