

RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Ward Councillor Anne Hook (AH); 1 member of the public; The Clerk, Stephanie Warden (SW):

036 Public Comments: No one had registered to speak.

037 To receive the Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting: Cllr Gary Thompson (GT) and Cllr Frank Di Lorenzo (FL).

038 To consider the approval of reason given for absence: reasons for absence were approved.

039 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared): none declared on any items of interest below.

040 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 February 2025: there were proposed by TE, seconded by LY and agreed.

041 Ward Councillors Comments and Reports:

Cuts in the budget: AH reported that CYC were cutting library services, Dial a Ride may not happen and day services for the elderly were being cut.

York Local Plan: The good news is that the York Local plan has now been formally adopted. The plan allocates some 20000 new homes across the City and also formalises the Green Belt around York for the first time. The Local plan is consistent with the Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan and other than the Middlewood Close development (already under construction) and the small development in Knapton (planning application submitted) the Local Plan allocates no further housing in the Parish and confirms the remaining land as Green Belt. It was encouraging that the Inspectors stressed the importance of the open setting of York..

042 Clerks Report:

SF had contacted the Community Police Officer with regard to litter on Bland lane and specifically vodka bottles and various cans. He promised to keep an eye on the area as he was concerned about drink driving implications.

ACTION SW: SW would ask Alasdair Downie to let her know when he was going to take the trees from the pond and then let TE know.

043 Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

23/01732/FULM Yorwaste Harewood Whin Rufforth for installation of a solar farm – proposal amended with a revised site plan for aviation safety: Yorwaste had taken off the mound the other side of the Foss for solar panels as would cause “Glint and Glare” for microlight aircraft. The Parish Council were happy with that and so agreed there was no need to submit further comments.

Approval/Refusal of Planning Applications:

24/02101/FUL Sharon Ten Thorn Lane Knapton: This was refused as the dwelling is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and conflicting with advice given in Chapter 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2024, Policy RwK 1 (Green Belt) of the Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan and Policy GB1 of the CYC Draft Local Plan 2018

24/01829/FUL 10 Portal Road York for Installation of an air source heat pump to rear:
This was approved.

- Harewood Whin Green Energy Park: PR had a meeting with Neil Fletcher and following detailed evaluation the plan is to proceed with the Solar application with a link to the National Grid. All other options in the original Green Energy Park have been discarded at least for the present. The Parish Council has had significant input into the evaluation process and PR has another meeting with Neil Fletcher in May for an update.
- York Local Plan: this had been discussed earlier.

044 Finance: Monthly report

a) The following payments for February had been ratified with NM proposing and Ly seconding and all agreed:

Clerk: January salary and burial ground fees	£ 1284.90
Clerk for website mailbox Inv. 79778348	£ 8.46
Aubergine for Annual Domain renewal .gov.uk	£ 120.00

b) Payments Received:

Invoice 333 for plot + interment fees & 2 reserve plots NBG	£3683.00
Invoice 330 for plot +interment fee NBG	£1300.00
Invoice 332 for Interment fee NBG	£ 433.00
Invoice 334 for Memorial Plaque NBG	£ 250.00

c) Funds Available: £ 11,136.67

ACTION: to investigate where to invest the Long Term Fund
SW to do a VAT reclaim

045 Website and Key Communications:

- Newsletter: It was agreed to put out a Spring newsletter after the Annual Parish Meeting on 7 April and to use the Chairman's report as the main feature. **ACTION:** Councillors were to think about further content
- Online Portal: to agree the Draft Procedure and content: LY proposed the Draft Procedure , seconded by SF and all agreed apart from TE who abstained as hadn't been able to download it.
- Woodland: A reply from Jenny Kent had given detail of the types of planting. **ACTION:** We would ask GT to have a look at the reply and ask for any comments he had on it with a view to putting an update on the website.

046 412 Bus Service: Service through Knapton: Knapton Councillors had put out a questionnaire to residents to find out what residents wanted from a bus service. 105 had received the flier asking residents to complete it online and there had been 55 responses which is an excellent response rate. Residents do want a bus service through Knapton. Using the Park and Ride was not popular, the 5A from Beckfield Lane is used better but not all can walk that far. Knapton does have a very low average for people with disabilities.

PR attended a public meeting organised by Rachel Maskell on bus services. Funding for bus services is coming from the Mayoral authority from April but the handover of decision making appears to be prolonged. We were advised that we should lobby now for the service for Knapton rather than wait to lobby under the new Mayoral Authority. Re-routing the 5A might be the answer.

Knapton has had a change in demographic since the pandemic, there are many more younger people and less elderly. The argument for a bus service needs to be Net Zero and trying to stop people driving into York.

NEXT STEPS: PR to draft a letter to CYC setting out the case for bus services to be reinstated for Knapton, using information from the survey and any useful information coming out of the YLCA meeting on 13th March.

047 Rufforth Issues:

- Hedge Cutting B1224: Hedge trimming has been done by Forestry England where they are responsible for it. CYC haven't done anything to the hedges on their land. **ACTION:** SW will write to Public Rights of Way re the broken post on the gate by the Cattle Crush. PR will write to Dave Meigh about hedges
- Rufforth Post Office: The PO manager will not be taking any action on the post office until July. The indications are that it will be run from the shop or the Village Institute.

048 Knapton Issues: Cllr Linda Young

- Litter on Bland Lane: this had been covered earlier but will liaise with AH to do a litter pick in Knapton to get a date.
- Play Area Accessible Path: Cllr Suzie Flynn: SF met with John Putsey (Highways) and Ed Bland. John thinks block paving will last longer. The gate was not currently accessible as the latch was too high. The Parish Council will source a new latch as part of the Accessible Path project. Emma Leonard, Highways said adoption of the path is not something they would take on and would pass to PROW to see if they could adopt the path. SF will get an itemised quote and will get a Ward Grant Application in for funding up to 50%.

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

a) Rural West York Team and residents Forum Meetings: 24 March in the Community Centre, Poppleton. Doors open at 6pm and the meeting starts at 6:30pm. The focus will be on Highways (speeding, maintenance and parking) and buses.

ACTION: to put this on our website.

b) York Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association 13 March Kate Revillious on Transport Strategy and York Buses, NM and LY will attend and put questions forward: rural bus services, blanket 20mph and 40mph buffer zones coming into villages. PR will attend the Parish Liaison meeting on 31st March.

c) Yorwaste Liaison Group: July

d) Rufforth Playing Fields Association: FD attended the meeting on 11 February and will update at the next meeting and will circulate the minutes once he has them.

e) Hessay Solar Farm: **ACTION:** SW will send a reminder in April about a meeting.

050 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda: The remainder of the 20mph Green Bin Stickers are to go up in the 20mph zone in Rufforth. **ACTION:** NM to drop off signs to TE.

051 Date of next meeting: Monday 7 April 2025 in Rufforth Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by an ordinary meeting of the council. **ACTION:** The Annual Parish Meeting will be advertised on the website

PR thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9:32pm

Signed _____ Date _____