

**MINUTES OF RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY
ZOOM ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr Peter Rollings (PR) Chairman
Cllr John Flynn (JF)
Cllr Jane Wright (JW)
Cllr Nick Murray (NM)

Cllr Anne Powell (AP) Vice chairman
Cllr Helen Butterworth (HB)
Cllr Andrew Mate (AM)

In Attendance: Ward Councillor Anne Hook (AH), Stephanie Warden (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

066 Public Comments:

The Chairman of the Rufforth Playing Fields Association (RPFA), Craig Hurst, spoke proposing that the leaders of the various organisations within Rufforth work closer together i.e. the Parish Council, Village hall and RPFA. No one disagreed with his proposal and JW suggested that it would be a good idea to include Rufforth PTA. As the parish council were in the process of developing a new website it was an opportunity to link in with the RPFA and for Craig to add to the newsletter. PR said that they were aware there was to be a Drive in Cinema on the airfield, the RPFA had nothing to do with it and Craig thought it was probably on the long runway where the bike training takes place. The RPFA was to introduce a Dogs Only on Lead policy to try to reduce the dog fouling on the playing pitches. They would give it 3 months to see if this sorted out the problem and if not would look at stronger measures. They were working with CYC on this problem and had given permission for CYC to go onto the Playing Fields. Craig was told that he would be fully supported by the parish council in this. NM asked whether RPFA would consider a fenced off area where dogs could be exercised off the lead.

At this point Craig Hurst left the meeting.

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

068 To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared) by Councillors on any of the agenda items below: there were none.

069 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Minutes of 7 September 2020 were proposed by AM, seconded by HB and agreed.

070 Ward Councillors' Comments:

- Bradley Lane road surface: AH had not managed to get anywhere with this but would keep on trying. JW said that the surface of Bradley Lane was very dangerous for cyclists, the worst on the bends by Ash Farm. NM said that the issue was due to overhanging trees, the trees were very big and needed cutting back. NM and AH were to meet up at 11 am the next day to look at the problem.
- French drain Southfield Lane: AH said that council would be relieved to hear that CYC were no longer going ahead with the bollards on the lane and she would keep on working to get CYC to resurrect the French drain.

- CYC plans for Northern Forest: CYC own 154 acres of farmland between Rufforth and Knapton and are looking to apply for funding to plant trees and 35 acres of wildflowers. They are also wanting to create a cycle path between Back Lane, Knapton and Beckfield Lane. PR and JW were agreed that they would not want to see trees planted on the ancient ridge and furrow farmland by where the allotments are going. This area was of historical interest and should be retained. AH would try to get some good maps to show exactly where planting would take place. The Parish Council needed more information before planting started in November. It was also acknowledged that cycle paths and trees don't go well together with slippery leaves in Autumn. AP said the state of Back Lane was in such a poor state that the surface would need doing if cyclists were going to be encouraged to use it.
Next agenda: Northern Forest: AH would ask Cllr Paula Widdowson to attend the meeting.
- There had been an accident near the old allotments in Rufforth due to a slippery road surface in wet weather. There was an issue at this spot with speed and council had already requested 40mph signs before the 30mph limit like the other end of the village.
- The grant applied for to reduce traffic speeds was now with North Yorkshire and a shortlist would come back to the 95 team. We would not hear until the very end of October, at the earliest, if we have been successful.

071 Clerk's Report:

Street Signs: CYC ref: 103963028: The signs that need replacing had been ordered and overgrown foliage cut back from signs. AH would have a look at the overgrown Southfield Lane Cemetery sign on her way back out of Rufforth.

072 Finance:

The Clerk had produced a monthly financial report to councillors.

- a. The following payments were ratified :

Clerk's Salary +burial fees 30 September	£ 404.04
Clerk's expenses last quarter	£ 129.62
Sports Turf Services for cutting NBG	£ 180.00
The Parish of Marston Moor for newsletter printing	£ 146.69
Cardiac Science Holdings for defibrillator battery	£ 228.00
Falon Nameplates for memorial plaque	£ 131.70

It was also agreed to pay for another year of Parish Online following the proposal by PR and seconding by JW. The Clerk would now pay the invoice. £ 78.00

- b. Payments received since 9 September 2020: 2nd half precept £ 5450.00
- c. Funds available: £19351.11

073 Planning Matters:

Planning decisions taken by the council to be ratified:

- 20/01210/ Lorien Rufforth for single storey rear extension to form attached annex accommodation: revised plans had been submitted which made the extension less long: the parish council had no objections
- 20/01630/FUL Mayfield Nurseries Mill Lane Rufforth for erection of 2 polytunnels and installation of 1 rainwater harvesting tank: there were no objections to this application

- 20/01619/FUL 2 New House Covert, Knapton for partial garage conversion and enclosure of alcove to rear- retrospective: there were no objections to this application
- 20/01447/FUL Wooley Edge Farm Rufforth for erection of agricultural building for the storage of machinery and equipment: there were no objections to this.

Responses to planning Applications to be agreed:

- Ash Farm Yard Rufforth for change of use from agricultural building to storage and distribution (use class B8): It was agreed that the parish council would object to this. PR would draft a response to go round councillors for approval before the Clerk sent to CYC.

Planning Decisions by CYC:

- 20/01455/FUL 18 Bradley Lane Rufforth for single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory (resubmission): this application had been approved
- 20/00358/FUL OS Field SE 5351 Middlewood Close, Rufforth for erection of steel framed barn: this application had been refused.

074 Burial Grounds:

- a. To decide on the proposal to purchase additional land to provide additional capacity for the natural burial ground: PR had circulated a paper on this with calculations in order councillors could make a reasoned decision. All were happy with the basis of the calculations. After some discussion it was proposed by JF that PR and HB speak to the landowner to ask if it were possible to purchase some more land, JW seconded the proposal and all agreed.
- b. Maintenance in Burial Grounds: The Natural Burial Ground had been cut and the invoice paid. It was agreed that it needed cutting twice a year next year and would cut once the spring flowers were gone. The rabbit problem would be sorted shortly.
- c. Burials: There had been no burials during September and it was agreed to widen the area that the NBG would take from.

075 Rufforth: Cllr Jane Wright updated on the following:

- Pinfold: JW was waiting for the Parish Council information sign to come this week. Both that and the Heritage Lottery logo would then be put up. It was agreed the Pinfold could come off future agendas.
- Pond and Sand Dykes: JW had spoken to Bear Tree Care and had been told the work to Sand Dykes would cost about £500. The Goat Willow at the front was not likely to grow high. JW proposed to leave cutting back until next year, this was agreed. The tree that had come down at the pond was not causing an issue. Jim Cavanagh from CYC drainage was going to get some work done to clear the pond and ditches.

076 Benches for the cycle track:

AM asked for one below the cattle crush before the woodland and one just before the Foss Beck bridge, they would need to be set well back from the cycle track. Yorwaste would have no objection to benches but CYC had not yet come back to the Clerk. One bench was to be kindly donated and it was suggested that sponsorships be explored for other benches. It was agreed in principle that benches would be sited along the bridleway with sponsorship and permission would be sought from the landowners.

AP apologized and left the meeting at 20:57.

077 Hedge Planting, Knapton:

Hedging had already been bought for along the top of the allotments but unfortunately a grant to provide hedging down the side of the allotments and into Knapton had been rejected by the Ward. Treemendous had sourced free hedging and it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay £325 +VAT for weedkilling alongside the bridleway. Treemendous would maintain the hedging for the first 2 years and David Meigh (CYC) had agreed to maintain the hedging after that.

078 Website update:

NM reported that the Accessibility Statement was now on the website. Charlotte would be speaking to Aubergine this week and would be able to do a short demonstration on the website at the next meeting. PR proposed a separate meeting to do this, it was agreed.

079 Representatives Reports:

Yorwaste Liaison Meeting: Covid 19 had delayed the work to the site entrance due to start 30 March 2020, since then fibres had been discovered by City Fibre when Virgin moved there's to allow work to begin. PR asked AH to put pressure on David Mercer (CYC) to get it done.

Some waste vehicles were coming through Rufforth that were nothing to do with Yorwaste. Yorwaste were now questioning the affordability of being able to put a scenic route around the top of the site. Kevin Smith (Head of Corporate Services) agreed he would raise it at the next budget meeting to look at for next year. There was no longer a site manager at Harewood Whin, supervisors reported to an area site manager. Council should continue to liaise with Kevin Smith who now has an office at Harewood Whin.

JW, PR and NM had looked at the Government White Paper consultation and had completed it last week. The key part was that it was vital that protected areas were protected as the current Green Belt is. It is important that communities retain a say on development in their area and simplification can best be achieved by decentralisation.

080 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda:

Next agenda: memorial seat, traffic, seats on cycle path and Knapton Recreational Field. The Chestnut Tree, Rufforth was not diseased. The resident by the tree had been told we were unable to force the landowner to cut the tree back. The resident had the right to cut branches overhanging her property. The Clerk would chase CYC regarding the trees boughs now reaching right over into the middle of the road. AH would have a look at it tomorrow when in the village.

081 Date of Next Meeting: 2 November 2020 by Zoom at 7.30pm

PR thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.29pm

Signed _____ Date _____

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