

**MINUTES OF THE RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD IN RUFFORTH VILLAGE INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 5  
JUNE at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Peter Rollings (PR), Chairman; Cllr Nicholas Murray (NM), Vice Chairman; Cllr Linda Young (LY); Cllr Terence Edmonds (TE); Cllr Frank Di Lorenzo (FD); Cllr Suzanne Flynn (SF):

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillors Anne Hook (AH); Emilie Knight (EK); the Clerk, Stephanie Warden (SW); 2 members of the public:

**102 Public Comments:** None

**103 To receive the apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:** Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Butterworth.

**104 To consider the approval of reason given for absence:** the reason given for absence was approved.

**105 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared):** None

**106 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 May 2023:** these were proposed as a true record of the meeting by FD, seconded by LY and agreed.

**107 Knapton Ward Vacancy:** Gary Thompson (GT), resident of Knapton for 5 years asked to be considered as a Knapton Ward Councillor. LY provided some back ground to the late proposal of GT and hoped the council would support the appointment on the basis the council would have Knapton residents occupying the three Knapton councillor seats, which had not been the situation for a number of years. Gary had been a teacher for several years and a member of the senior leadership team in his last school in Shropshire before moving back to the York area. He was still heavily involved in working with children in education. He was keen to be involved in the new woodland and would like to try to get the pub back open in Knapton. LY proposed him to be co-opted onto the council, NM seconded and all were agreed. GT signed his Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to join the council.

**108 Ward Councillors Comments and Reports:** EK was trying to get the verges on Bradley Lane cut, AH was working on Knapton Green and other areas of overgrown verges around the Ward. Ben Grabham is the CYC officer in charge of the grass cutting teams.

The change in software used in the elections by CYC had resulted in changes to parish boundaries and residents at Acomb Grange had been moved from Rufforth to Knapton Ward without prior notification to either the residents concerned or the Parish Council. The result was they had been unable to vote in Rufforth at the election. AH is following up this.

AH was hopeful that the Local Plan would remain unchanged by the newly elected CYC council.

## 109 Clerks Report:

- Verges on Bradley Lane: EK was looking into this.
  - Litter Picking on Bradley Lane: AH would follow up with the resident concerned.
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- Public restricted Byway Knapton 4 Modification Order 2010: on 16 May 2023, an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State modified and confirmed the Modification Order. The effect of the confirmed order is to modify the definitive map by adding the public restricted byway from Grange Lane to Rufforth Airfield.  
TE brought up PROWs and especially the Rufforth to Hessay footpath which is obscured by vegetation and is impossible to follow.

## 110 Planning Matters:

- 23/00626/FULM Solar Farm update: PR is to have an informal meeting with the planning officer in charge of this application in Rufforth and will show him the views of Rufforth from the Bridleway. It is a major application and so will be decided by the planning committee. The land is classed as 3b which is moderate to good and not poor as the planning application has stated. The Gliding Club have strongly objected and challenged the flight report. FD was concerned that Rufforth residents hadn't responded to the consultation in any number. Closer to the date of the Planning Committee meeting there was a need to make residents more aware of the issues involved. FD had sent out an aerial photograph of the land involved in the application and a site plan showing the extent of the site. This will be placed in the minute file for reference.

## 111 Finance: Monthly report

a) The following payments were proposed by LY, FD seconded and all were agreed:

Clerk May salary + burial fees	£ 792.11
Realise Futures for 2x benches Knapton Play Area	£1010.74
YLCA for Planning reforms webinar Cllr. Murray	£ 25.00
b) Agreed last meeting: BHIB Council Insurance	£ 788.07

c) Payments Received:

Invoice 288 for NBG interment	£ 420.00
Invoice 289 for 2 plots and 1 interment	£2940.00

d) Funds Available: £11680.62

e) Healthcare Fund: It was proposed by PR that the Healthcare Fund currently £110.50 that had sat in the account for a considerable number of years be put into funds available. FD seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The invoice had gone out to the allotment holders for this year's rent but had not yet been paid. SW was to invoice them for the keys to the shed.

## 112 Burial Grounds:

a) Report on Burials: There had been two interments during May in the Natural Burial Ground and one in the formal burial ground.

b) Maintenance in Burial Grounds: The pit needed emptying and the carpark and footpath attending to.

**113 Knapton Issues:** A response had gone to a complainant regarding disabled access to the Knapton Play Area and there had been no further response from them. There was no update on the Red Lion. Knapton councillors would monitor the situation and propose action by the Parish Council as and when appropriate.

There had been bother with a group of young lads and the police had been involved. The neighbourhood Watch was no longer active in Knapton and NM said he would look into the current situation in both Wards.

SW would email Dave Meigh about the latest grass cutting in the Recreational Field, it had been cut but was growing badly in between pieces of play equipment, it had not been a good job.

SF would write a good news story about the benches for the website and Facebook post.

There had been a litter issue in the play area since the installation of the benches, it was agreed that SF would investigate getting some signage regarding litter on the gates.

- Community Woodland: PR would contact Nick Short to arrange a liaison meeting with LY

**114 Traffic Management:** Council had asked for a 40mph buffer zone before the 30mph on Bradley Lane. CYC had decided it was better to extend the 30mph to before the bad bend. A 20mph zone was also up for consultation between the two chicanes outside school. The CYC consultation on these proposals was now complete and it will now go back to the Executive for final approval.

Enforcement measures will be decided once it is approved between CYC and the Police. There would also be countdown bars at the Wetherby end of the 30mph zone.

TE had written a report, a copy of which is in the minute file. Speed Watch restarted on 20 April and a total of 15 sessions had been completed. A total of 93 vehicles were reported to the North Yorkshire Police Community Speed Watch Team. Rufforth had not received the data from the VAS since October 2022 despite repeated requests, although this had now been received immediately prior to the meeting. TE suggested monitoring between the chicanes took place before the 20mph signs were put in, there followed much discussion. PR proposed that nothing was done between the chicanes until the 20mph signs were in place then data logging could be looked at. 5 councillors agreed by raising their hands and so the proposal was carried.

**115 Rufforth Issues:** Pond: The main issue was the fence and gate. All councillors were happy and grateful for Terry's proposals for mending the fence and gate. The fallen tree needed to come out. SW would ask Jim Cavanagh, CYC Drainage Engineer, if he'd be prepared to come out on an advisory basis to look at and advise on what needed to be done.

SW would ask AJT Garden Services to cut the grass between the pond fence and the road.

**116 Representatives' Reports:**

a) Rural West York Team and residents Forum Meetings – none as yet but they are being set up

b) York Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association: 8 June 2023

c) Yorwaste Liaison Group: 7 July at 3pm at Harewood Whin with Rufforth representatives meeting at 2pm

d) Rufforth Playing Fields Association: 18 July 2023

**117 Website and Key Communications:**

- The councillor page would be updated within the next 2 weeks with councillor profiles, councillors would send a 2-3 line summary to the clerk and would be amended for consistency and the website amended.
- Consultancy Arrangements: this is to go on the next agenda.

**118 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda:** YLCA had put out a survey of remote meetings, PR and NM would look at it and complete. Different individual households on Bradley Lane had reported seeing rats. FD had rung the council regarding this. Individuals who see rats should contact the council and if they do not get a response the parish council would back it up.

**119 Date of next meeting:** Monday 3 July 2023 in Rufforth Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

PR closed the meeting at 9:50 pm and thanked all those for attending.

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