

# Parish of Rainton with Newby

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Rainton,  
at 7.00pm, Tuesday 10th May 2016

**Present:** Councillors D. Cornmell (Chairman), C Egerton (Vice-Chairman), M Pallott, M Harwood, O Jones, D McCabe and J Williams

**In Attendance:** A Little (Clerk), County Councillor M Atkinson and District Councillor B Bateman.

**Apologies: None**

**Members of the Public: 12**

### Opening address

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. He introduced all members and noted there would be 3 meetings held this evening. First the Annual Parish Meeting. As Chairman of the Parish Council he brought to notice that it was his responsibility to chair this meeting. All other members were present as parishioners of the parish. The second meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman noted that during the past 12 months 2 parishioners had passed away. He asked all to stand for a moments silence to remember them.

No notification had been received from any person of the intention to record, film or broadcast the meeting. An audio recording was being made of the meeting.

#### 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and approved on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were noted.

#### 2. Matters arising from the minutes

The planning issue with the Quarry is still ongoing. Cllr Cornmell advised he has written to Harrogate Borough Council planning department regarding this. He considers it to be deplorable as activities are still continuing and work is being conducted but no action has been taken regarding enforcement.

The Chairman invited Cllr Bateman and County Cllr Atkinson to comment. Cllr Bateman advised that new proceedings were in place with planning and that these things were not seen by the planning committee if they were for less than 50 houses. Cllr Atkinson advised that, unless there is a reason to review it in view of sound pollution they cannot get it to the planning committee.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council whether parishioners have any weight to add to these matters. Cllr Atkinson advised no, it does not matter how many people complain.

Cllr Pallot advised that he has not yet seen a report on safety with regard to this quarry development in light of the A1 and low flying jets in the area. He is concerned about

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safety distances for full bore shooting. Whilst disruption to wildlife is a key issue here, physical safety of human beings should be paramount.

A member of the public suggested that enforcement at Harrogate Borough Council was ineffective. The Chairman also gave examples of occasions when enforcement had been requested but nothing had been done.

Chairman requested that Cllrs Atkinson and Bateman take this forward again.

**Resolved Cllr Atkinson take the matter forward again to planning department**

### 3. Reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Bateman shared their reports with the meeting, copies attached. Cllr Bateman expressed his best wishes to Cllr Cornmell.

### 4. Annual Chairman's Report

Cllr Cornmell shared his outgoing report with the meeting, copy attached.

A member of the public commented on the local plan Harrogate Borough Council supposed to issue this consultation in July and is now going to be October and this is not a good situation for anyone affected another member of the public think the council are coming out for his help with the issue with North Yorkshire water his support has been very much appreciated.

### 5. To consider the future of the Topcliffe and Stephenson charities

These were historical charities for the benefits of all parishioners. Topcliffe is a registered charity and will continue as it is.

The Stephenson charity is not actually a registered charity but was set up by a prominent figure who left £300 in Victorian times with the request that the interest was distributed to buy coal for the widows and widowers in the village. This has been used over recent years to buy TV licenses and recently gift vouchers at £10 each for around 22 parishioners. There is £650 in the account which is achieving 0.45% interest per annum and a decision needs to be made about what to do with this money as currently this is being topped up to allow enough money into the pot to pay for the vouchers.

Councillor Cornmell opened this question or comment from the parishioners. He feels that the gesture to the widows and widowers is nice it is positive that someone thinks about his people to Christmas however in reality this is not financially sustainable. A discussion continued around the best way to split this money to the benefit of the community.

Options were to donate £325 each to the children's Christmas party and over 60s lunch or to continue using the £10 per annum throughout the village for an additional 5 to 6 years. From 2016 no widow or widower would receive the £10 previously allocated.

Notification of this resolution will go in the newsletter and the Parish Council will continue to send a Christmas card.

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**Resolved that the Stephenson charity money is drawn and split equally between the Recreation Association, with a request that they consider this to be put towards the Children's Christmas party, and the over 60s lunch.**

### 6. District Local and Rainton Parish Plan

Information from the Chairman's report was reiterated. Suggested sites for the new plan, which were requested in 2014 under the Freedom of Information Act request to Harrogate Borough Council, include sites at Brakehill Farm; one at Grange Farm and one on Appletons village farm land. There was no assessment at that point however the draft plan for 2016 includes the sites and concerns are raised about them.

There is criticism that Harrogate Borough Council have made changes to when the local plan will be submitted and parishioners will not know until at least October if a suggested sites will be included. The chairman advised that Grange Farm has already had permission for nine dwellings granted.

A member of the public commented that this is an appalling problem and planning in Harrogate is severely lacking. It appears that our representatives have no impact on the planning decisions and there is concern that these will slip through unchecked. This brings into question the value of the Village Plan. Cllr Cornmell responded that all the parish colleagues are mindful of this, which is why it is intended that the Village Plan be produced in August so the Parish Council is ready to respond to the local plan. A member of the public suggested that Harrogate Borough Council planning department is not fit for purpose and does not show accountability to anyone, especially if county and district councillors and parish councils have no weight. The chairman expressed his own disappointment in the planning department.

Cllr Pallott advised that the Parish Council has gone through the options that would have least impact on Rainton considering rail and bus links and road networks. Cllr Harwood advised that the parish plan incorporated the sites above mentioned and that the Parish Council had requested no further planning be approved without off road parking. A member of the public suggested this should also incorporate drainage.

Another member of the public suggested it is not particularly where they want to build that is the issue, it is more the manner in which Harrogate Borough Council conduct their business. It was suggested the planning department should be accountable and the parishioner requested that the Parish Council approach the local member of Parliament. The Chairman agreed this is the only way we can go forward.

**Resolved the Parish Council will write to MP Julian Smith regarding their disappointment with Harrogate Borough Council Planning Department**

### 7. Village Survey

Cllr Cornmell advised that the Parish Council felt that the amount of respondents to the village was gratifying and the results of it have been circulated to all members of the public as a summary.

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A member of the public offered thanks to the Parish Council, particularly the outgoing clerk for getting the their street named correctly.

Another member the public offered Cllr Cornmell and Mrs Andrews very big thank you for their work within the village and wished them all the best in the future as they have been a splendid Chairman and Clerk and done a tremendous amount for the village.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed  
Chairman  
Date