

# RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RUFFORTH VILLAGE INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Peter Rollings (PR), Chairman; Cllr. Nick Murray (NM), Vice Chairman; Cllr. Frank Di Lorenzo (DL); Cllr. Terry Edmonds (TE); Cllr. Gary Thompson (GT); Cllr. V Kirk (VK); Cllr Suzie Flynn (SF); Cllr Linda Young (LY):

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillor Emilie Knight (EK) & two members of the public.

**146 Public Comments:** See 154 Planning Matters

**147 To receive the Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:**  
The Clerk, Stephanie Warden (SW)

**148 To consider the approval of reason given for absence:** Approved

**149 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared):**  
none were declared on the items below.

**150 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 September 2024.**  
FD proposed the minutes as a true record, TE seconded and they were agreed and adopted.

**151 Review of Policies, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:**

- **Lone Working:** Minor change need to home working. TE to amend and circulate. **Action TE**
- **Other Policies:** Data Protection & Co-option. PR & SW to update and circulate. **Action PR/SW**
- **Burial Grounds:** Finalisation of revisions to procedures still required. **Action LY**
- **Employment Policies:** As these are covered by legislation it was agreed that no separate policies are needed. SF confirmed that the Clerk's Contract of employment and associated terms and conditions had been updated and agreed to circulate a summary of recent changes.

**Action SF**

**152 Ward Councillors Comments and Reports:** EK reported that she and Anne Hook are campaigning to safeguard Winter Fuel Allowance. She is working on holding Ward Surgeries in both villages and will update on this at next meeting.

**153 Clerks Report:** A copy of the report is in the minute file. Various issues were dealt with under separate headings below. PR updated the meeting on plans to relocate the allotments compost site and CYC have been requested to remove old fencing from the Bridleway bridge into the Foss Beck.

**154 Planning Matters:**

Updates:

- Land behind Middlewood Close re. concerns over flooding and site security. Ongoing civil action has resulted in the developer acquiring additional land to address drainage issues, although there doesn't appear to be a solution to the dispute as yet.
- Harewood Whin Green Energy Park: PR's meeting with the new Project Manager, planned for September has now been postponed

until November while various technical issues and options are still being evaluated.

- York Local Plan: There was nothing new to report

Applications.

**24/01216/FUL OS FIELD SE 5351 Middlewood Close Rufforth for Erection of 2no. agricultural buildings and associated farm workers dwelling.**

A resident spoke to seek assurances from the applicant that this would not create a precedent for future development.

The applicant, a local farmer, then spoke to explain the need to make changes to the facility to safeguard the security of the site, particularly in light of the ongoing housing development on Middlewood Close and the influx of new residents who might be tempted to stray onto the land with the risk of contaminating the new pigs that are held there in isolation for 6 weeks, prior to integration into the main farm. It was thought that, by housing the manager there in the dwelling, this might discourage trespassers. Assurances were given that there would be no increase in traffic and the farmer was quite prepared to accept an Agricultural tie on the house which, being located in the green belt, would make it difficult to add further development at a later date. He also agreed to a condition relating to vehicle movements during school access periods.

When asked about the style of the farmworkers dwelling, he explained about the needs and expectations of employing the right staff, so the house needed to provide good, modern accommodation.

Councillors then discussed the application and agreed unanimously to offer their support.

**24/01713/FUL 15 Bradley Crescent, Rufforth for single storey extension to existing garage.** Discussed and agreed unanimously to no objection.

**24/00089/FUL Manor Farm Wetherby Road Rufforth York YO23 3QF Conversion of barn to form 1no. dwelling with installation of solar panels and associated external alterations**

This has been approved by CYC with a number of conditions.

**155 Finance: Monthly report**

a) The following payments were ratified following SF's proposal, FD seconding and all agreed:

Clerk: September salary and burial ground fees	£ 631.10
Clerk Expenses last quarter	£ 95.93
PAYE to HMRC last ¼	£ 505.53
Grass Cutting x2 AJT Garden Services inv4566	£ 763.00
Invoice 2240932 Falon Nameplates for memorial plaque	£ 182.12
Invoice 78068606 Website Mailbox	£ 8.46
Inv000011 A Slodki for work to formal burial ground border	£ 104.00
Inv2240955 Falon nameplates for memorial plaque	£ 182.12
Inv000010 A Slodki for work to Burial Grounds	£ 156.00
YLCA Inv. 2623 for Clerk's Procurement Training	£ 35.00
A Slodki Inv 000012 Tidying borders in Formal BG	£ 104.00

b) Payments Received:

VAT reclaim from HMRC	£1,070.90
CYC Precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	£6,335.00

c) Funds Available: £14,891.98

Two other items, listed in the Clerks report, were agreed for payment:

Annual lease of land for the Rufforth Cycle path	£ 550.00
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**156 Rufforth Issues:**

- Grass Cutting: Some cutting done by CYC today. The PC is still seeking a solution to the issue of shared responsibility with CYC.
- Gutters: There has not been a gutter sweeper out for some time, resulting in a weed build up around the kerbs. Clerk to chase up. **Action SW**
- Traffic Management: SF presented examples of signs to be combined with a competition for pupils at the village school to add their pictures. It was agreed that these be reproduced as self-adhesive vinyl for residents to stick on wheelie bins, as fixed road signs might not be acceptable to CYC Highways. SF to explore costs. Plan to roll out during National Road Safety Week, commencing 17 November. **Action SF**
- School drop-off parking. SF has been approached by the school to look at problems created for residents by inconsiderate parking by parents when dropping off and collecting pupils. There was a long discussion but without a sensible solution as the PC has no powers of enforcement. It was agreed that SF would reply to the school requesting the "action" be re issued to residents and the possibility of a notice with the school logo on it which residents could attach to cards parked inconsiderately **Action SF**
- Events on Airfields. PR to set up a meeting with the landowner to discuss the issues together with the RPFA. **Action PR/FD**

**157 Knapton Issues:**

- Grass Cutting: LY reported that stepping stones and pathways have not been cleared of grass cuttings and are becoming overgrown. A volunteer working party to be set up, along with a litter pick. **Action LY**  
SW & LY to ask for a site visit to agree a scope of works. SW has authority to spend up to £500. **Action LY/SW**
- No further news of the proposed housing development.
  - SF is still awaiting data from the box that had been installed at the ring road end of Main Street.
  - Fly tipping becoming an issue on Bland Lane. EK requested photos and she will report to CYC. **Action EK/Knapton Cllrs.**
  - GT reported ongoing ASB around the new woodland. Residents are to be encouraged to report anything to the police via OPSNAP  
<https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/police-forces/north-yorkshire-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/op-snap/>

- 158 Solar2:** PR updated all on the detail of our meeting with the representatives of Solar2 and Recurrent Energy who will be undertaking the construction of the new solar farm between Rufforth and Hessay. A target date for connection to the National Grid via the sub-station at Poppleton has been set for June 2026, with construction planned to commence 12 to 16 months prior to that date. We have been assured that the connection will be via underground cabling. It was agreed that PR contact Hessay PC to discuss their involvement with us in liaising with all parties going forward and to agree upon a suitable method of managing the promised Community Benefit fund. **ACTION PR**  
It was also agreed that we should refer to this scheme as the Hessay Solar Farm to correspond with its accepted title.

- 159 Projects that Councillors would like to see considered for the future.**  
Deferred to the November meeting

**160 Representatives' Reports:**

- a) Rural West York Team and residents Forum Meetings: Nothing to report.

- b) York Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association: Meeting 10 October.
- c) Yorwaste Liaison Group: Minutes of September meeting on file..
- d) Rufforth Playing Fields Association: FD updated Cllrs on the 3 September meeting.

**161 Website and Key Communications:**

- Additional Content. Facebook posts and website updates in hand for all necessary items.
- Autumn newsletter. Draft circulated. Awaiting Chair's report and then SF & NM will make final edit and circulate at end of October. Circulation planned for November.
- Cllr's Online Portal. SW & CL Marketing have a meeting planned for 11 October to set this up.
- .gov.uk Domain change. Now with Aubergine.

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

None

**145 Date of next meeting:** Monday 4 November 2024 in Rufforth Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

PR closed the meeting at 21.40 pm and thanked all for attending.

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