

MINUTES OF RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY  
ZOOM ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Peter Rollings, Chairman (PR)      Cllr Anne Powell, Vice Chairman (AP)  
                 Cllr Jane Wright (JW)                              Cllr Nicholas Murray (NM)  
                 Cllr Helen Butterworth (HB)                      Cllr Andrew Mate (AM)  
                 Cllr John Flynn (JF)

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr Anne Hook (AH), CYC Cllr Paula Widdowson (PW) and The Clerk, Stephanie Warden

**082 Public Comments:** there were no members of the public present

**083 Apologies and Reason for Absence:** Cllr Mark Reynolds (MR)

**084 To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** (not previously declared) by Councillors on any of the agenda items below: none

**085 Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Minutes of 5 October 2020 were proposed by AM, seconded by AP and agreed and signed as a true record.

**086 The Northern Forest:**

PR welcomed PW to the meeting to talk about the plans for the land CYC had bought between Knapton and Rufforth. PW explained that 50,000 trees needed 20 acres. At present there was 11 ½ % tree cover over the City, Fishergate 16% tree cover and over Rufforth with Knapton Parish 7% due to farmers' fields. They would have to be careful not to take away from Minster views. CYC had purchased the 154 acres of land. CYC had employed an intern from the University of York who was looking into funding and it was highly probable that CYC would get some of the money back that had been spent on the land. They would also need £60,000 to do soil sampling etc to turn the land from arable to woodland. CYC were likely to get £1,000,000 to put in trees, cafes etc. It will link to the restoration of Harewood Whin. Paul McCabe and Jane Collingwood are the officers working on the project. Early in the New Year they will be coming out to us to look at models of what they think it should look like. Trees will not be planted until next year but meanwhile wildflowers will be planted. Currently only the area of the woodland is defined. No detail on layout etc. has yet been formulated. PR asked if there was likely to be a steering committee and if so that members of the Parish Council be on it as it was all in our parish. The project group would be likely to agree 2 or 3 councillors to be involved.

PW would arrange for 2 or 3 members to be involved and Ward Councillors will be heavily involved throughout. CYC had already identified the historic Ridge and Furrow fields within the area and no trees would be planted here. PW felt it was important to keep the project moving but keen not to rush and get it wrong. She said the parish council should use AH and James Barker as touch points.

PR said all agreed the principle was good but the devil was in the detail and so it was important that we were involved from the start. He thanked PW for her time. JF was keen to be a part of it but was happy to leave the decision as to who would be on the steering group until we got the details. AH promised to let us know when anything happened.

**087 Ward Councillors' Comments:**

- Bradley Lane road surface: AH would keep at this, CYC were saying it wasn't bad enough at present but councillors were particularly concerned for the safety of cyclists that used Bradley Lane a lot.
- French drain Southfield Close: this was now in Liam's hands. The Clerk had sent him photographs to show where it was.
- The sign to the cemetery had been cleared.

PR had copied into AH the letter he had written to Charlie Croft (CYC) re. Harewood Site entrance and the Allotments. David Mercer was now talking to contractors with the expectation that work would commence in February. The site entrance should have been done 4 years ago and the Allotments had so far taken three years, the delay on both projects was totally unacceptable.

The Clerk would write to James Gilchrist re. Bradley Lane road surface.

#### **088 Clerk's Report:**

- Street Signs: CYC ref: 103963028: the signs had been ordered but were still not in place.
- Hannam Lane dog bin emptying: The Clerk thanked AH for getting CYC to empty this dog bin, AM expressed his thanks also.

#### **089 Finance:**

Monthly financial report by the Clerk

- a. The following payments were ratified:

Clerk's Salary +burial fees 31 October 2020	£ 675.54
PKF Littlejohn LLP for External Audit	£ 240.00
Signs Express (York) for Pinfold sign	£ 106.20
Cardiac Science Holdings for defibrillator electrodes	£ 34.80
Deans Garden Centre for memorial bench	£ 457.50
CYC for Knapton Recreational Field Rent	£ 133.82

It was agreed to pay Andrews Signs & Engravers for the plaque for the memorial bench the sum of £36.00.

It was agreed to pay the Aubergine invoice for £1,437.60 for the new website once NM was happy it should be paid.

- b. Payments received since 5 October 2020:

Invoice 226 Memorial fee	£ 150.00
Invoice 225 Double Interment plot	£ 1800.00

The Clerk had also received a cheque that morning for £2400 for 2 single NBG burial plots.

- c. Funds available: £18,081.54
- d. External Audit: The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had noted the parish council should have due regard to the reserves when setting the precept.

#### **090 Planning Matters:**

The following Planning decisions taken by the council were ratified:

- 20/01605/FUL Ash Farm Yard Rufforth for change of use from agricultural building to storage and distribution (use class B8): the Parish Council have objected to this.

20/00752/FULM Wheatlands, Boroughbridge Road: this application has been amended and council asked to comment on them. The view of the Parish Council was that the amendments did not answer any of the objections it had to the application.

Approved Planning: 20/00929/FUL 69 Main Street for erection of 2.1m high boundary fence to part of front, side and rear boundaries.

20/01210/FUL Lorien, Wetherby Road, Rufforth for single storey rear extension to form attached annexe accommodation

#### **091 Burial Grounds:**

- a. Maintenance in Burial Grounds: it had been too wet to do anything in the Burial Grounds. The Clerk was going to ask the man who cuts the Natural Burial Ground (NBG) for a quote to do 2 cuts next year. HB also asked that she could buy more Burial markers for the NBG, this was agreed.
- b. Burials: there had been no burials but plots purchased in both cemeteries.

#### **092 Restructure of Local Government in York and North Yorkshire:**

CYC had already voted to stay as a Unitary Authority. All agreed to York/North Yorkshire and no one liked the idea of an East/West split.

At this point AP apologized and left the meeting (20:57)

NM proposed an adapted letter stressing the benefits of a combined authority with North Yorkshire and the potential for improved efficiencies. This was agreed 4 for and 2 against. AH would get more information for us on how efficiencies would be achieved.

#### **093 Rufforth:** Cllr Jane Wright gave an update on the following:

- Memorial Seat; the bench was bought and being stored until C. Simpson had given a quote for its fixing. JW would probably get the plaque for the bench the next day.
- Pond and Sand Dykes: nothing to report

#### **094 Cycle tracks, Bridleways and Footpaths:**

- Benches for Rufforth to Knapton bridleway: PR proposed that we get a price for a bench and a quote from C. Simpson for fixing to get a price and then ask for sponsors. It could be a sit upon or a bench. JW seconded and this was agreed.
- Benches at the Knapton end of the track would be delayed until a masterplan was reviewed for the woodland.
- JW had received complaints about cyclists not respecting other users of the paths and bridleways, the need for bells on bikes to warn pedestrians was becoming quite an issue.
- The Avenue to Hutton Wandersley was a footpath and was being used by cyclists directed along it by Google Earth. Google Earth need to know it is not a cycle path. JW proposed more signage on the paths. HB asked if more whips could be bought to plug the gaps in the hedge and this was agreed.

#### **095 Knapton Recreational Field:**

JF would circulate the responses to the council. Responses were very positive and most wanted natural wood play equipment to include swings and climbing apparatus. He said it would complement the new woodland.

#### **096 Website update:**

NM said progress was continuing and they would have a tweak of the colours. Very soon he hoped to be able to show councillors a demo on it.

**097 AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund:**

We had not had an answer as yet on the application for funding. AH had supported the application. To go on next agenda.

**098 Churchyard:**

PR had spoken to the vicar who assured him that the church would have to maintain public liability insurance but was unsure about accidental damage and would come back to PR with the answer. PR confirmed that anything structural that needed doing would have to be done before we took over maintenance of the churchyard.

**099 Representatives Reports:**

YLCA: There had been a meeting early October but had only lasted half an hour and there was not much to report. Code of Conduct Consultation: YLCA's view was that sanctions were not hard enough for councillors who didn't act in a proper manner. The parish council were happy to leave YLCA to respond collectively on our behalf.

**100 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda:**

Next agenda: Knapton recreational Field, Resurfacing work on Back Lane, Knapton, The Budget: councillors to bring ideas for the budget to the next meeting. A small group would be decided to draft a budget for next year following the meeting which would then be fully debated and agreed at the January meeting.

Knapton Woodland was to be a standing item on the agendas from now on.

**101 Date of Next Meeting:** 7 December 2020 by Zoom at 7.30pm

PR thanked those for attending and closed the meeting at 21:46

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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