DRAFT: Minutes of the Ryhall Parish Council Meeting held at Ryhall Village Hall on Monday 21 November 2022 @ 19:00

Present: Cllrs. Dave Amies, David Wilby, Stella Smith, Nick Bellairs, Andrew Nebel, Debbie Rolfe, Phill Davis, Richard Ludlow and Andy Yates
In Attendance: Jo Gresty & Andy Capper - Meadows Playing Field Management Association, 1 member of the public and Sarah Gresty (Parish Clerk)

Public Forum. No issues raised

AGENDA

2022/11/01 **Apologies** for Absence were received from Cllr. Adrian Gombault and Sarah Markwell-Cook. It was **Resolved** to accept these apologies unanimously.

Cllr. Amies had received a resignation email from Cllr. Sarah Markwell-Cook. Everyone was sad to accept this but hoped Sarah would join the Parish Council again when she felt ready to do so. Action: Clerk to notify Rutland County Council (RCC) of the vacancy.

2022/11/02 **Declarations** of unregistered disclosable pecuniary – none were received.

2022/11/03 **Minutes** of the Meeting held on 17 October 2022 were presented as a true and accurate record of events. Proposed acceptance Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Bellairs and unanimous in favour – **RESOLVED.** Chairman signed the minutes.

2022/11/04 **Matters Arising** for information exchange

- Unregistered pieces of land - Cllr Amies confirmed that he had started preparing a plan for plotting all the RCC responsible areas and unregistered plots of land in Ryhall and Belmesthorpe. Action: c/f to January meeting.
- Re-siting of dog bin from St Johns. Action: Cllr. Bellairs and the Clerk to meet to take this matter forward.

2022/11/05 **Ryhall Meadows Playing Field Association**

a) General Update – One Touch Soccer School Ltd. Remained the main user of the pavilion and playing fields. The company had been granted a licence which details the terms of use until the end of the football season (May 2024). The relationship with One Touch remained strained with outstanding fees due from the summer and poor compliance with the terms of use (lighting left on repeatedly at considerable cost to the Association, litter etc.)

b) Bowls Club – to receive and discuss information following a recent meeting with the Bowls Club

Jo Gresty gave the following summary: ***Ryhall Bowls Club – Update for General Information Purposes -*** *The Bowls Club (BC) has occupied its current site since the 1970s. The BC developed the site and owns the club house.*

Although the site is owned by the Parish Council, it would appear that no form of written agreement between the BC and the parish has ever been put in place. In recent years the BC has operated alongside Meadows Playing Fields Management Association (MPFMA) on an informal basis, making a modest contribution towards water costs each year but otherwise making no financial contribution towards the MPF as a whole.

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____

The BC is doing relatively well at the moment. It's winning trophies and has more playing members than it has had for some time. It wants to build on this improvement in its fortunes.

The BC is looking to improve its facilities – including a sustainable water system and improvements to the club house. Also, it may be an opportunity to work towards resolving some of the access issues there are regarding the BC.

To do these works, the BC needs funding and it intends applying for grants.

To be able to make applications for grants, the BC needs to be able to demonstrate that it occupies the property, has reasonable security of tenure of the built assets. To do this, the BC would either have to own the site or hold a lease with a reasonable unexpired term.

A lease would have the distinct advantages of clarifying the ownership of the assets, the rights and responsibilities of the BC vs the responsibilities of the MPF Management Association/Ryhall PC. By confirming the BC's responsibilities, it might galvanise the BC even further.

There are three basic options –

A) MPFMA sublets the property to the BC – this would require a proper lease of the playing fields from the PC to the MPFMA

B) The PC takes direct control of the site and lets it direct to the BC with the MPFMA having no involvement with the BC other than as a neighbour

C) Continue as we are without an agreement – the MPFMA could make grant applications on behalf of the BC but that would stretch resources and take ownership of the project away from the BC. This would seem to be a case of continuing to kick some of the issues down the road and undermining the BC as an independent body

Proposal: To adopt option A above MPFMA sublets the property to the Bowls Club – this would require a proper lease of the playing fields from the PC to the MPFMA Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Bellairs and unanimous in favour – **RESOLVED.**

Action: MPFMA To draw up the relevant leases for submission to RPC for agreement.

2022/11/06 Finance

(1) Reports

a) Financial Report 1 Apr 22 – 30 Oct 2022, bank reconciliation & supporting original bank statements were presented by the Clerk. It was noted that the total balance of the four Barclays accounts held was £72,253.85, an increase due to receipt of the RCC grass cutting rebate.

c) NJC Salary Scale Award for parish clerk Pay Scale 18 in accordance with contract to be back dated to 1 April 2022. The clerk was asked to leave the meeting for this item. The Chairman (Cllr. Amies) addressed the councillors and advised them that the parish clerk had now completed her first year in office. It was put to the councillors that the parish clerk (Sarah Gresty) had undertaken her job to a high and professional standard. The Chairman (Cllr. Amies) then reminded the councillors that it had been agreed that an increase in the NJC salary scale would be recommended to the parish council for approval on completion of the first year. The Chairman (Cllr. Amies) then proposed a one point increase (Pay Scale 19), this was seconded by Cllr. S. Smith and was unanimous in favour. Chairman (Cllr. Amies) to advise the parish clerk (Sarah Gresty). **RESOLVED**

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____

(2) Financial Payments
a) chq 102666 void £0
b) chq 102667 Ryhall village hall hired 29.9.22 £20
c) chq 102668 S Gresty clerk Oct salary £1069.64
d) chq 102669 Methodist Church Hall room hire 17 Oct £15
e) chq 102670 RCC street light extra charge £363.23
f) chq 102671 Bytham Trees £420
g) chq 102672 Plough Environmental inv 2786 £380.00
h) chq 102673 Environment SK inv 2664 £780.04
i) chq 102674 RCC inv 9141827 replacement bins £240.00
j) chq 102675 S Gresty clerk Exp Jul-sept £222.92
k) Nest pension dd £43.75
Additional payments presented to the meeting
l) Village hall meeting hire £20
m) RCC street lighting for the year 2022/23 £2923.94

(3) Income
a) RCC grass cutting rebate £8,374.50
b) Cemetery Account receipt no. 458&459 £180.00

Proposal: To resolve to accept all income and expenditure as shown above. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Bellairs and unanimous in favour **- RESOLVED.**

(4) Quotations for Grass Cutting contract 2023
Grass cutting and hedge maintenance quotation had been circulated to the Parish Councillors before the meeting.
Action: The Clerk was tasked with obtaining further quotes for the cemetery and to see if one contractor could do all the work for a better negotiated price.

(5) Budget 2023/24
A first draft budget for 2023/24 was presented to the meeting. This would be represented at the next meeting in December and for final resolution in January 2024.
Action: Clerk to resend Cllr. Gombault's notes to all councillors.

2022/11/07 **Planning:** New applications since last meeting were noted and had been responded to. 2022/1099/CAT 4 Waterside tree works
2022/1145/FUL 2 Coppice Road – single store rear extension

2022/11/08 **Village Issues**
i) 20 mph Scheme Review
To revisit decision of 15 December 2021 (minute reference 2021/12/10) and to Resolve to:
a) Proceed with this project
b) To consider the whole of the village into a 20mph zone and redo the project surveys.

After a long discussion regarding the number of signs, the need for enforceable signs as opposed to advisory ones, speed watch campaign resulting in no speeding issues, perception of speed being a factor, a resolution was proposed.

Proposal: To request RCC Highways meet the Parish Council on site to discuss proceeding with the 20mph scheme with less signage. If a smaller 20mph area is

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____

necessary to achieve less signage, then proceed on this basis. Proposed Cllr Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Yates and unanimous in favour - **RESOLVED.**
Action: Clerk to request an urgent meeting with RCC Highways

ii) **Bench Maintenance Review** – Cllr. Davis had undertaken a review of all parish benches. The new benches were a huge success. The bench on Turnpike needed a clean and the one by the library was showing a little wear on the front slat. No action necessary.

iii) **Mallard Pass Action Group –** The Parish Council had received a letter asking for a contribution towards the cost of expert and legal counsel when the final application from Mallard Pass Solar Farm had been submitted. After research by the Clerk, the parish could donate under the Local Government 1972 s.137. However, it was felt this issue needed further consideration as it was unclear if the majority of the parish was against this project and, therefore, legal to use Parish Council funds to support this. A village leaflet drop had taken place to individuals to encourage private donations.

iv) **Warm Welcome Sessions in the Library -** The Warm Welcome project set up by Charlotte Davis had already proved successful, sessions hade been well attended and received well. Charlotte had been interviewed on the radio to promote the project. The Parish Council expressed a wish to support further sessions.
Proposal : To donate £100 for supporting supplies, stationery and any other items required at future sessions. Proposed: Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe and unanimous in favour – **RESOLVED.**
The Parish Council wished to expressed its thanks to Charlotte and the volunteers for their commitment.

v) **Allotment hedge at St Tibba**. **Proposal:** Cllr. Bellairs to liaise with the Allotment Association to canvass neighbouring properties to agree that the hedge be cut to 6' in height and be allowed to grow to a maximum of 7'. Once agreement has been established, the Parish Council agree to pay for the hedge to be reduced in height to a maximum cost of £500. The Allotment Association would then be responsible for its maintenance thereafter at no further cost to the Parish.
Proposed Cllr. Bellairs, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe and unanimous in favour – **RESOLVED.**

vi) **Street Lights.** Cllr. Yates is in conversation with a manufacturer of street light fittings to see how improvements may be made. Currently the street lights in the villages are LED approx. 7 years old. The lights automatically reduce to half power at 21.00 each night, which means they are already pretty efficient. Further savings would mean changing the pendants, or the removal of fuses on some of the lights so they don't work at all.
Action: Cllr. Yates to take this matter forward and draw up a plan to be discussed in the New Year.

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____

2022/11/09 Cemetery Extension

a) Update - Cllr. Nebel reminded the Parish Council that it had purchased a piece of land in 2012 with the clear intention of extending the cemetery. The next step would be to circulate a survey to residents to gauge feedback. Once the results were collated, the matter could be brought to the January 2024 Parish Council meeting for further discussion.

b) The public consultation survey - A copy of the proposed survey had been circulated to the Parish Councilors for their comments by 31 November. After this, the survey would go live to the public with a reply date of 8 January 2023. Cllr. Wilby suggested having the survey available in the Library as well as the other mediums of communication.

c) Noticeboard for Cemetery - The Clerk had requested consideration of a noticeboard for the display of the rules and regulations of the cemetery. However, new noticeboards were proving to be very expensive. Action: Clerk to look for an alternative cheaper option. c/f to Dec meeting.

2022/11/10 Civility & Respect Pledge and Revised Code of Conduct
Proposal: To adopt the upgraded RCC Code of Conduct Unanimously **– RESOLVED**
Action: Clerk to upload on website

2022/11/11 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives.

Cllr. Wilby had attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Uppingham School and also CAB AGM earlier that evening. CAB demand has gone up by 40%. Also, there was a talk about the Foodbank; Rutland's one is working well and has a lot of demand. RCC continues to fight budget costs to maintain services.

Cllr. Nebel had attended the church roof celebration, Lord Lt. High Sheriff, the MP and other dignitaries were present. They had expressed an interest in visiting the village for any future events. Cllr. Nebel suggested this would help raise our profile and would be worth considering whenever the opportunity arose.

2022/09/12 Correspondence was noted from the agenda

2022/11/13 Open Forum (if required) - Nothing reported

2022/11/14 To receive Items for Future Meetings

- c/f Meadows Playing Field - Jo Gresty to draw up a head of terms for the Lease and to work with Cllr. Nebel on the co-operation agreement to produce final documentation for RPC's approval. The Trustees would then update the charity's constitution as appropriate

Dates of Meetings for 2022 commencing at 19:00 held in Ryhall Village Hall unless otherwise stated. **2022** Dec 12. **2023:** 16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 Apr (Annual Parish), 15 May, 26 Jun, 17 July

Meeting Closed at 21:25

CHAIRMAN: _____ DATE: _____

Supporting documents for this meeting can be found on the website: https://ryhallparishcouncil.co.uk If you require them in another format please contact the Clerk E: clerk@ryhallparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07718900848