

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF RUDBY PARISH BURIAL BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 8
MARCH AT 7.15PM**

In attendance: Councillor E Foden (chairman), Councillors K Clifford, A Collingwood, T Jopling, A Mortimer, D Simpson, S Tate, N Thompson, A Voke, County Councillor D Hugill, District Councillor Fortune, one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence. Councillor McCluskey. The Chair welcomed John Saxton as a new Councillor.

2. Drainage of Burial Ground.

The drainage ditch at the back of the new burial ground continues to work well. The Council has been given conflicting advice on what further steps if any are needed. After discussion it was agreed that to seek specialist advice to make sure that we do not put the water course at risk. Clerk to find specialist contractors that can be approached.

3. Resignation of burial contractors and appointment of new contractors.

The mechanical digger used by the current grave diggers has broken and will not be replaced. They are now dependent on being able to hire a digger which may restrict their availability and will also increase costs.

There was a discussion as to whether funeral directors should be asked to organise grave diggers or whether RPC should continue to instruct the grave diggers directly. It was agreed that for now we will continue to organise the grave digging although that may need to be reviewed in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk will draw up a protocol setting out our requirements and we can then seek tenders. Ideally, we need a local contractor who is reliably available at short notice.

4. Review of burial fees.

The Clerk and Councillor Thompson have made some initial enquiries. Our current charges are significantly lower than other local burial grounds. Any new contractors are likely to charge more than we have been paying. Fees are usually reviewed in October. It was agreed that the fees must cover our costs, to include grave digging, the maintenance and management of the burial ground and other associated costs.

**AGENDA FOR THE REMOTE MEETING OF RUDBY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8
March 2021 FOLLOWING THE ABOVE MEETING**

In attendance: Councillor E Foden (chairman), Councillors K Clifford, A Collingwood, T Jopling, A Mortimer, D Simpson, S Tate, N Thompson, A Voke, County Councillor D Hugill, District Councillor Fortune, one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Councillor McCluskey.
2. **Minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 17 February 2021.**

Councillor Mortimer proposed that both minutes be approved, seconded by Councillor Simpson, all in favour.

Meeting open to the public. Zoom Meeting ID: 899 6016 7133 Passcode: 369281

The member of public had no comments. The meeting was closed to the public.

3. **Co-option of new Councillor.** Councillor Saxton was congratulated on his appointment and was welcomed to the meeting.
4. **Presentation by Living Leven project followed by questions and answers (THIS WAS HEARD BEFORE THE BURIAL BOARD MEETING).**

Judy Power of Living Leven introduced herself and gave a very interesting presentation. The Leven has the potential to be a good trout and salmon river but currently has one of the highest levels of sediment of any river in the country. The project aims to address water quality concerns and make it somewhere people can spend time recreationally. The aspiration is to create a legacy of sustainability, it is a good fit with both regional and national priorities and links in with other initiatives. The next two years will be spent gathering information and planning to make sure it is fit for purpose before starting work in April 2023 with a view to completing in 2028, although the scope of the project may be increased. Estimated cost is £4.5m. Work will include facilitating migration and habitats of fish and other species, controlling the river flow with natural measures to avoid flooding, supporting farmers to be able to provide high quality accommodation for visitors and to develop best practice management of wetlands, educating visitors on the ecology of the river, and teaching them how to behave responsibly in the countryside.

The initiative was welcomed by Councillors. The river is an important asset to the village. Councillors identified trees in the river as potential hazards and noted the amount of sediment washed up onto footpaths during recent flooding. Anything that can be done to improve the quality and longevity of footpaths would be very welcome. Judy agreed to share the outcome of the survey to be done to identify pinch points and particular areas of concern. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome. Councillor Fortune said that the project should look at the numbers of septic tanks that run close to the river and cause effluent to flood into the river at time of heavy rain – this may be something that needs to be addressed with the Environment Agency with a view to installing proper drainage.

5. **Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch.** A report was sent on 8 March. There are several NHS phone scams circulating. Residents are reminded that the NHS does not charge for vaccines. The report was noted.

6. **Matters arising.**

a. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor Mortimer advised that the most recent grant has been received. £50 has been spent on the cost of KVA Planning at a steering group meeting. There is an agreement in principle to meet with Broadacres. The steering group has provided its feedback to Broadacres. There are lots of positives in the Broadacres proposal at Paddocks End; there are also a few unknowns but that is to be expected at this early stage and should not be seen as negative. It is hoped to be able to start planning for the consultation process by early May with a view to holding the consultations in mid-June. By then the Local Plan examination process will be substantially completed and that should also give time to reach a resolution with Broadacres. The Local Plan evidence on traveller sites has now been published and RPC will be responding to the consultation.

b. **Footpaths.**

Footpath near the Spar – Councillor Collingwood had a helpful site meeting with Spar management who have agreed to restore and maintain the width of the path to 1m. It has been referred to Arietty and Andy Brown at NYCC for information and to follow up if needed.

Pathkeepers – Due to Covid-19 restrictions it has not been possible to resume this project nor is it clear when it will be able to be done, although individuals may be able to carry out localised pruning in due course. One main area identified as needing future work is in the valley between Hutton Rudby and Crathorne.

Chappies Field – Councillor Collingwood has contacted Arrietty at NYCC and has been informed that the person who confirmed that they had erected the fence is now saying that they are not legally responsible for it. Andy Brown of NYCC has confirmed via the Land Registry who is legally responsible and has written to them. If the correct public right of way is not restored an enforcement notice will be served. The path is not currently safely passable. Councillor Hugill reported that he had spoken to Mr Jake Preston. Councillor Hugill made it clear to Mr Preston that it is not a safe route, in particular the barbed wire and the exposed roots and brambles need to be remedied urgently. He has also raised the installation of the stile, as this makes the public right of way less accessible, and that the path no longer follows the public right of way, as well as being less than the minimum legal width. Mr Preston has said that there was previously a stile. Councillors noted that there has not been one for many years, and the height of the stile installed is difficult for less able residents and older dogs; Councillors would like to see its removal or re-design. Councillor Hugill will pursue matters further with Mr Preston, Andy Brown and the NYCC legal department. The Councillors unanimously agreed that RPC fully supports NYCC in

restoring the path to the correct legal position and for the path to be made accessible, safe, and useable by residents.

Footpath from the Wynd to Sexhow – Councillor Jopling has obtained a quote of £900 plus VAT to finish off the path, seconded by Councillor Voke, all were in favour. There may be funding available from NYCC in May.

c. Village Hall and Play Area.

The Village Hall Management Committee have identified a succession issue and are making plans to address this. Councillor Simpson has been examining the relationship between the Village Hall and RPC and will report on this in the next couple of months.

d. Sports Area – repairs to equipment, health and safety notices, s106 funds.

Goal posts and other equipment have been delivered, to be installed soon. Residents are reminded that dogs are not allowed on any part of the site. A quote has been obtained for repairs to the BMX track, Councillor Jopling to see if the work can be done more cheaply.

e. Village Green.

The primary school have advised that they will be holding an event on 17 July. This prompted a further discussion about the possibility of organising some kind of event after the summer. Concerns were expressed about the risks of organising anything, problems of obtaining insurance, issues with being able to direct volunteers if we cannot meet in person and the risk of people being on holiday, but also that there is pent up demand for people to be able to meet. One option may be to choose a day for people to bring their own picnics on the green so that there is minimal organisation needed, possibly just some clearing up afterwards. It was agreed to keep it under review. A low-key event will not need as much planning so can be done at shorter notice.

7. Planning applications.

The following applications have been received by the Council. Full details of any responses are available on www.hambleton.gov.uk/homepage/16/planning

- a. 21/00078/MRC Oakwood Farm, Tame Bridge. Application for variation of condition 4 (caravan numbers - to increase the caravan numbers from 2 to 5) to application 16/00522/FUL for Change of use of land to a private gypsy site and new access and the siting of a caravan and tourer (granted on appeal reference APP/G2713/W/16/3165207). The Council recommended refusal. Noted.
- b. 21/00116/FUL Land North West of Hawthorns, Tame Bridge. Change of use of grazing land to provide 23 log cabins and 4 glamping pods. Together with associated parking, spine road and private pumping station. The Council recommended refusal. Noted.
- c. 20/02573/FUL 19 Woodside, Hutton Rudby. Two storey side extension as amended by plans received 11 February 2021. The Council recommended approval subject to a bat survey. Noted.

- d. 21/00280/FUL Parkhurst 27 North Side, Hutton Rudby. Demolition of an existing conservatory to the rear which will allow for a proposed single storey extension to the rear with flat roof and lantern feature to include a stepped raised patio area. The Council recommended approval. Noted.
- e. 21/00304/MRC Plot 1 OS Field 2719 Stokesley Road, Hutton Rudby. Application for variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) for previously approved application 20/01673/FUL. As new drawings S563(PL)03B, S563(PL)04B and S563(PL) 05B received by Hambleton District Council on 5 February 2021. The Council recommended approval. Noted.

8. Reports from County and District Councillors.

Councillor Fortune said that she was glad to be able to attend again after almost a year isolating and shielding and with no access to Zoom although she was always available by phone and email. She congratulated the Council on the Christmas tree and lights around the Green. Councillor Fortune said she has been contacted by a few residents about the census letter - it is not a scam and must be completed. The Make a Difference Grant process is almost complete, many smaller villages have been allocated sums. The Prison site in Northallerton is looking good with two new supermarkets and other retailers coming on board. The new crematorium is being built and should be operational by September. A new leisure centre has been built in Thirsk and works have been done to the centres in Bedale, Northallerton and Stokesley.

Councillor Hugill confirmed that Coronavirus case numbers are well down on the national average although there are still concerns in parts of the county and the numbers breaching lockdown are increasing. Last month there were 255 fines of which half were to people from outside NYCC. There will not be any local elections this year whilst the local government reform consultation is completed, this may lead to a boundary review. Improved broadband rollout continues and residents should have a look at the NYNet website which identifies properties where an upgrade is available.

9. Draft protocol for tree and hedgerow removal.

Councillors congratulated Councillor Mortimer on a strong piece of work which will guide residents on what RPC is likely to decide. Councillor Collingwood proposed it be agreed, Councillor Simpson seconded, approved unanimously. Councillor Fortune said that she has a number of maps showing drains, lights and a list of abbreviations used by HDC which she can pass to the Clerk.

10. Climate change policy.

Councillors congratulated Councillor Simpson on a very good document which contains a lot of useful information. Councillors Saxton and Voke volunteered to help progress it. Councillor Collingwood proposed that it be adopted, Councillor Thompson seconded, approved unanimously.

11. Finance.

Employer's summary February 2021.

Change of address acknowledged by Barclays.

Tees River Trust overpaid cheque.

Clerk's December salary missing cheque.

All the above was noted, new cheques to be issued in respect of those missing or overpaid. Barclays have sent through online banking authorisations. It will be necessary for the Clerk to become a signatory in order for her to be able to carry out administrative work, but she will not be a cheque or payment signatory. The new systems will be put in place by the start of the financial year. Councillor Jopling proposed that this be agreed, seconded by Councillor Foden, approved unanimously.

12. Activities list - updates and decisions needed

Clock on the Methodist Chapel. The clerk advised that legal advice has been obtained which allows us to carry out the health and safety work. It was agreed that quotes will be obtained for both boarding and a loft ladder and we can then decide whether to do both or not.

Noticeboards. After discussion it was agreed to get quotes for a metal board at the Spar large enough to take a minimum of 9 A4 sheets, location to be agreed with the Spar. No new board at the Village Hall as no suitable location could be agreed upon.

Trees for Tomorrow. Councillor Simpson advised that some 500 trees have been planted in the last two seasons.

13. Decisions of Hambleton District Planning

- a. 21/00027/NEWDEL Notification of registered Site location: Plot 1 OS Field 2719, Stokesley Road, Hutton Rudby, and formal postal address: Sunridge, Stokesley Road, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, TS15 0JJ. Noted.
- b. Appeal Ref: APP/G2713/W/20/3260334 Blue Barn Lane, Rudby TS15 0JG against the decision of Hambleton District Council. The application Ref 20/01349/OUT, dated 25 June 2020, was refused by notice dated 13 August 2020. The development proposed is the erection of 2no. dwellings. The appeal was refused. Noted.

14. Accounts

Charlton Services repairs to river footpath	£2496.00
YLCA Planning Enforcement and Appeals webinar	£ 22.50
Inside Out Services repairs to play equipment at sports field	£ 400.00
GGN Sportscare burial charges	£ 200.00
Clerk's pay February 2021	£ 587.77
Stationery supplies	£ 16.60
Stamps	£ 39.00

Money received

Allotment fee	£ 20.00
Northern Powergrid wayleaves payment	£ 11.50
Burial fee	£ 357.00
Village hall, contribution towards cost of repairs to play equipment	£1900.00

15. Correspondence

- a. NY Police email regarding fraud dated 4 February 2021. The clerk has responded. Noted.
- b. NY Police email dated 10 February 2021 regarding covid vaccination email scam. Noted.
- c. HDC weekly briefing 5, 12, 19, 24 February 2021. Noted.
- d. Email on behalf of of the 6 district and borough councils of Craven, Harrogate, Richmond, Ryedale, Scarborough, and Selby in respect of local government reorganisation dated 15 February 2021. Noted.
- e. Safer Hambleton Hub newsletter February 2021. Noted.
- f. Civic Voice update 19 February 2021. Noted.
- g. Email from Seamer Parish Council Clerk. Noted.
- h. Email from NY Police 22 February 2021 regarding email scam – proposed £1m grant from the NHS in relation to Covid. Noted.
- i. Highways Asset Management email 24 February 2021 regarding grass cutting of verges funding available. The clerk to check the amounts paid as it is thought we previously got two payments. Councillor Thompson proposed that we retain the current system of taking the funding and retaining responsibility for cutting the verges, seconded by Councillor Jopling, approved unanimously.
- j. Electoral registrar confirmation of election for The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is taking on Thursday 6 May 2021, notices to be displayed on 15 March and 27 April. Noted.
- k. North Yorkshire Police email dated 24 February 2021 with survey on dog thefts for completion by 12 March 2021. <http://bit.ly/DogTheftSurveyNY> . Noted.
- l. YLCA training bulletin 25 February 2021. Noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.