

## Rainton with Newby Parish Council

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

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

Clerk: Mrs S Adamson

**140/2324 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:** none.

**141/2324 To receive Councillors' declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations:** there were no declarations of interest.

**142/2324 Parishioners' Representations:** none.

**143/2324 County Matters**

- a. To receive the Minutes of the Parish Forum meeting on 22 February and to note any response from Melisa Burnham, the Area Manager for Highways, to Cllr Speed's email of 28 February: Cllr Speed reported that although Highways aimed to respond within 20 working days, he had still not received a reply after 27 days; however he thought it was important to keep the lines of communication open, and said that his preferred option was to allow her a further week to reply before contacting the North Yorkshire Council CEO, Richard Flintoff, to complain about the lack of action and the communication issues with Area6 Highways. This proposal was seconded and agreed by a show of hands.
- b. To note the results of the review and renewal of local bus service contracts in North Yorkshire: it was noted that the new service had started on Monday 08 April and a local resident had kindly distributed leaflets with the timetable to all households in the parish.
- c. To receive a written complaint about the public right of way between Sleights Lane and Carr Lane (Public Footpath No 15.110/2) together with response from NYC to the council's own complaint about danger presented by overhanging fence from adjacent property: a resident had sent photos of the fence to NYC and to the Clerk, who had then contacted the Footpaths Officer. Following receipt of the photos NYC had applied for an emergency closure order for 21 days and had written to the landowner about the fence. Cllr Jones understood that the fence had been repaired over the weekend.

**144/2324 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2024:** it was resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record of the proceedings and they were signed by the Chairman.

**145/2324 Matters Arising**

- a. Min 134(c): Yorkshire Water: to note response to parish council's complaint, if received, and to discuss a response to any data received about sewage spills into the River Swale following recent publicity: the complaint had been acknowledged but no further response had been made. The Clerk reported that Cllr Brown had informed the parish representatives at the last Wathvale Parish Forum meeting that although a meeting had been provisionally arranged with Yorkshire Water to take place in March, he had since been told that Yorkshire Water did not feel it would be fruitful to attend any meetings with parish councils as their investment strategy had still not been finalised. Cllr Brown had added that if YW continued stalling, he would take a more robust approach.

The Clerk had circulated an interactive map showing sewage spills from North Yorkshire rivers; this showed that there had been 834 sewage spills in the catchment area of the Lower Swale in 2023.

- b. Min 138: to note result of village Litter Pick: the Chairman thanked everyone who had attended and particularly Cllr Jones for organising the event and providing the equipment.

**146/2324 Planning Matters**

- a. Applications Approved, for information only, discharge of a condition. ZC24/00818/DISCON. Approval of details under condition 3 (materials) of planning consent ZC23/02466/DVCON - Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) in relation to planning consent ZC23/01328/FUL - Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of 1 no. dwelling house; to allow insertion of solar panels and removal of chimney, at South View, Sleights Lane Rainton YO7 3PH.

**147/2324 Financial Matters**

- a. Accounts: the following were approved for payment.  
 1. YLCA annual subscription April 2024 – March 2025: £146  
 2. Clerk's salary (28 April 2024) Gross £283.50 Net £233.50
- b. Receipts: noted:  
 NYC Locality Budget £500 – this money would go towards the cost of powder coating the green metal benches. The Clerk to complete the Monitoring Report document.
- c. To agree date for switching account to Unity Trust following opening of account: the switching information agreement had been circulated to councillors and after a short discussion it was agreed that 01 May should be the 'switch date'.

**148/2324 Council Business**

- a. A report from Cllr Williams on the status of the defibrillator battery: Cllr Williams reported that all was in good order.
- b. A verbal report from Cllr Speed following a meeting of the Topcliffe Charities Trustees on 28 February 2024: Cllr Speed reported that two charities had been set up 500 years ago, one for the poor of Topcliffe and surrounding named villages and one for the education of pupils at the Topcliffe Grammar School. Unfortunately a lot of records had been lost and there appeared to be no copies of the leases relating to land owned by the charities. In years gone by,

they had been registered with the Charity Commission but this was no longer the case. The Trustees were looking at options on how to proceed and Cllr Speed had been asked to draft a letter to the Charity Commission to see if they could help in any way. If no progress could be made in setting things on a better footing, he would be very wary of continuing as a trustee.

- c. To note updated Commuted Sums allocations spreadsheet: this revealed that the allocation from the Robinson Avenue development had now been paid in full. There was an amount of £7,907 allocated to the Village Green, £7,132 to be spent by 2034 and a smaller amount of £774 to be spent before January 2025. The Clerk suggested that the smaller amount could be used this year to pay for some of the work to the council physical assets on the Greens.
- d. To receive quotations for annual tree safety survey: two quotes had been received, and after consideration was given to these, it was resolved to ask Barnes to carry out a walk through safety inspection at a cost of £275 plus VAT.
- e. Update on progress on tree planting on verges: the Clerk advised that written permission from the landowners of the left hand verge on New Road had been received, so the application to Highways should be re-submitted. To support the application it was proposed that following the earlier report from Arborlutions, a professional detailed plan should be commissioned from them following their earlier recommendations, and this was agreed unanimously.
- f. To receive an update on restoration work to village physical assets; to agree a budget for a replacement sundial; and agree new site for one of the restored green metal benches:  
**Maypole:** this had been in situ since Mr Archer donated it in 1977 and the necessity of having a condition and stability report had been researched by the Clerk and the Chairman. Two quotations for carrying this out had been received from professional firms, one of which was extremely expensive. It was agreed that the consultants carrying out the tree inspection should be asked for advice and this would return to the next Agenda.  
**Sundial:** several suitable suppliers had been identified by the Clerk who said that as their prices were similar, she would like to recommend that the Council support a local Yorkshire business. This was agreed with an upper expenditure limit of £275.  
**Benches:** the Chairman had suggested that once restored, one of the green wrought iron benches could be relocated to the children's play area as there were no seats there and this had been readily agreed by the management committee of the recreation ground; the other could be put back in its original place on the Village Green. The wooden benches were due to be cleaned in the very near future, weather permitting.
- g. To agree action on vegetation overhanging roads and footpaths from private property, and on verges obscuring signage and seats: this recurring problem had been identified at several properties in Rainton. It was agreed to highlight this in the village newsletter initially before directly contacting the owners to remind them that if they don't carry out the work it can be done by the council and recharged to them.

In addition it was noted that the sign indicating the footpath to Baldersby St James was obscured; Cllr Jones to send the contact details of the landowner to the Clerk so that she can write to ask them to clear it.

**149/2324 Correspondence**

- a. To receive YLCA White Rose and Law & Governance Bulletins: noted.
- b. To receive poster from office of Julian Smith MP with information on how constituents can contact him: this had been placed on the noticeboard in the bus shelter.
- c. To receive a request to complete a survey for a PhD student conducting research across North Yorkshire to find out community views on using rural land for flood management.  
[https://nbsuea.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8eO0paaBPatMbR4](https://nbsuea.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8eO0paaBPatMbR4)  
Councillors to respond on an individual basis, as per usual.

**150/2324 Exchange of Information**

- a. Cllr Edwards suggested that the Council should write a letter of appreciation to a local resident who had made many contributions to the village, and this was agreed unanimously.
- b. Cllr Campbell said that Highways had marked up for repair the potholes created by the flooding on Sleights Lane; one drain was still blocked and silt from the contaminated road water and attenuation pond continued to block up one of the drains. The affected landowners were continuing to pursue redress.
- c. Cllr Williams reported that her phone line had been disconnected by a BT engineer who had then connected it to a new subscriber, resulting in a lack of service which lasted five days. Councillors noted other connectivity problems possibly due to the historic lack of phone lines in the village or to the new 5G mast.
- d. Cllr Speed noted that the street lights at the roundabout at the top of Dishforth Lane were on 24 hours a day. The Clerk to report to National Highways.

**151/2324 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 following the Council's **Annual Meeting** at 7.30pm and the **Annual Parish Assembly** at 7.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06pm