

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 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

23/2425 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence: none.

24/2425 To receive Councillors' declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations: no declarations of interest were declared.

25/2425 Parishioners' Representations: none.

26/2425 County Matters

- a. To receive a report from Cllr Speed following the Wathvale Parish Forum meeting on 30 May: Cllr Speed reported that Kate Dawson, the NYC Community Assets & Engagement Manager, Parks and Grounds, had given a presentation on S106 Commuted Sums. He asked the Clerk to check that funds had been allocated to Rainton from recent developments. Other items included:
 - NYC hopes to complete its Local Plan within five years; parish councils will be encouraged to participate in any consultations;
 - Expectations on response times to planning applications;
 - public rights of way;
 - NYC has a deficit of £800,000 and might have to reduce staff numbers;
 - NYC plans to build 500 council houses over a five-year period;
 - The establishment of the Ripon Community Hub was progressing;
 - Dishforth had suffered more sewage spills on their main road and Yorkshire Water had committed £4.8 million of expenditure to rectify the situation.
- b. To note a response from Melisa Burnham, Manager of Area6 Highways, and to review any subsequent Highways activity: Ms Burnham had replied to the specific issues raised but in rather general terms i.e. review/ investigate/ ensure updates are sent/ recognise the need/ raise an order. As yet the only activity had been the painting of indicative marks on various potholes. Cllr Speed reported that he had escalated the situation by emailing the Corporate Director of Environment, Karl Battersby, who had replied to say that he would consult with the team and report back. To return to the Agenda.

27/2425 Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 May 2024: it was resolved to approve both sets of Minutes and they were signed by the Chairman.

28/2425 Matters Arising

Min 16: Public Footpath 15.110/2/1. To receive an update from the Countryside Access Technical Officer NYC: the vegetation had been cut back, and the path was now reasonably available for use by the public, so the Public Rights of Way Department had closed the case. Cllr Speed confirmed that the path was in usable condition, with good clearance.

Other Matters are covered under County Matters and Council Business

29/2425 Planning Matters

- a. Applications: no applications currently in consultation.
- b. Decisions: noted.
[ZC24/01157/PBR](#) Proposed conversion of an agricultural building to two dwellings, with associated building works, at Brakehill Farm, YO7 3PH, under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 3, Class of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). *Permission granted subject to conditions.*
- c. NY/2023/0230/FUL. To receive information from Planning Control: The Council had raised concerns that Yorkshire Water had cut down c. fifteen small trees/saplings at the site of their improvements to the sewage treatment works, prior to submitting their Construction Management Plan, and with disregard to their PEA which stated that no vegetation should be removed during the nesting season without obtaining an ornithologist's report. The Minerals and Waste Planning Dept had confirmed to the Clerk that an enforcement officer would visit the site to evaluate what was taking place

30/2425 Financial Matters

- a. Accounts: it was resolved to approve the following for payment:
 1. Barnes Associates, Tree Safety Survey: £330 inc VAT
 2. CE & CM Walker Ltd, grasscutting 8 and 22 May: £393.60 inc VAT
 3. Mrs J Marlow Internal Audit 2023-2024: £120
 4. YLCA Planning System Webinar, Cllr Campbell: £26.30
 5. YLCA Planning Enforcement/Appeals Webinar, Cllr Speed: £26.30
 6. Clerk's salary (28 June 2024): Gross £283.50 Net £233.50
- b. Receipts: none.
- c. To receive the Internal Audit Report for year ending 31 March 2024: the Internal Auditor had found no significant issues but had made some recommendations including that the bank reconciliation is signed quarterly by two councillors, and that budget allocations were included in the cash book against the expenditure headings.
- d. To approve and sign the Exemption Certificate of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for submission to the external auditors, PFK Littlejohn: it was resolved to approve this and it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- e. To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR: it was resolved to approve this and it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- f. To approve and sign the Accounting Statements of the AGAR: it was resolved to approve these and it was signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

- g. To approve the dates for the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the AGAR (Exempt Authority) for the year ending 31 March 2024: The period of 17 June until 26 July was approved. Local electors can inspect the accounts by getting in touch with the Clerk, who confirmed that this information along with the other documents making up the Annual Return would be published on the website.
- h. To receive update on change of bank from Lloyds to Unity Trust: the Clerk reported that she had written to Lloyds to complain about their actions in not transferring council funds to Unity Trust. No reply had been received at the time of the meeting. To return to the Agenda.

31/2425 Council Business

- a. To decide on replacing or refurbishment of the Parish Noticeboard: the refurbishment had not been completed satisfactorily and the contractor had not been paid. It was agreed that three quotes should be sought to make good the repairs.
- b. To receive the annual tree safety survey from Barnes Associates and agree actions, including commissioning the recommended management plan: Barnes Associates had identified six trees in need of some work and the Clerk was asked to obtain three quotes for the recommended work. She was also asked to seek clarification as to what was entailed in the recommended management plan.

Cllr Edwards added that she had received a letter from Northern Powergrid informing her of a date when contractors would be carrying out tree work to free their powerlines, and she had published the information on Facebook.

- c. To make final decision on design of replacement sundial and motto: It was agreed unanimously that the language should be English rather than Latin and that the following motto would be inscribed: *Keep your face towards the sun and the shadows will fall behind you.*
- d. To receive the result of the condition testing of the Maypole, and if appropriate, agree specification for repainting, together with specification for wooden benches: Barnes had carried out the tests on the **maypole** the previous week, but the report had not yet been received. The Clerk asked the council to agree that if the test results were positive, she should seek some quotations for the work before the council meeting in July, based on a specification for treating and repainting that she had drafted; and this was approved for action.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for treating the wooden public benches with wood preservative and carrying out any necessary repairs. Cllr Williams kindly offered to clear the nettles and other vegetation growing around and through the bench on Church Lane. She also suggested that it should be moved to a more suitable position if it was found to be in good condition, and this would return to the Agenda.

- e. To decide on actions to fulfil Biodiversity Duty including considering a suggestion from a Parishioner: a second parishioner had suggested planting wild flowers on the Village Greens. The Council felt that this wasn't feasible for several reasons but mainly because of the high maintenance involved. After discussing various options, it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain costs for owl boxes and swift bricks.

32/2425 Correspondence

- a. To receive YLCA White Rose Bulletin: Of note was the Community Green Spaces fund, details of which would be announced shortly, and an online kit for neighbourhood planning guidance.
- b. To receive the YLCA training programme June-September 2024 and to agree any delegates: the Chairman said he would like to attend the session on the Code of Conduct.
- c. a request from Bereavement Services North Yorkshire Council to complete a survey for their audit of burial grounds: noted, although it was not applicable to the parish of Rainton with Newby.

33/2425 Exchange of Information

No one had anything to impart.

34/2425 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:

Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.03pm