

**RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ryhall Parish Council held on  
Wednesday March 10th 2010  
In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.**

**Present** Mr C Parsons -Chairman    Mr P Huddleston                      Mr R Rushby  
                 Mrs S Smith                              Mr S Fenn                              Mr P Finch  
                 Mr N Bellairs                              Mrs S Hickman                      Mr G Lloyd

16 members of the public and County Councillor, Charlotte Jones attended.

**Apologies** –Mrs C Gardiner

**Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the regulations, Councillors were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have and the nature of those interests relating to the agenda items. They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.

Mr Lloyd - Francis Court & Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Rushby - Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Plan

Mr Parsons – Planning in Belmesthorpe

Mr Bellairs - Playing Fields

Mr Fenn – Allotments, the Old Mill Planning and Ryhall Football Club

Mrs Hickman– RCC Youth Service and School Governor

Mr Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, PC Newsletter and RMPF Roadway

**Public Time**

Comment received about the quantify and location of grit bins in the village , given the past winter were there sufficient to cover most areas? This item was on the ordinary meeting agenda.

Comment received about the ad hoc parking on the village hall car park. The Village Hall Committee will erect a notice to alert hall users.

Comment received about the speed indicator signs – the Clerk confirmed that they are still pending.

**Approval of Annual Parish Minutes.**

It was proposed by Mr Lloyd seconded by Mr Bellairs and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 were signed as a true record.

**Guest Speaker – Ms Jackie Difolco – The Integrated Youth Team Manager at Rutland County Council**

The youth team with a staff of 25 (seven full time and part time youth workers) co-ordinate 15 projects throughout the county. These are leisure activities, youth clubs and out of school projects aimed at 13 – 19 year olds as well as formal learning opportunities. Over the past three years the Youth Capital Fund of £100,000 has paid for over 30 projects with one year to run. Of this, a fund of £50,000 is available to be accessed by young people with supporting adults; for example Ketton has responded to the initiative with 75 young people supporting the need for a skateboard.

Further initiatives will be the anti bullying work, Local Democracy week in November to engage young people, and fun and learning activities all free to the young people. Copies of the Teenage Service Booklet can be accessed and more information's on [www.moreforyouth.com](http://www.moreforyouth.com)

The Fun Pod. This is for the younger children but has finished it's period of time in Ryhall. The Team is seeking to recruit parents and volunteers to be trained and CRB checked to continue the younger services. The new Youth Development Worker Steph Logue will be responsible for Casterton cluster development so will be undertaking research to look at areas for further development which may include Ryhall.

#### The Rutland Ranger Bus.

It was agreed that there is a need for youth provision in Ryhall and regrettable that the behaviour of a few had meant the bus was removed due to language and various discipline issues. A volunteer in attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting offered her support to work with the youth service, which was gratefully accepted.

With regards to anti social behaviour, staff will not condone it and try to control it by enforcing the membership rules. However, names will be reported to the RCC Community Safety Officer who will follow the agreed protocol for ASB.

It was proposed by Mr Lloyd, seconded by Mr Fenn and agreed unanimously to ask the RCC Youth Team to reinstate the bus back to RMPF site on a Monday night bi-weekly on the proviso that the users were well monitored and the Parish Council were consulted as to when/ if the bus were to be removed.

To conclude; Ms Difolco will confirm with Olivia Stapleton who is the appropriate Line Manager for the mobile provision but following the meeting, agreed in principle agreed that:

The Rutland Wanderer mobile will come back out to Ryhall bi-weekly on Monday evenings - 6.30pm - 9pm and park in the RMPF as RCC did before which they will be given access to ,for a period of 3 months and review then to see if numbers have increased and will undertake detached work and advertise to ascertain interest again.

The Chairman thanked Ms Difolco for her attendance at the meeting and the informative update. Ms Difolco left the meeting.

#### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

Every meeting during the year was well attended by the majority of Councillors. The Parish Council co-opted one Councillor during the year and was pleased to welcome Councillor Bob Rushby. It has been an extremely busy year, the Parish Council are scheduled to have bi monthly meetings a year but the extra amount of work required resulted in having to schedule extra-ordinary meetings and planning sub committee meetings. With regret the Parish Council announced that Cllr Jon Whowell stepped down last month so end the year with the need to co-opt a new Councillor. The Chairman thanked Jon for all his hard work and input into the Parish Council over the years.

The Parish Council has a particularly busy meeting in January with the precepting Arrangements and discussion of allocation precept to village organisations and other causes. The Parish Council makes donations to specific charities; for example a

donation to LIVES last year and running costs cover the following: Insurance and public liability, Clerks salary, audit fees and general admin costs. The Parish Council pay for some parish lighting and are currently aiming to complete the upgrades to seven street lights. The Parish Council pay for the annual maintenance and quarterly electricity bills and repairs to parish lighting that is under our ownership. The clerk has the inventory of the lights under Parish Council remit and the ones belonging to RCC.

The Parish Council also cover provision and maintenance of community allotments, provision of and funding of water at the cemetery and allotments, some hedge cutting and grass cutting. The funding of the sponsorship of the BT phone boxes and provision of dog and grit bins are also covered by the Parish Council and historically have looked after the church clock maintenance, with thanks to Mr Fenn for keeping it on time. The Parish Council funds the Christmas tree lights in the Square and try to participate in village events such as the Christmas tree festival and RMPF Gala day when resources permit.

The Parish Council undertake risk assessments and keep this up to date, with log books, checking procedures, purchasing the relevant signage and reviewing the risks from time to time.

Last year Ryhall was selected for the 5% intermediate audit by the external auditors. This involved a great deal of paperwork for the Clerk as they required evidence of many aspects of the bookkeeping and adhering to the rules and regulations as well as the regular end of year accounts. The Chairman was pleased to say there were no adverse comments received and Ryhall were granted the conclusion of audit.

The Parish Council endeavour to communicate well with the village and as well as the provision of notice boards, there is a file in the Library in which the Minutes are collated. The use of the website has been a bonus with thanks to the webmaster who kindly uploads the agendas and draft Minutes. The Parish Council have a page in the Village News and for an edited version of the Minutes but the full Minutes can be found on the website.

The Parish Council report to Highways at RCC on many issues affecting the village, this winter it has been the issue of gritting routes and last summer the speed review on the A6121. Other issues such as pot holes, a dropped kerb audit, the white bridge etc crop up from time. Councillors represent the Parish Council at external meetings such as the Forum at RCC.

During the past year so far the Parish Council has dealt with 36 planning applications and 1 Tree application. Thanks go to the Planning Sub Committee, chaired by Mr Huddleston, assisted by Mrs Smith, Mr Lloyd, Mr Fenn and Mrs Gardiner.

Next year's issues will include the Church Cemetery extension at Belmesthrope Lane for which the Parish Council has ring fenced £3,000 from the Burial accounts. This is to ensure the provision of burial space for the future generations of the parishes, with thanks to the landowner for agreeing in principle to sell the land to the Parish. A change of land use application has been submitted and the Parish Council await the environmental assessment to ensure it is suitable land for such use.

The Parish Council are still working with the Housing Association and RCC on the provision of some affordable housing for the parish. This is a very involved subject

and there is still much debate on the actual possible sites but a great deal of time has been expended by Councillors and the Clerk on this issue to date.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all village volunteers who undertake sterling work. For example the great work done on Parish Plan which was completed this year and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. All the representatives on the village organisation committees are to be thanked too as they work hard for the village in many capacities. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their valuable work on the Parish Council. All Councillors are volunteers giving up their free time and offering their expertise and willingness to serve the local community.

#### **Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Report** Report by Mr Harvey

Mr Harvey had taken on the role of Chairman from October 2009 replacing Mr Wilding. Mr Hindmarch has stepped down from the Committee and has been replaced by Miss Miller. The Sports clubs are running smoothly with Junior and Blackstone junior football teams and there is a newly formed Senior Football Team. The seniors are assisting considerably with the renovations to the Pavilion. It is hoped that refurbishment will be completed by the summer. The Gala Day was very successful, very well supported by the village and lovely weather. The total raised by £3,000 which will contribute towards the replacement of the climbing frames. Date for the diary is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010 for the next Gala Day.

#### **Ryhall Village Hall Report** - Report by Mr Huddleston

During the last year, the village hall has been much improved with the rendering and painting of the toilet block; the main hall floor has been sanded and sealed; the upstairs room has been decorated and the old unsightly cupboard in the kitchen has been removed and a new refrigerator and freezer purchased which have proved invaluable to the many users of the hall, particular those catering for private parties. These items, together with many smaller improvements have maintained the hall to the high standard the hall user expects.

During the past year, the Village Hall has hosted three concerts (with two more to follow in May) These concerts are sponsored and are part of Centre Stage: the Rural and Community Touring Scheme for Leicestershire and Rutland, co-ordinated by Art service & financially assisted by Arts Council England East Midlands, Leicestershire County Council, and Rutland County Council. The first concert, in April, was the Baghdaddies who played vibrant gypsy music to over sixty people. In December the Strangeface Theatre Company put on a unique performance of the Charles Dickens classic, a Christmas Carol, which was watched by a captivated audience of almost ninety. In February, the Buffalo Gals entertained an audience of over seventy with a blend of American roots country music. The Committee anticipate continuing putting on concerts as we wish to bring a diversity of entertainment to the local community. However, despite being sponsored, these concerts are costly to put on and the Committee rely on the continued support of the local community. In January, the REA produced Cinderella in Ryhall Pantomime which was written and directed by Paul Huddleston with all profits going to the village hall. With a lot of hard work and enthusiasm by the cast and crew, the magnificent sum of £1200 was donated to village hall funds.

The financial results for the period from April 2009 to February 2010 show that the Hall continues to run on a sound financial basis. Income from lettings and fund raising is £8988, against expenditure on running costs and routine maintenance of

£10 072. This shows that 89% of routine costs are covered by regular income, rather less than last year when the two were roughly balanced. Income from hiring by organisations was 6% down, and that for private bookings by 19%, perhaps reflecting tougher economic times. However putting this in context, bookings last year were 12% up on the 2007/2008. It was thought that increasing hiring fees this year was not appropriate. Total running costs are almost the same as last year, the reduction in gas prices being compensated for by the increase in consumption during cold weather. Maintenance costs are higher than last year due to decoration, renovation of the upstairs room and sanding of the floor. Capital costs have decreased considerably, the only major item being the rendering of the outside wall of the extension.

The Village Hall Committee are, as always, very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support and will continue fundraising with monthly Bingo sessions, the Monthly Lunch club, Recipe books, the sale of a Christmas calendar and notepads as well as Petticoat Lane and other activities and the Committee are always actively looking at other avenues of fundraising.

The Village Hall has a good, loyal committee but would benefit by the addition of more members. The experience of the older stalwarts combined with 'new blood' would be beneficial to the village hall.

The village hall remains at the centre of the community and social life for many villagers and the committee endeavours to ensure that it is run smoothly for the benefit of us

### **Library Performance - Report submitted by Ms Barwell –Principle Librarian**

The total number of books borrowed from Ryhall Library between February 2009 and January 2010 was 11,986 – marginally up on the figure of 11,928 in the previous year. Just over 3,750 items including Talking Books were borrowed by children, and just under 9,000 by adults.

There have been some changes in Audio Visual borrowing for the same period. DVD and Sound Recording borrowings are down 12% from 271 to 239 items. Junior Talking Books are also down 39% from 116 to 74, but Adult Talking Book loans are up 60% from 420 to 672.

The total number of items borrowed including DVDs, Sound Recordings and Talking Books was 12,971 compared with 12,735 in the previous year. Against a national background of declines in library borrowing, this increase in use is very pleasing, and reflects both the value that the people of Ryhall place on their library, and we hope the quality of the service provided.

Visitor figures reduced from 11,059 in Jan 08 – Jan 09 to 10,621 in Jan 09 - Jan 10, with around 200 visits to the library each week.

Rutland is one of the few library authorities to offer free requests for items in stock on the catalogue – 595 requests were received at Ryhall Library from Jan – Dec 09.

### **Library Improvements**

Recent changes include a new bus stop outside the front of the library, and "unseen" improvements including updated internet connectivity. Ryhall users benefit from new

services procured by Rutland Library Services including Britannica Online Library Edition in place since April 09, and a new Ancestry.com subscription is forthcoming. Internal works have taken place including a new fire door on the boiler room with fire resistant paint on the grilles, and new illuminated fire exit notices.

### **Ryhall Allotments**

The annual agreement commencing now commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. All allotments are taken up and are running smoothly, which is a testament to the community spirit of the allotment holders. The Parish Council will appoint a new Allotment Representative to replace Jon Whowell at the May Annual Council meeting.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Report by Rachel Miller**

The last major crime was a distraction burglary in November, with a property burglary back in June. In the last year there were four burglaries and one distraction burglary, compared to around a dozen burglaries the previous year.

ASB incidents are continuing, mainly vandalism and noise nuisance caused by a small group of youths. As village coordinator Rachel has liaised with partner agencies to resolve these issues. It was hoped that provisions can be put in place for the youth of Ryhall.

Over the next couple of months Ryhall will endeavour to become a Smart Water area. Some streets in the village will hopefully become No Cold Calling Zones. Rachel is keen to start up a Junior NW scheme and will liaise with the primary school, with the aim to continue to keep crime levels down.

A short newsletter will be produced twice a year to keep residents informed and the scheme active. Street contacts meeting every six months and regular email updates.

Rachel took the opportunity to thank all the street contacts for their commitment and vigilance.

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