

RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RUFFORTH VILLAGE INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:30pm

Present: Councillors Peter Rollings, Chairman (PR); Nick Murray, Vice Chairman (NM); Linda Young (LY); Frank Di Lorenzo (FD); Terry Edmonds (TE); Suzie Flynn (SF); Gary Thompson (GT):

In Attendance: Ward Councillor Anne Hook (AH) and Stephanie Warden, Clerk (SW):

018 Public Comments: there were no members of the public present.

019 To receive the Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:
Cllr. Victoria Kirk had given her apologies but had a prior engagement.

020 To consider the approval of reason given for absence: approved.

021 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared):
there were no items of interest below declared.

022 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 January 2025: FD proposed the minutes as a true record of the meeting, TE seconded and all were agreed.

023 Ward Councillors Comments and Reports:

AH reminded all that green bins needed to be paid for by 21 February 2025. There has been a big take up in Rural West York but not so much within the City. There were rumours of a proposal for 10,000 homes at Poppleton as a new town but such a proposal would be subject to full consultation and require a review of the soon to be adopted Local Plan and co ordinating with the emerging North Yorkshire plan. Grit bins have been reinstalled in Rufforth.

024 Clerks Report: The Clerk updated the council on outstanding issues arising from previous minutes in her written report. Fly tipping of bottles and cans were all down Bland Lane, Knapton. SF would follow up with the local Police contact. The fly tipping just inside the field gate on Bland Lane was the Landowners responsibility to clear. **ACTION:** PR would make inquiries to see if he could discover who the landowner was.

ACTION: SW will chase Alasdair Downie regarding the tree in the pond that is now 2 trees. SW will also write to Richard Hoyland and copy to Harvey Lowson about a tree that's come down over the bridleway at the Knapton end near one of the entrances to the Woodland. **ACTION:** SF would send a photograph to SW to include.

025 Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

25/00024/FUL Dunbar Wetherby Road Rufforth for raising of roof height to create additional storey, 2no. dormers to side roof slope, installation of rooflights and render to all elevations following demolition of garage and workshop: there were no objections to this application but the usual safeguard would be asked for regarding materials.

24/02226/FUL Rufforth Playing Fields Wetherby Road Rufforth for siting of 2no. storage containers: there were no objections.

Approved Applications:

24/02157/TPO Rufforth Manor Wetherby Road Rufforth York YO23 3QF to fell a lime tree and crown reduction to a Cherry and a Silver Birch, this application was approved with a condition to replace the Lime with another tree but not necessarily in the same place and conditions on how the crown thinning should be carried out.

026 Finance: Monthly report

a) The following payments for January were noted and agreed:

Clerk: January salary and burial ground fees	£ 881.80
Vistaprint for two skip signs Natural Burial Ground	£ 37.68
HMRC for last ¼ PAYE and NI	£ 664.07
York Bus Forum Subs	£ 15.00
Clerk for website mailbox Inv. 79430384	£ 8.46
Farm and Land Services Ltd work to pond and cycleway	£ 264.00
ANBG SUBS	£ 73.00

Payments to be ratified Proposed FD, Seconded TE, Agreed by all.

b) Payments Received:

Invoice 329 for plot + interment fees NBG £1733.00

c) Funds Available:

£10,432.10

027 Website and Key Communications:

- to agree any additional content: agreed to add that grit bins had been installed, to add an update on litter and to put a reminder on Facebook re. Green Bins.
Action: PR to write to Dave Meigh about hedges
- Online Portal: to agree the draft procedure next meeting and councillors would give thought to what was needed on it. **ACTION:** All

028 412 Bus Service: PR had spoken to Sam Fryers, it is the intention to take up the option to extend the contract as from April for at least one year. Funding will come from the new mayoral authority which eventually take over responsibility for public transport. It is at this point that it will be time to lobby for a service via Knapton.

ACTION: Knapton councillors to draw up a survey and come back with proposals. AH reported a Rural West York Branch meeting at the Poppleton Centre on 24 March where officers from CYC would be attending. Bus services could be brought up at the meeting. There is currently a debate in York on looking at shuttle services from Villages to Park and Rides.

029 Grass Cutting: the clerk and PR had put a list together of the additional grass cutting to be undertaken by AJT Garden Services and these were agreed. **ACTION:** PR would talk to a resident about The Avenue and SW would talk to Ashley about the additional cutting.

030 Rufforth Issues:

- Report to Council on Post Office: The Post Office will close at the end of August. The PO that runs the outreach service have confirmed that they are happy to continue if premises can be found. The shop or the Village Hall were a possibility and NM as Trustee of the Village Institute, who are the landlords of the shop, met with the outreach Sub Postmaster and they favoured the shop, although it is understood that the PO Area Manager prefers the Village Hall. Discussions are ongoing.
The Trustees are in favour of the PO continuing but would prefer if it was from the shop. NM is waiting a call back from the Area Manager.
- Events on Airfield: PR had a long and wide-ranging conversation with the landowner. He is within his rights to organise events on the airfield and has to be able to make the airfield pay. We were assured that all relevant rules and regulations would be adhered to. Environmental Health have confirmed that they have no issue with current event timings. The Landowner has advised that Police will be notified in advance of upcoming car rallies. The Monster Truck event is unlikely to be repeated.

031 Knapton Issues: Cllr Linda Young

- Litter on Bland Lane: This had been covered earlier in the meeting.

032 Special Projects: There were suggestions from TE, SF and FD.

TE proposed a movable VAS sign in the 20mph sign. Starting point is to provide a case for having one but councillors agreed in principle once there is a solid case and funding proposed. First task would be to undertake SpeedWatch analysis in March/April

SF proposed an accessible path into Knapton Play Area. Ed Bland (CYC) was happy for one to go in. Gravel was discounted as not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs etc. Block paving was cheaper than tarmac at £5-6000 but tarmac would be less maintenance. All agreed the project would be supported. SF would come back with possible funds and costs.

FD proposed a footpath from the Wetherby Road to the Playing Fields. The part of this on Playing Fields Land would need an initiative from the RPFA and Southfield Lane is owned by Highways so any changes may be problematic.

FD proposed better illuminations for Rufforth for the Christmas period. It would cost £300 - £400 per lamp post if we went the rental route and £3000 - £5000 to buy and pay an electrician to put them up. It was questioned whether this was best use of public money to spend on so few days and perhaps a better solution would be to improve the lighting of the village hall area. **ACTION:** NM would discuss with the Festival Committee.

PR said that it would take a couple of years to get the VAS put up, FD needed to do further investigations and so by nature of priority the Knapton project would be the priority. PR proposed SF go ahead and all agreed to commit funds when the budget was finalised.

033 Representatives' Reports: To receive reports on meetings councillors have attended:

- a) Rural West York Team and residents Forum Meetings: 24 March
- b) York Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association: PR attended and talked about the 412 and the Local Plan was discussed.
- c) Yorwaste Liaison Group: it was agreed that a meeting would be organised for July.
- d) Rufforth Playing Fields Association: next meeting 10 February. Once ownership is confirmed they will put forward a 10 year plan.
- e) Hessay Solar Farm: SW had contact with Recurrent Energy and they are not far enough ahead to impart anything concrete as yet. They will get back to us when they have. **ACTION:** SW will contact them again in 3 months' time if we haven't had contact from them.

034 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda: The Allotments Association had asked if we had any objection to small greenhouses/small potting sheds. Council had no objections but there would need to be strict guidelines and a rider to say if someone left their plot and didn't remove it then it would be down to the Association to remove it. It would need to go to CYC in the first instance.

035 Date of next meeting: Monday 3 March 2025 in Rufforth Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

PR thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 10pm.

Signed _____ Date _____