

North Rigton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom video conferencing software in accordance with government regulations.

5th May 2021

Present:- Councillors Mary Hopkins (Chairman), Barbara Massey, Lisa Edwards, Tim Bennett, Amanda Martyn and John Ellacott. Also present Cllrs Stan Lumley (NYCC) Victoria Oldham (HBC) and Mike Richards (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – None

No parishioners attended.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chairman - Mary Hopkins - proposed by Lisa Edwards and seconded by Amanda Martyn – elected nem con..
Vice Chairman – Barbara Massey was proposed for re- election by Tim Bennett, seconded by Lisa Edwards and was duly elected nem con.

2. Approval and signing of Minutes; Reports on Matters arising

Reports on matters arising from the meeting of 3 March 2021:

2.1. VAS and picket fences. The clerk reported that, due to an outbreak of covid-19 at the supplier's factory, delivery and installation of the device would be further delayed until late May/early June. Councillors noted. The clerk is attempting to source the supply of picket fences through enquiries of a neighbouring parish council which has previously erected such fences, but without success thus far. He will make alternative enquiries.

2.2 "Battersby Letter" The clerk had drafted and circulated a letter to be sent to Karl Battersby, the Corporate Director at NYCC, responsible for Transport and other services. The letter sets out the Parish Council's concerns over the increasing volume and speed of traffic passing through the village, as a consequence of the significant housing developments to the west of Harrogate. Councillors had considered the letter and suggested that more emphasis be given to the major issues ie:

- make the road from Beckwithshaw to North Rigton "Access Only"
- establish a one-way system throughout the village (Church Hill – Hall Green Lane) to deter through traffic
- stress the "safety" nature of traffic deterrent/calming ie danger to pedestrians and other road users.

The clerk will re-draft the letter to highlight these issues and the Chairman will then send the letter to Mr Battersby.

3. Requests for further order variations and Declaration of Interest – None.

4. Administration

4.1 Website refurbish/redesign. Matter in abeyance as the individual who volunteered to take this on has been busy with other issues. The Chairman will keep the matter in hand.

4.2 Common Land – Rigton Hill

4.3 Village Garden – ownership – the clerk has raised these two issues with YLCA and only partial answers have been received. He will pursue again.

4.4 PC Facebook page: The Chairman reported that increasing use was being made of the facility. Community Facebook page: some interesting issues were being raised. There were however, some inappropriate entries being made and users have been requested to have due regard to the objectives of the page ie to inform and share relevant issues pertinent to the Parish Council and residents.

4.5 Future meetings. It was agreed that future meetings would now be "physical" and held in the School when possible or alternatively, in the Community space in church.

5. Finance.

5.1 Approval of expenditure.

M Richards – March salary	- £198.96
M Richards – April salary	- £198.96
PAYE	- £45.24
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M Richards (HBC) Garden waste licences	- £82.00
A&S Keane Garden maintenance etc	- £426.00
YLCA subscription	- £210.00
M Richards - Avast software	- £49.99

The above 8 items of expenditure and accompanying bank reconciliation, were **approved** by councillors. Councillors also approved donations to be made to the Church (£100), Village News (£100) and British Legion (£75) and renewal of insurance (BHIB - £296.43)

5.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) The Clerk went through all the requirements of this document.

5.2.1 Annual Governance Statement - Councillors had examined the Annual Governance Statement prior to the meeting and were satisfied that the Parish Council's system of internal control is sound and fully meets all conditions of the Statement. It was therefore resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.

5.2.2 Annual Accounting Statements (AAS) – the Council's Annual Accounts had been approved at the Annual Parish Meeting and the clerk explained how the AAS was compiled from the Annual Accounts. Councillors had no questions over the content of the Accounts and formally approved the AAS.

5.2.3 Councillors confirmed that they were happy for the Chairman and Clerk to sign off the AGAR. This year, as the Council's turnover exceeded £25,000, submission to the external auditors will need to be made by the deadline of 30th June. The clerk also explained that although the Annual Internal Audit Review was still to be finalised, he understood that there were no issues to report and the Internal Auditor will issue a "clear" audit report in due course, which he will circulate to councillors

6. Planning

6.1. Decisions notified

20/03693/FUL - The Old Byre, Crain Syke Farm, change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden.

APPROVED

6.2 Planning applications received since the last meeting

None.

6.3 Other issues – Brackenwell Lane, proposed housing development. HBC has revised the previously submitted application, purportedly having regard to car parking issues, but no formal notification to the Parish Council has been made. The basis for the Parish Council's objections remain the same, and, when the revised application is submitted to the Parish Council, the clerk will respond, repeating the previously submitted objections.

7. Highways, Footpaths and Verges

7.1 Car parking

a) Hall Green Lane. There had been examples of inconsiderate parking at school "drop-off" and "pick-up" times. The clerk had notified NY Police and a PCSO did visit, and that, coupled with requests to desist, on the community Facebook page, seemed to have the desired effect in that examples of poor parking have not been repeated.

b) Hall Green Lane/Church Hill/Brackenwell Lane. Following covid-19 relaxations and the increased use of the Square and Compass, further examples of inconsiderate and irresponsible car parking were reported with some irate and inappropriate commenting on the Community Facebook (some offensive remarks were removed)

Nevertheless, NY Police were again contacted. A routine visit was made and, it is understood, several motorists were spoken to with regard to inconsiderate parking. Again, the desired effect seems to have been

achieved with no further examples being noted.

7.2 Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) The sign is initially to be located at the top of Church Hill, facing downwards. However, to comply with the NYCC protocol, the sign needs to be designated as “temporary” and its location must change. This can be legitimately achieved by altering the direction of the sign (ie to be pointing up hill) Unfortunately for this change to be effective, the branches of the adjacent willow tree will need to be removed, for the correct sight line to be achieved. The clerk will raise with NYCC Highways.

7.3 Litter picking. Cllr Massey has already organised an “individual” litter pick, but as a formal community litter pick is now possible (with appropriate safeguards and social distancing etc) she will, liaising with the Chairman, organise a formal event, notifying volunteers via the community Facebook page. The clerk reported that he had again notified HBC of the 6 tyres in the ditch alongside Hall Green Lane and action had been promised. The Chairman will monitor.

8 Village Garden, Amenities and Activities.

8.1. North Rigton Gala – the Gala has been replaced (due to covid-19 uncertainties) by a smaller scale “Picnic Party” to be held on June 26th. The event will be “BYO food” but there will be a bar and a “photo booth” The Parish Council is grateful to Mr Stuart Thornton who is allowing the use of his field, behind the Village Garden, for this event. The Picnic will be preceded by a “Rainbow Trail” of multi-coloured displays throughout the village, similar to previous “Trails” of plant pot figures etc.

8.2. The Chairman advised that the Village Garden fence posts along Beeston’s Lane had rotted and the fence would need to be replaced. This would undoubtedly be expensive and she suggested possible alternatives such as planting a hawthorn hedge or even a stone wall (the wall would hopefully only be the cost of the stone) She undertook to make enquiries.

8.3. The roadside fence (raised) on the bend opposite the School, also has rotten posts and could be a danger to pedestrians at risk of falling into the road. The NYCC Highways Engineer acknowledged it was an NYCC responsibility. The clerk will follow up, requesting action.

9. Dates of next meetings:

7 July 2021 at 7.30pm (location to be advised)

8 September 2021 at 7.30pm (location to be advised)

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 8.55

Signed

Chairman