

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 09 January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at Rainton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Speed (Chairman)
Cllr C Egerton (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr S Campbell
Cllr J Edwards
Cllr J Harwood
Cllr O Jones

Clerk: Mrs S Adamson
In attendance: Five Parishioners

- 103/2324 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:**
Cllr Williams.
- 104/2324 To receive Councillors' declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations:** Cllr Campbell said a member of her family was one of the parishioners raising a query about the flooding on Sleights Lane.
- 105/2324 Public Participation:** the parishioners contributed during the 'Parishioners' Representations' item and during the discussion on the Emergency Plan.
- 106/2324 Parishioners' Representations**
- a. A Parishioner related the problems she and her neighbours had experienced during the continuing **flooding on Sleights Lane**. Although they had received help from Julian Smith MP who had contacted the various agencies with responsibilities – Yorkshire Water, National Highways, NYC Highways and the Environment Agency – and although Highways had visited her property in the middle of December, and Yorkshire Water had visited that day, there was no clarity as to the source of the problem or the remedy. The Chairman said an on-site meeting between engineers from YW, National Highways and NYC Highways was going to take place the following week; they had to be given an opportunity of finding a solution, and the Council would continue to put pressure on them in order to get some action.
 - b. A second Parishioner, who had attended previous council meetings to raise the issue of Rainton being removed from the **No 70 bus route**, thanked the clerk and the council for their efforts in responding to the bus consultation; he explained that he had done further research into the local demographics and into the timings along the route, which he hoped the Council could put forward to support the campaign to reinstate the village on the bus route. It was agreed that the Clerk should put forward these additional arguments to NYC.

107/2324 County Matters

- a. To agree topics to be raised at the Parish Forum meeting on 23 January 2024 and to agree Rainton delegate: the meeting had been deferred to Thursday 22 February; no new topics were suggested beyond the current concerns re flooding and the poor response from Highways. Cllr Speed to attend.
- b. To receive any updates from NYC if received before the meeting: there was nothing to report.

108/2324 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2023: it was resolved to approve these as a true record of the proceedings, and they were signed by the Chairman.

109/2324 Matters Arising

- a. Min.96. To note responses from Highways and Yorkshire Water following the flooding on Sleights Lane: this had been covered during the item on Parishioners' Representations. It was noted that NYC had said that they would clear the gullies by the end of that week, and that the clerk had reported the problem to the Statutory Flood Authority at NYC who had maintenance enforcement powers.
- b. To receive a proposal from Cllr Campbell that the Council should engage the services of a drainage specialist to survey the drainage network in the parish: Cllr Campbell felt that a survey to identify the places where problems caused flooding in Rainton could be used to draw up a strategy for alleviating them; she had been impressed by a survey from 2012 for a local landowner which had pinpointed drainage problems when the old A1 had been upgraded to the A1(M).

The proposal was discussed on various levels: the powers of a parish council, the cost, the capacity of the 12" village main drain, lack of soak aways, whether a survey would identify the problems or affordable solutions, responsibilities of householders, and the lack of investment by outside agencies. It was agreed however that the problem was likely to get progressively worse and the clerk was asked to make enquiries as to whether other parish councils had commissioned such surveys. There was no seconder for the proposal and so it was not carried.

Other matters arising are included under Council Business

110/2324 Planning Matters

- a. Applications
 1. To note Council's decision to object to the following application, omitted in error from the December Agenda and subsequently made by email consultation:
[ZC23/03940/FUL](#) Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to create three dwellings with ancillary works at Brakehill, Rainton.

"The proposed foul water drainage into existing sewers will exacerbate the problems of flooding and sewage overflows into the streets and gardens of the village, which are experienced by residents on a regular basis, and which Yorkshire Water seem unable to remedy. Yorkshire Water *must* be a consultee. The drains in Rainton are not fit for purpose and cannot accommodate the waste water which will be generated by the proposed three new houses, in addition to the two for which planning permission has already been granted".

111/2324 Financial Matters

- a. Accounts: it was resolved to authorise the following for payment:
 1. Clerk's expenses: printing, postage, bags for MIABs £34.63
 2. Clerk's salary (28 January 2024) Gross £283.50 Net £248.50
- b. To note bank balance and bank reconciliation: the bank statements had not been received.
- c. To receive update on online banking, and to confirm signatories: Lloyds had said that the process would take six weeks. They had requested further information about the signatories which would remain as currently appointed, Cllrs Speed, Egerton and Williams.

112/2324 Council Business

- a. A report from Cllr Williams on the status of the defibrillator battery: Cllr Williams had notified the Clerk that she had checked the battery and everything was in order.
- b. Community Resilience: to receive and approve a report and recommendations from the Clerk on the Terms of Reference for an Emergency Committee, including non-councillor members, and a draft plan: individual councillors had identified three suitably skilled parishioners willing to join the committee, and it was resolved to approve their appointment as non-councillor members, along with four councillors, namely the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Cllr Harwood and Cllr Williams. The Clerk to call a meeting within the next month. Her report was noted and it was agreed that the responsibility for the plan format should lie with the new Committee.
- c. Biodiversity: to approve a draft policy and agree actions so that the Council fulfils its duties outlined in the Environment Act 2021: it was resolved to approve the policy, which reflected the Council's new duties to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the Parish. It was agreed to consult parishioners by highlighting this in the village newsletter.

113/2324 Correspondence

- a. To receive YLCA December 2023 edition of White Rose Update and Law and Governance Bulletin: noted.
- b. To note letter of thanks from the North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre for the Council's donation: noted.

114/2324 Exchange of Information

- a. Cllr Edwards reported that she had come across a car which had suffered two flat tyres on Dishforth Lane as the road shoulders were disintegrating in new places. The Clerk to report to Highways.
- b. Cllr Campbell asked the Clerk to check with Highways whether the repairs to the bridge on Sleights Lane were temporary or permanent.

115/2324 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:

Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.