

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at Rainton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr C Egerton (Acting Chairman)
Cllr S Campbell
Cllr J Edwards
Cllr O Jones
Cllr J Williams

Clerk: Mrs S Adamson
In attendance: Two Parishioners

128/2324 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:

Cllr Speed and Cllr Harwood.

129/2324 To receive Councillors' declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations: no declarations of interest were declared.

130/2324 Parishioners' Representations: the Parishioners had recently moved into the village and had come out of interest to observe the meeting. Cllr Egerton welcomed them to the meeting and to the village.

131/2324 County Matters

a. To receive a report from Cllr Speed following the Parish Forum meeting on 22 February and to note subsequent email from Cllr Speed to Melisa Burnham, the Area Manager for Highways:
Due to Cllr Speed's absence, his report was deferred to the next meeting. As far as the Clerk knew, a reply from Melisa Burnham had not been received and in fact it was noted that one of the 12 issues mentioned in Cllr Speed's email was that the 20 days response time target was not good enough.

b. To approve draft for case to Highways to reduce speed limits on Dishforth Lane and Sleights Lane from 60mph to 40mph:
This was discussed following a response from Cllr Keane Duncan, the North Yorks member for Highways and Transport, to the Council's request that Rainton be prioritised during his county-wide review of speed limits. Cllr Duncan had explained that the wider review would take time, but that in the meantime, any requests for changes to speed limits could be considered in advance by Highways. He had advised the Council to formulate a proposal with the support of the NYC Ward Councillor.

It was agreed that the points to be made should be:

- the change from 60mph to 30mph was too abrupt and too late;
- Sleights Lane and Dishforth Lane come down hill into the village, from busy A roads where vehicles are already travelling at speed and don't make adjustment to slow down as they approach;
- residents have complained about speeding vehicles;
- consideration needs to be shown to horse riders and pedestrians;
- lack of pavement for pedestrians, particularly at the bottom of Dishforth Lane.

Although initially the suggestion had been a change from 60mph to 40mph, it was agreed that a request should be made for a graduated change of speed limit as per the expertise of the highways engineers, and that all three roads leading into the village should be included.

Widening the discussion, it was also resolved that a request should be made for the village itself to have a 20mph speed limit.

The discussion turned to the faded rumble strips and 30mph roundels on the approach roads. The Clerk said she had reported these in October 2023. One of the parishioners asked to speak about this, and suggested that the Highways response to the Robinson Avenue development was relevant. The Clerk was asked to look at this and include it in the representation to Highways. *[After the meeting this was checked and showed that the Highways Engineer had made repainting the rumble strips and the roundels a condition before any work was started, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Authority, due to concerns about the speed of vehicles.]*

Cllr Williams brought up the faded white lines at the junction of Carr Lane and Carr Close, and Carr Lane and Dishforth Lane which were now almost invisible and therefore dangerous. The Clerk to report, although it was recognised that this was a county-wide problem.

- c. To receive the Highways update on the flooding on Sleights Lane and consider future actions: the latest report following the visit of Highways during the latter half of February had not been received. The Clerk was asked to check with Cllr Speed whether Melisa Burnham, the manager of Area6Highways, had replied to his email, or whether she had addressed the issue during the Parish Forum meeting. It was resolved that this was a critical issue and if no response had been received, then a formal complaint should be made to the CEO of North Yorkshire Council, and as a last resort to Julian Smith MP.
- d. To note current NYC consultations for individual response, including the proposed revised policy on Home to School travel, Substance Use, Autism, Health and Wellbeing, and Healthy Food/Food Waste. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/>, The Clerk said she had included these in the village newsletter and on the website. Councillors to respond according to individual experience and interest.
- e. To note Cost of Living campaign www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving Noted.
- f. To review state of the street lights in Rainton: the status updates on the Parish Portal did not appear to match the current situation. Three lights which had been reported at various points in 2023 were still not working. Cllr Speed had highlighted the problem to Melisa Burnham and a response was awaited. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to report another which was not working.
- g. To decide on further action if the highway outside the Lamb Inn is still blocked causing a hazard to pedestrians: the landowner had moved the concrete blocks further away from the public highway but

three planters were still there. Cllr Jones said he would have a look and if necessary speak to the landowner again.

132/2324 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 February 2024: it was resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record of the proceedings and they were signed by the Chair.

133/2324 Matters Arising

These had been covered under County Matters, although the Clerk brought some late news about the bus service to Rainton. She was very pleased to report that NYC had confirmed that the village would be reinstated onto the No 70 bus route from April. The Coach company was Hodgsons.

134/2324 Planning Matters

a. Applications

ZC24/00625/FUL. Installation of glazed canopy over an enclosed yard area at Beech Tree Barn, Church Lane, Rainton YO7 3PE.
No objections.

b. To note response of Highways to consultation on planning application

[NY/2023/0230/FUL](#) (Installation of an Electrocoagulation Unit at the existing operational Rainton Sewage Treatment Works, Carr Lane Rainton North Yorkshire YO7 3PS). The Clerk had brought this to the attention of the Council so that the situation could be monitored once work commenced. The conditions imposed by Highways, for reasons of public safety and amenity, reflected the concerns expressed by the Council in its own response to the consultation. Cllr Egerton noted that a similar, but much bigger, installation was to be undertaken in Dishforth: the purpose being to improve the quality of treated water before it was discharged.

c. Decisions

ZC23/03940/FUL Conversion of existing agricultural buildings into three dwellings at Brakehill Farm. *Granted subject to conditions.*

It was noted that the Planning Officer had mentioned in his report that on the strength of the parish council's response as a consultee, Yorkshire Water had been consulted, but unfortunately did not reply.

Within the context of other communication failures and their recent non-attendance at the multi-agency engineers' meeting to inspect the flooding on Sleights Lane, it was proposed and agreed unanimously that a formal complaint should be made to Yorkshire Water that they did not bother to respond to a specific request from the Planning Authority to comment on an application. It was also agreed that a log should be compiled and kept of the interaction failures with Yorkshire Water, for future reference.

135/2324 Financial Matters

a. Accounts: it was resolved to approve the following for payment:

1. Clerk's expenses: printer ink and postage £29.46 inc VAT
2. Clerk's salary (28 March 2024) Gross £283.50 Net £248.70
3. HMRC PAYE Q4 (payable by 19 April) £104.60

- b. To note bank balance and bank reconciliation: the Clerk reported that the bank balance as at 1st February was £10,387.48 and that she would send a copy of the bank statement together with the bank reconciliation to the Chairman.
- c. Following further problems with Lloyds, to sign application for online banking to Unity Trust Bank: after further communication issues with Lloyds, the Clerk said that as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), she would like to recommend that the Council switch its account to Unity Trust. This was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. The Mandate was signed by Cllrs Egerton and Williams, as the current signatories, Cllr Speed to do it at a later date.
- d. To discuss subscribing to a digital mapping service at a cost of £50 p.a. <https://www.parish-online.co.uk/services/digital-mapping-software> the Clerk explained the reasons why she would like the Council to subscribe to this software as she felt it would be very useful in mapping council assets, trees, street lights, gullies etc, and also save time. If at the end of 12 months the Council did not agree, it would not renew the subscription. On this basis it was agreed unanimously to go ahead.

136/2324 Council Business

- a. A report from Cllr Williams on the status of the defibrillator battery: Cllr Williams reported that she had checked the battery and all was in order.
- b. A verbal report from the Cllr Speed following a meeting of the Topcliffe Charities on 28 February 2024: in Cllr Speed's absence this was deferred to the next meeting.
- c. To consider a communication from the Cabinet Office about .gov.uk domain names, together with a NALC briefing paper on the same: the advantages and costs of doing this were discussed, and whilst broadly in favour of a transfer and each councillor being able to separate council business emails from their personal inbox, it was resolved that this should return to the Agenda in October before setting the budget at the end of the year.
- d. Update on progress on tree planting on verges: the landowners of the left-hand verge on Church Lane had given verbal permission for the Council to plant trees on that verge, but had not yet confirmed this in writing. It was suggested that another family member might do this if requested.
- e. To receive an update on restoration work to village physical assets: the green metal benches had been removed for powder coating and the wooden benches would be cleaned as soon as the weather was dry enough; Cllr Speed had received a quote for staining or oiling the wooden benches, painting the maypole and the wrought iron parts of the village signs. The Clerk said she would need three quotes and would write a specification for the work and bring those back for approval at the next meeting. In particular it would be nice to have the maypole painted before May Day.

Cllr Jones offered to have a look at the sundial to see how to remove and replace it.

The Clerk reported that one of the doors on the parish council noticeboard outside the Village Hall had become unfastened and was swinging loose. Cllr Jones had secured it immediately but it still represented a risk and Cllr Speed had obtained a quote for its removal, including the posts and replacements, plus cleaning, staining, making watertight and replacement of back board, for a cost of £150. In accordance with clause 4.4 of the council's Financial Regulations, the Clerk and Chairman had authorised this expenditure.

- f. To agree re-siting of one of the restored green metal benches: to return to the Agenda when Cllrs Harwood and Speed would be in attendance.
- g. To decide on repair to Village Green following damage by vehicles: the Clerk had identified suitable dragon's teeth which would be approved by Highways soft protocol, but having monitored the passing of wagons and large agricultural vehicles, she had come to the conclusion that it was inevitable that large vehicles would cut the corner before the bus shelter, especially when cars are parked there. This would result in the dragon's teeth being uprooted on a regular basis and she would like to suggest that it might be easier, as a regular or even annual task, to make good the ground and reseed. Cllr Jones said he would look at it when he reseeds the area at Tithe Barn Avenue. After a short discussion it was resolved that on the evidence presented and the expense involved, the Council should forego the idea of installing dragon's teeth.

137/2324 Correspondence

- a. To receive YLCA White Rose Bulletins and the Law & Governance Bulletin, and to note the Public Sector Equality Duty 2023: noted. Also of interest was information about the Duties and Powers of parish councils and <https://www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk/> the local champion for residents with concerns about social care and health care.

138/2324 Exchange of Information

Cllr Jones reminded his fellow councillors that the Village Litter Pick would take place the following Sunday, 17 March; volunteers to assemble at the Village Hall at 9.00am. Bags, sticks and high-vis apparel would be provided.

139/2324 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:

Tuesday 09 April 2024 at 7.30pm.

There will be a meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee on Monday 18 March in the small meeting room at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm