

## RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council

on

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013

In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

#### PRESENT

Mr P Huddleston (Chairman)   Mrs E Sismore   Mrs S Smith   Mr C Parsons  
Mr R Rushby   Mr S Fenn   Mr A Gombault

Twenty four members of the public were in attendance

**APOLOGIES** -Mr N Bellairs, Ms M Hitt , Mrs C Vernon, County Councillor

#### 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 in relation to the one item on the agenda. They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.

Mr Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, PC Newsletter, Parkfield Road resident  
Mrs Sismore- Ryhall PTA  
Mr A Gombault- Belmesthorpe NHW  
Mr Parsons - Playing Fields

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was proposed by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mr Fenn and agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2013 were a true record.

#### PUBLIC TIME

The members of the public voted to have general public time at the end of the meeting with question and answer session on the future of the library following Mr Begy's presentation.

#### **Co-option of Councillors**

Mr J Whowell , a former Parish councillor, had intimated that he would be pleased to take on the co-opted position for the first vacancy that had arisen. It was proposed by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mr Rushby and at the vote all in favour of co-opting Mr Whowell. He duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor and will be completing a new Register of Interests

#### **Resignation of Ms Hitt**

Due to relocation, Ms Hitt resigned from the Parish Council, who thanked her for her valued contribution. The Notice of Vacancy will be displayed for 14 days. If 10 electors come forward then there will be an election. After the due date, the Parish Council can opt. There are now two vacancies on the parish council and two parishioners have expressed an interest in these positions. Both were invited to give a brief overview of their interests and experience at the next meeting in November.

#### MATTERS ARISING

Open Spaces update

Rutland County Council confirmed on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013 under the Commons Act 2006, Section 15 the Registration of the village green at the area of land known as Coppice Road Green and located on an island in the middle of Coppice Road, Ryhall Rutland PE9 4HY.

#### **Vicarage Wall and access to school**

The Parish Council have entered into much correspondence over the summer months in a bid to progress action on the wall and roadway to the primary school, issues that are under the remit of the Diocesan Office and Rutland County Council. The Parish Council is unhappy with the slow progress of the issue and will continue to press for it to be resolved.

#### **Highway Issues**

The RCC a white lining crew were due in the county at the end of August to continue with this year's programme.

The budget for access improvements has recently been approved. This will include works for the dropped crossing work in Spinney Close.

Church Street and Parkfield Road completed, but may need to patch later in the year A6121 footpath is in the Rutland County Council works programme but no date yet of when works will be completed

Coppice Road, Spinney Road and Spinney Close all in the programme for surfacing but again no date from the RCC contractor as yet. Casterton Road junction area was due to be completed by the end of August. Clerk to check all the above and seek action where necessary.

#### **Speed Sign St Eabbas Way**

The response from Rutland County Council Highways confirms that Road Policing Unit have asked for some speed survey data for all the sites where there are proposed changes. This information due to be collected shortly. The guidance on the definition of a village and where the limit should start states:

“On the basis of the minimum number of houses and length of speed limit, an average density of at least 3 houses per 100 metres over the extent of the 30mph speed limit is recommended. This minimum density should generally also apply for each 100m section, but particularly for the first 100 metres of the speed limit at each end of the village, to reinforce the visual message for drivers.”

Mr Parsons reported that Essendine Parish Council were keen to support the 30 mph initiative from Essendine to Ryhall - this would reduce signage as only repeater signs would be required.

The Parish Council awaits further updates from Rutland County Council.

#### **Footpath update E172- stiles lowered**

Rutland County Council has taken action .The stile on the passageway from Foundry Road is now fine and easy to use. The stile adjacent to Back Lane has had the upper cross beam and step removed but the remaining step on the garden side is still too high at 48 cm. On inspection Mr Rushby suggested it needs to be about 26 cm and he will liaise with Rutland County Council.

#### **BT Phone kiosk**

The Parish Council will no longer be sponsoring this kiosk as from November 2013. Over the course of time the kiosk will be decommissioned and added to the list to be removed from service and physically removed.

#### **Flagpole Update**

The Design and Access statement for application of a licence for the erection of a proposed flagpole 6 meters in height by St John's Close entrance has been submitted. RCC have issued the legal instruction. Depending on the outcome, the Parish Council will liaise with residents of St John's Close and surrounding areas.

**Four Year Plan** - Deferred to the next meeting.

**Street Lighting** - This will be a very detailed project and also deferred to the next meeting.

**Allotment Tenancy Agreements** have been issued to all allotment holders for the start of the new growing season October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The one vacant nursery plot has been taken up.

**Village Walk** - This will take place on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 commencing at 12 noon at the Village Hall. A resident suggested that the team includes the disabled perspective.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**Parish Councillor's Surgery** - Review from Surgery on 14 September It was noted that the full hour of surgery was occupied so once again this had been a worthwhile session. Issues raised were noted. Many of the issues under the parish remit are works in progress - awaiting financial confirmation. One resident asked for a concrete base on the Bourne side of the A6121 at the end of New Road to make alighting from the bus easier . However, this is not an official bus stop therefore the Parish Council cannot act. Noted that the base to the new bench on Mill Street corner has been damaged. The issues pertaining to Rutland County Council will be passed onto the relevant departments. Two letters were received from the suggestion box in the library, both relating to the proposed library issue.

**Network Rail** - Funding opportunities

As part of the upgrade to the East Coast Mainline, Network Rail has submitted a planning application to Rutland County Council to build a new electricity substation adjacent to Uffington Road off the A6121. As the substation will be built on land in the parish of Ryhall, it was proposed that the Parish Council seeks funding which might be forthcoming from Network Rail, for a project in the parish. Clerk to contact to establish funding opportunities.

### **Capital Projects**

**Community Orchard** - The two residents who proposed the orchard have been invited to the next RMPF meeting in October to discuss their ideas further.

**Allotments Community Space.** Mr Fenn, Allotment Chairman, thanked two allotment holders for their hard work and generous amounts of personal time given to the building of the allotment shed and the bio-toilet. Thanks were also expressed to Mr G Lloyd, former councillor, for initiating the projects. Mr Fenn invited the parish councillors to view the community improvements, it is hoped to arrange an open day for the public to see what has been achieved. There are some funds remaining from the agreed grant for complete the works.

**Bowls Club footpath** - this project has not been progressed to date.

### **Maintenance projects**

**Refurbish benches in village** - various quotes have been received, however it was not clear what wood treatment products would be used and this would reflect in the quotations. It was agreed to seek clarification of products to be used before a decision was made.

**Purchase of new bench for Belmesthorpe.** Three types of bench had been suggested but since circulation of brochures, Mr Gombault had been in discussion with a local woodcraftsman who could build a bench, and will seek further information for comparison purposes. The current bench has a sign on ' Do not use' It was agreed to remove the bench until it can be replaced.

### **Kissing gate by RMPF**

The Minutes noted agreement to replace the gate at the meeting of May 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, with the remaining money from the parish plan - £236 offered by Ms Miller( former Councillor and administrator of the parish plan) to cover the majority of the costs. It was proposed by Mr

Gombault, seconded by Mr Rushby and agreed unanimously to action the purchase of a new kissing gate. The balance of the costs / delivery charges ( maximum £127)to be paid by the Parish Council. Mr Flint the landowner had offered to Ms Miller and the parish council to site the gate free of charge.

#### **Decision on a tree inspection on RMPF**

It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mrs Smith and agreed to the Tree Inspection by £275.00 plus VAT. The trees are alongside the wire fence by the school playground but on the playing field side. CP abstained.

#### **Millennium Sign**

The sign which was uprooted some weeks ago has been assessed for refurbishment. This would include two new posts and a coat of varnish for £20. It was proposed by Mr Fenn, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed to proceed. A decision on who will re site it to be taken.

**Allotment Tree inspection** -this has been undertaken and a report concluded outlining actions recommended by the tree surgeon. Work can be split into two groups. Priority £335.00 plus VAT included felling four trees and lower priority including reducing stems and felling one tree @ £325.00plus VAT. Total cost is £550.00 plus VAT but if done on separate visits would include added travel time. It was proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed to undertake all the works. Carried.CP abstained.

#### **Mr Roger Begy , Leader of Rutland County Council to update on suggestions he made for Ryhall Library/Pavilion**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Begy to the meeting at this juncture and thanked the many parishioners who had attended the meeting to hear Mr Begy's thoughts. Mr Begy commenced with an overview of the current and future Rutland County Council funding issues. He outlined his views on the impact of the project in Ketton where the library building had been converted to a hub of the community with coffee bar, doctors and library combined. Uppingham are working on their new library community initiative. Buildings used on a few days a week, Mr Begy said were now thriving community centres that the County Council could justifiably support financially. He had suggested that the same could work in Ryhall with the support of the County Council , funds from Sport England and the Arts Foundation. He said that this was where his initial suggestion had stemmed from - the idea of a pavilion upgrade with incorporated library built on the RMPF. However, there were no plans/proposals for a joint centre and, when asked directly, he said the library was not under any threat at the moment. When questioned he said that the impetus for these changes had come from the communities themselves rather than Rutland County Council.

It was pointed out that Rutland County Council had reduced the use of the Library by cutting its opening hours but the Parish Council had put in extra money so the Library could open on a Saturday. As the portfolio holder for the Arts, Mr Begy said he was committed to supporting the libraries and community facilities of the county and wanted to work together with the people of Ryhall parish. He said that there were stand alone options. The current library remains where it is but is improved to a community centre, therefore used more, it was noted that the library serves surrounding villages not just Ryhall . Mr Begy noted a need for improved sports facility in the parish, the football club endorsed this, highlighting the limited changing room facilities for the teams in the current pavilion .

New funding opportunities from Sport England come in the wake of the Olympics 2012, with the next round of bidding commencing in October to December 2013. Any bids for funding towards an upgraded pavilion/ sports centre would need to be submitted by the football clubs with the support of the Parish Council. Rutland County Council commitment would be to introduce and connect the bidders to the grant opportunities.

In conclusion, he apologised for any misunderstanding arising from his ad hoc comment and confirmed that at present there are no plans either for the removal of the library or joint sports facilities. He pointed out that had not mentioned any flats being built on the green area where the library stands and did not know the reasons behind the County Council Property Services department not approving permission for a proposed Jubilee flagpole on that site.

The Parish Council noted the unfortunate way the proposals had been delivered to the village, directly to the Parish Council by formal means would have been preferable. Mr Begy agreed but emphasised that the comments were not meant as any form of formal proposal but rather as a suggestion that discussions take place. The Chairman thanked Mr Begy for his time in attending the meeting and answering questions from concerned residents.

Mr Begy and the majority of the observers left the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed that the place of the Library in parish life should be included in the Four Year Plan. The Chairman said Councillors should consider a response to comments on the future of the Library and the Pavilion. Consultation with parishioners could also be considered.

## **Cemetery**

### **Report on Headstones**

The graves in the new cemetery in Belmesthorpe Lane are positioned with the headstones at the foot of the graves and should this practice continued or be reversed in the planned extension. Common convention is to have the headstone at the head of the grave, with the inscription facing the grave side. The Parish Council do not know the historical reason why it was decided to arrange the graves in the new cemetery with the headstones at the feet instead, although this does have the advantage of allowing the inscriptions to be seen from the road and by approaching visitors and ensures the conventional practice of the feet pointing towards the East

The Diocese of Lincoln advise that there is no regulation concerning the position of the headstone relative to the grave, and that therefore the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council are at liberty to decide whether to maintain the current practice in the new extension or to revert to the more conventional positioning of the headstone at the head of the grave. Similarly, with the increasing trend towards the marking of cremations with a small commemorative stone, an agreed policy for the arrangement and orientation of these stones, both in the new cemetery and in the planned extension, appears now to be a requirement. The Parish Council will convey these findings to the PCC and Burial Administrator and will look into gaining further information on marking of cremations stones. It was agreed that Mr Toone should be given advice and assistance for future placements.

### **Funding for maintenance of front fence/ new gate or refurbish gate**

It was proposed by Mrs Sismore, seconded by Mr Parsons and agreed to purchase a new gate in hardwood Oak for the new cemetery custom made by a local craftsman exactly the same style as the old gate, for £300 plus VAT and £45 labour to install The fence and new gate would then be wood preserved for the sum of £122.00

### **Decision on hedge cutting and purchase of gravel for path**

It was proposed by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to cutting the right hand hedge as a one off cut back to the boundary by Veolia for the sum of £270.00 plus VAT. The Clerk had met with Veolia to discuss the height of the hedge as the neighbours did not want it too low at 6 foot and the hedge did afford privacy in a rural setting. It was suggested that the hedge remains at the current height for now and to review once thinned.

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mr Fenn and agreed to the weed removal on the path for £25 plus VAT by Veolia. It was decided that normal gravel was not suitable for the drive/ pathway. Clerk to seek other options.

### **Decision on clay pile/ ground works**

The Gravedigger had offered his services to ground level the grassed area where uneven - to reseed, to remove the remaining clay pile and deliver some topsoil for future topping up of sunken graves. Proposed by Mr Gombault , seconded by Mr Parsons and agreed to this action for the sum of £200.

### **Belmesthorpe Issues**

#### **Street Light outside the Blue Bell Public House**

Streetlight number 6 has suffered deterioration and EON has advised that it should be replaced, the Parish Council have accepted this advice and agreed to complete the change in the current financial year. Due to the close proximity of the streetlight to the Blue Bell Inn, possibly the oldest stone building in the village, residents had requested that it be replaced with a decorative column and lantern. Earlier this year the Parish Council agreed to this request, on the understanding that funding for the additional cost would be met from other sources.

It was proposed that the new decorative streetlight be sited in a new position approx 10 metres downhill of the existing site. This is the wish of the village representatives and the Blue Bell Inn, on the grounds that the new position (at the end of the building, rather than in the middle) will be better aesthetically and functionally, being closer to the bend in the road and to the halfway position between the two adjacent lights than the present position.

The cost of the new decorative column and lantern, including embellishments, trenching between the two positions, installation, connection and removal of the old column, will be £1984 (incl. VAT). The materials will be supplied and delivered, and the installation and other works performed, by EON.

Parish Council Lowest cost alternative replacement streetlight , unpainted galvanised steel column with plain bowl 972

Rutland County Council Special grant 750

Blue Bell Inn Donation 130

Belmesthorpe Queen's Diamond Jubilee fund 132

**TOTAL 1984**

It was proposed by Mr Gombault, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed to proceed as above provided the residents nearby were happy with the move. The Clerk had written to neighbouring properties and no objection had been received.

#### **Maintenance works to columns in Castle Rise**

Two columns, £810 plus VAT each. It was agreed to defer this decision.

#### **Speeding**

The Belmesthorpe NHW Committee acting upon concerns expressed by residents about speeding in and around the village, have proposed a 40 mph or 30 mph limit between Cobbs Nook and the village to Rutland County Council, who will be meeting in late Autumn to consider this and other similar requests.

A Community Speedwatch operation monitoring vehicle speeds in and out of the village is planned for next Spring

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives. Mr Rushby attended the Parish Forum on behalf of the Parish Council. He asked if the Minutes could be released sooner after the meetings. Mr Parsons to take this request back to the Forum.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Circulated to Councillors**

RCC Parish Briefing

Parish Forum Minutes including Street Lighting  
 LRALC Newsletters and NALC Website update  
 Rural Community Council Bulletins & Raffle & AGM Invite ( 19<sup>th</sup> Sept)  
 Rutland Citizens Advice Annual Report & AGM/ Afternoon Tea ( 24<sup>th</sup> Sept)  
 K & M Lighting Services - Street Lighting & Electrical services provider  
 Evergreen Care Trust Update  
 Bus stop Enhancements update  
 Active Rutland Awards - Weds Nov 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Choice Of benches to decide upon  
 Civic Reception - Mr Gombault to represent Ryhall Parish Council  
 Stamford Town Council Plan for 2013-16

**To note**

Smiths of Derby 15% Discount on Clock Maintenance It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mr Parsons to take up the 15% discount by paying in advance and saving £157.00 on the maintenance of the clock. ES and SF abstained. AG against

**RCC Environmental Health Update on Fly situation**

Both free range poultry units at Gwash Valley farm were inspected by the Environmental Health Department on 29th August 2013. No breeding houseflies were identified in the older unit and in the newer unit treatment was applied and was effective. The units have been monitored and treatments applied proactively throughout the summer by the farm manager. RCC regularly attends these inspections to verify the monitoring process is undertaken correctly

LRALC Localisation of Council Tax Support 2014/15 Mr Gombault to produce a draft comment for consideration

Rutland County Council - Consultation on Proposed Changes to Home to School Transport  
 Rutland County Council funding for transport costs to school is being reviewed and the County Council seek the view of the Parish Council.

Post 16 Transport - As students now have to stay in vocational training now until they are 17( 18 in 2015) and will need transport to attend, the Parish Council does not support the withdrawal of funding from Sept 201. The Parish Council would like clarification as to where funding to support students for that extra period of time would come from. The Parish Council noted the withdrawal of denominational transport from Sept 2014. The Parish Council felt that attendance at specific denominational institutions would be a decision choice by the families involved so at this stage it would reserve comment. It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed to submit the above comment.

From University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Placement of a public access AED ( automated external defibrillator) Deferred to the next meeting.

**FINANCE**

**Income received into Parish Account**

12.09.13 From Rutland County Council for Street Lighting contribution 1,821.00

It was proposed by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed to the following:  
 SF abstained.

**Payments made since last meeting**

	Nett	VAT	Total
Veolia Grass cutting	37.10	7.42	44.52
G. Walker Tree Care as agreed Survey		275.00	55.00
Mrs C Adams August salary			408.37
Smith of Derby Clock repair	150.00	30.00	180.00

Eon Replace pole Bracket as agreed	551.00	110.20	661.20
Allotment Association for shed original request for £167.21			
This was voided and was replaced by further invoices to the total			771.90
Allotment Association for eco toilet as agreed			1058.19
Veolia	47.94	9.59	57.53
Mrs C Adams September Salary			408.37
Wybone for dog bin post	41.19	8.24	49.43

**Payments to be made at meeting: Nett VAT**

Eon Maintenance			337.61
T & S Fenn for dog bin installation			69.50
Cory Environmental for emptying dog bins			273.00
Cory Environmental for new dog bin in contract			9.00
Ryhall Methodist Hall Hire			15.00

**Payments made from Burial Accounts since last meeting**

Veolia	25.11	5.02	30.13
David Lee Bench Maintenance			166.50

**Payments to make from Burial Account**

T & S Fenn Post & Rail Fencing in new cemetery			122.50
(Note : thanks to S Fenn for installing the grit bins FOC)			

**Income received into Burial Account**

V Bull Internment in purchased grave			116.00
R Robinson Internment in purchased grave			58.00
W E Toulson internment in existing grave			58.00

**OTHER FINANCE ISSUES**

**ANNUAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.** The Annual Return had been sent to the Auditors Grant Thornton on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Parish Council awaits the formal approval of accounts before displaying the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

LRALC NALC Publication of Good Councillor Guide 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Booklets £2.00 each x 12  
 NALC 'Local Councils EXPLAINED' Book due out in October @ £49.99 plus postage  
 LRALC Effective Local Council Minutes Course 1<sup>st</sup> October at Anstey £35.00 delegate fee  
 It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mr Parsons, and agreed to the above.

**PLANNING**

**Full Planning Permission granted**

Extension of time application in relation to FUL/2010/0333 ( construction of single storey extension to side and rear elevations) St John's Cottage Annexe, Church Street, Ryhall Stamford Lincs  
 Erection of three story detached dwelling and associated works including detached double garage and new boundary wall. Plot 2 Quarry Barn, Essendine Road, Ryhall

**Permitted Development / Listed Building Consent**

**Notification of decision in respect of a section 211 Notice proposing works to a tree or trees in a conservation area**

Fell 3 Silver Birch Trees. Hemgate House New Road, Ryhall Stamford Lincs PE9 4HL.  
 Rutland County Council has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provisional TPO in this instance.

**Determination as to whether the prior approval of details is required (Agricultural and Forestry development) S Alexander Green Lane Farm, Newstead Road, Belmesthorpe, Rutland**

**Refusal of Full Planning Permission-**

Application for variation of condition No 10 (F93/0669/9) to extend the letting period to a 6 month let. Elderflower Cottage, Belmesthopre Lane, Ryhall Stamford Lincs PE9 4JF  
Extension to form first floor accommodation with balcony to the rear (north) elevation. Ground floor extension to the front ( north) and side ( west) elevation. Brelades, New Road, Ryhall Rutland PE9 4HL  
Construction of two storey extension to the side and rear of dwelling house. Shields Cottage, Shepherds Walk, Belmesthopre, PE9 4JQ

**Appeal Decisions- None**

**Withdrawal of planning application - None**

**Planning applications considered:**

Variation of condition No 2 APP/2011/0569 relating to 1 No additional window to the front Plot 2 Quarry Barn, Essendine Road, Ryhall

Construction of log cabin to form agricultural dwelling. The Caravan, Newstead lane, Belmesthopre Rutland.

Fell 3 silver birch trees Hemgate House, New Road, Ryhall

Variation of wording on timing of access improvement Stadium Ryhall Road SKDC

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Balk Road pathway - Mrs Smith to investigate further with reference ownership and deeds Horse Manure on pathways- thanks for all horse owners who have responded to the letters sent, the problem appears to be resolved

**NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.00pm at the Methodist Church Ryhall.**