**North Rigton Parish Council**

**Meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 7.30 in St John’s Church, North Rigton**

 **Present:** Mary Hopkins (Chairman)), Barbara Massey (Vice Chairman), Tim Bennett,
 Lisa Edwards, and John Ellacott. In attendance Mike Richards (Clerk) and HBC Cllr
 Victoria Oldham.  **1. Apologies for absence** –Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
 Amanda Martyn and NYCC Cllr Stanley Lumley.
**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 8th September were agreed as a true record.
 Proposed by Cllr Massey, seconded by Cllr Bennett. The Chairman then signed the
 minutes as a true record.
**4. Administration.** a) The Chairman reported that household waste for recycling had again not been
 collected and when residents had contacted HBC to complain, they had been
 informed that collection would not be made until the next round of collections were
 due. This is not acceptable and the clerk will contact HBC to ensure an earlier
 collection is made and to establish why this problem has recurred.
 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 in September. He had today spoken with
 YLCA who had apologised for the delay but undertook to progress the enquiry as
 soon as possible.
 c) Common Land, at the top of Rigton Hill. All residents with properties adjacent to
 the common land have now been informed of the legal ruling.
 d) Website re-design. Following the receipt of three quotations and the description
 of support services provided, the contract was awarded to “Rocketsparks”. The clerk
 and Chairman were now in the process of providing data and files etc for the re-
 design. The Chairman suggested that, rather than uploading planning applications to
 the website as currently, it would be better to use the PC’s Facebook page for this
 purpose. Councillors agreed and the Chairman undertook to post the first
 application received to trial the process. It was also suggested that, as the current
 site has links to local activities, the re-design, as well as including these, could also
 have links to local businesses (for a small annual fee) Councillors agreed in principle.
 e) Elections. The Church will again be used as a polling station for the forthcoming
 election of the new Police and Crime Commissioner on 25 November. Local authority
 (including Parish Council) elections will follow in May 2022. A portable lamp to aid
 voters has been purchased and it will also be available for PC and other meetings.
 f) Village of the Month! - On the radio channel “Your Harrogate” (the successor to
 StrayFM), North Rigton was recently awarded the accolade of “Village of the Month”
 In recognition, following a vote by listeners, 10 bird boxes were presented to the
 Parish Council Chairman. The Chairman asked for suggestions for the location of the
 bird boxes and volunteers to help fix them. Cllrs Ellacott and Bennett offered to
 assist.
 g) Tree Preservation Order (TPO) The clerk has contacted HBC, requesting a TPO for
 the “Millennium Oak”, situated in land adjacent to Hall Green Lane, but has not
 received confirmation. He will follow up, copying in Cllr Oldham.

 **5. Finance**
 a) The schedule of payments for the period 8 September to 10 September, as shown
 below, was approved.

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| **M Richards Sept Salary** |  |  |  | £198.96 |
| **M Richards Oct Salary** |  |  |  | £198.96 |
| **HMRC - PAYE** |  |  |  | £45.24 |
| **M Hopkins - cash float** |  |  |  | £750.00 |
| **Stuart Bush grasscutting** |  |  |  | £185.00 |
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| **A&S Keane gardening services** |  |  | £1,033.87 |
| **HMRC - PAYE** |  |  |  | £45.24 |
| **HBC ROSPA inspection** |  |  |  | £72.00 |
| **Yorks Water** |  |  |  | £14.78 |
| **PKF Littlejohn - audit fee** |  |  |  | £240.00 |
| **M Winterbottom - bush cut** |  |  |  | £129.00 |
| **M Richards - defib pads** |  |  |  | £54.00 |
| **S Hesselden - verge cutting** |  |  |  | £504.00 |

 b) The Chairman reported that fencing in the Village Garden needed to be repaired. Andrew
 Keane had agreed to carry out the repairs with some wood supplied by John Hopkins.
 Councillors expressed gratitude and thanks to both. The Chairman also commented
 that, for the future, the creation of a hawthorn or other, hedge in this location would avoid
 the need for future such repairs. Councillors agreed and approved total expenditure of
 up to £300 for this purpose. As an afterthought (and alternative) the Chairman suggested
 that an approach to the Woodland Trust might prove beneficial, as she understood that free
 saplings and tree packages were available for community groups, such as parish councils.
 The clerk will make enquiries.
 c) Banking arrangements. The Parish Council’s bank (HSBC) currently provides free banking,
 but this is to change from 1 November and charges will be made for certain transactions.
 Councillors agreed to continue with current arrangements for the time being and assess the
 convenience of keeping the same bank, set against the actual cost.
 d) 2022-23 precept. The clerk had circulated the draft budget for 2022-23 and the precept
 required to fund it, taking into account the contribution from reserves and estimated
 income. Councillors discussed various options but agreed that, given the current financial
 climate, no increase in precept for 2022-23 would be demanded.

**6.** **Planning**

 a) Applications received.

 i) 21/04678/FUL - erection of one and a half single storey extensions, porch extension,

 glazed covered way and detached glass canopy to rear garden, and associated

 alterations.

 Councillors felt unable to reach a decision as not all relevant documentation had been

 added to the planning portal. The clerk will raise with HBC.

 ii) 21/04683/FUL - erection of replacement garden room, Broomhill, Crag Lane.

 Parish Council response – No objection.

 iii) Proposed Diversion of Public Footpaths No. 15.101/5, 15.101/30 & 15.108/14, Ross

 Farm. Councillors considered the details of the proposed diversion and concluded not
 to support the proposed diversion, for the following reasons:
           1) The section of path along the beck is often very muddy, and difficult to walk on;
 2) This change suggests a long length of path alongside the beck which will extend the
 muddy section considerably.
 3) No reason for this diversion is given – the assumption is that it’s due to site
 developments past or future, and this development may encourage future
 undesirable developments.
 iii) Enforcement - Land Comprising Field At 429576 449760 Harrogate Road – dumping
 of waste on agricultural land. The Enforcement Officer is still to visit the site. He will
 report his findings to the Parish Council by the beginning of December. It is likely the
 matter will be referred to NYCC, as dumping of waste is a County responsibility.
 Councillors noted the above.
**7. Highways, footpaths and verges** a) VAS – the clerk reported that he had again been unable to download the software for
 the extraction of data from the VAS but would consult the equipment supplier to resolve
 the problem. 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) In order to reverse the direction of the device however, the adjacent
 willow tree will need significant pruning and bough removal. The clerk will contact NYCC
 to confirm responsibility.
 b) Picket fences. Councillors agreed that the single panel “fence” was the most
 appropriate and would be installed in the following locations:
 - Church Hill, at the 30mph limit signs
 - Hall Green Lane, at the 30mph limit signs
 - Crag Lane, at the 30mph limit signs
 - High Moor Road – at the top of the hill, adjacent to the Common

 Consideration was also given to locating fences at appropriate locations on
 Brackenthwaite Lane, but as this road has a 60mph limit, different considerations apply.
 More thought will be given to different options. The clerk will contact the fences
 supplier for prices and then approach NYCC approved contractors for quotations for
 costs of installation.
 c) Other highways issues. Following requests from the clerk, NYCC has undertaken to:
 - attend to blocked drains throughout the village
 - re-cut the “grips” (drainage channels to ditches) in the roadside
 verges
 - clear overgrown vegetation around the footpath from Huby to
 Church Hill.

 **8. Village Garden, Amenities and Activities** a) ROSPA inspection of Village Garden and play equipment. Minor issues raised, such
 as algae on equipment have been resolved. The main issue, the deterioration of the
 fence, is being dealt with as at 5 b) above.
 b) Christmas carolling – The Parish Council is pleased that a group of “young mums”
 in the village have agreed to take over the organisation of this popular event for this
 year. It will take place on Sunday 19th December.
 c) Remembrance Sunday – poppy wreaths have been acquired and a donation of £75
 to the Royal British Legion was agreed (last year’s donation of £75 also due) The
 Chairman asked other councillors to join her at the Church event.
 d) The clerk again 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** Cllr Oldham reported that she now understood that the proposed development on
 the garage site on Brackenwell Lane would not now go ahead. She had heard that
 the reason the development was not proceeding was that the turning circle for large
 vehicles (ie refuse vehicles) would no longer be available – exactly the point made by
 the Parish Council and residents in the numerous responses to the application!

 **There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35
 Date of next meeting:**
 Wednesday 5 January 2022, at 7.30pm, at St John’s Church, North Rigton

Signed (Chairman) Date

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