DRAFT: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 18 September 2023 which commenced at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. David Wilby, Phill Davis, Andy Yates, Jon Whowell, Kevin Corby, Sarah Markwell-Cook, Simon Houghton and Marc Blake.

In Attendance: 1 member of the public and Sarah Gresty-Parish Clerk

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As the Chair and Vice Chairman were not in attendance Cllr. Sarah Markwell-Cook was proposed by Cllr. Whowell and Seconded by Cllr. Corby to chair the meeting on their behalf Resolved unanimously.

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Public Forum.

The member of public requested as many people as possible support residents of Essendine at the meeting at Wed 20 September 6pm in the village hall regarding the Mallard Pass compulsory acquisition rights. Together with support at the Planning Inspectors Public Hearings at Orton Hall Hotel, Peterborough (or remotely) during 26-28 September.

The member of the public also expresses concerns of noise and inconsiderate parking on evening during live music events at the Millstone public house. This disturbance of noise was causing stress to nearby neighbours with cars blocking roadways and access' to properties in the area.
Cllr. Whowell stated at the times he had been present at these events the music had stopped promptly at 10.30pm according to publican's license. He had actually observed other private social venues music continuing after this time. RCC do have verifiable decibel level equipment at which noise levels can be checked. He stated that villagers should be supporting local business. Cllr. Yates enquired at the times of the licensing hours, this was believed to be up to 11pm.
Cllr. Davis had noted that the Green Dragon has a notice on the outside of the building stating that outside music is not permitted.
Cllr. Wilby suggested a polite note to both pubs to ask them to make sure they adhere to their entertainment regulations and address any parking issues from customers. Action: Clerk to draft a letter for circulation before sending.

AGENDA

23/24-54 **Apologies** for Absence were received from Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe, Andrew Nebel, Richard Ludlow. It was **Resolved** to accept these apologies unanimously.

23/24-55 **Declarations** of unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests. None received.

23/24-56 **Minutes** of the Meetings held on:

a) 17 July 2023 Parish Council meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events. Proposed acceptance Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

b) 2 August 2023 Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events. Proposed acceptance Cllr. Blake, Seconded Cllr. Corby, Cllr. Yates abstained as he was not present, remaining unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

23/24-57 **Matters Arising** for information exchange

i) The tree safety survey had taken place by RCC's Tree Officer, report was awaited.

ii) 20mph Scheme. RCC consultation period has now come to an end and no objections had been received. RCC will now issue the formal order for works.

23/24-58 Finance

(1) **Reports**

a) Financial Report 1 April 2023- 30 August 2023 in the new reporting format with original bank statements was presented by the clerk.

b) 2022/23 External Auditor Report and closure Certificate, including confirmation and acceptance of VAT discrepancy on previous historical years was presented by the clerk.

(2)**Financial Payments**

a) S Gresty Clerk's July salary £1159.01
b) Nest Pension for clerk £51.43
c) Ryhall Village Hall inv. 17/7/23 £20
d) LRALC inv. 19/3372 Cllr. training £50
e) RJ Flower inv. 669 grass June/July £1757
f) Biffa inv. 460M01499 bins to 30/6/23 £390.00
g) RCC uncontested election costs inv. 9147367 £252.69
h) Wave Water for cemetery to 14/7/23 dd £138.42
i) Defibrillator box replacement information stickers £65 + VAT
j) S Gresty Clerks August salary £1159.21
k) Nest Pension for clerk £51.43
l) Unity Trust bank charges £18.00
m) J Cross memorial stonemason £156.00
n) Moore East Midlands Auditor £252.00
o) RCC uncontested election costs £252.69 *(noted this was a duplicate entry).*

(3) **Income** Noted

a) Overpayment repaid £27
b) Bank interest £83.03
c) Bank interest £31.64
d) Cemetery £85 receipt 462
e) Cemetery £85 receipt 463

Proposal: To accept all the financial records above as a true and accurate record of the financial situation and agreed payments. Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Yates and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED**

(4) **Salary Request from Clerk.** Clerks request for pension to be deducted from gross pay and paid to Nest Pension Scheme as salary sacrifice, no expenses to the parish council. Cllr. Wilby requested that this be discussed at the next Finance Working Group before being resolved.

(5) Financial Working Group

i) Financial Regulations. **Proposal:** To **Resolve** and **Adopt** the Financial Regulations as amended and presented. Cllr. Corby, Seconded Cllr. Wilby and unanimous in favour.

ii)Grants and Donations policy. **Proposal:** To **Resolve** and **Adopt** the Grants and Donations policy as amended and presented. Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous in favour.

23/24-59 Meadows Playing Field Association (MPFA)

i) **Under 5's Play area - Final pieces of Equipment.** Monies have been ringfenced within the Parish Council accounts of £4979. MPFA would like to purchase a Caloo see-saw together with an additional piece of equipment. The sum exceeds the

monies held by RPC. (The MPFA charity would fund any additional costs) to complete the under 5's area.
Cllr. Yates requested a full explanation of the historical trail of these funds. Cllr. Wilby suggested being mindful of too much equipment to maintain. It was confirmed that the maintenance of equipment is the responsibility of MPFA.
Action: c/f to the next meeting.

a) **Proposal:** RPC to agree to purchase on behalf of the MPFA Charity the chosen equipment, to enable the Parish Council to reclaim the VAT element, Cost of equipment excluding VAT approx. £8.5k. Action: c/f to the next meeting.

ii) Lease Agreement and other updates. It was confirmed that Cllr. Nebel and MPFA had today received the draft agreement for comment. Action: more information at next meeting.

iii) Insurance claim. Anti-social behavior recently suffered to the meadows and damage caused to the pavilion door was reported. Action: Clerk has made an insurance claim and is pursuing quotes for replacement of the door.
Cllr. Davis requested that the Insurance Excess payment be record as unexpected additional expenses in the accounts

iv) Additional rubbish Bin Request. No further action at present. Cllr. Wilby suggested a "Please take your rubbish home" notice be applied to all the bins.
Action: Clerk to produce a notice.

23/24-60 **Allotments**.

i) **Proposal:** To increase the rental cost of a plot by £5 to each allotment holder. Cllr. Whowell, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

23/24-61 **Planning**. New applications and notifications since last meeting were noted below
2023/0930/CAT – Hollyhock Cottage, Church Street
2023/0891/FUL – 11Balk Road
2023/0762/FUL – The Bungalow, Meadow View, Belmesthorpe lane
2023/0794/FUL – 24 Parkfield Road
2023/0660/FUL-11 St John's Close
Mallard Pass Solar Farm – This was discussed in the public forum above.

23/24-62 **Village Issues**

i) Street Lighting update – Cllr. Yates had been in contact with RCC who had proposed that only a £400 saving would be made by the parish, they are looking at further saving countywide. Action: Cllr. Yates to question the calculations from RCC.

ii) Defibrillator – **Proposal:** To purchase new stickers at a cost of £65 + Vat for the unit on the side of the village hall. It was proposed that a notice be laminated for the defib box as a temporary measure and cheaper compliant stickers be sourced.
Action: Clerk to make temporary sticker and research legal requirements.

iii) Tree Survey. **Proposal:** To instruct Bytham Trees to remove the dead tree in the allotment hedge at a cost of £350 + VAT. Proposed Cllr. Whowell, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

iv) Cemetery tidy up. The clerk reported on a successful day, joining with the Churchyard Champions, to clear the ivy from the walls of the old cemetery. The

Parish Council thanks all those involved. The capping of the walls needs some attention. Action: Clerk to obtain quotations for wall repairs where necessary.

v) Grass Contract Review.

Churchyard and Cemetery Grass. **Proposal:** To cease the contract with Prestige Landscape with immediate effect and to accept the tender from Plough Environmental for the grass cutting of all cemeteries and church yard with immediate effect and for the coming year 2024/25. Proposed Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Yates and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

Parish Grass **Proposal:** To continue contract for 2024/25 with Prestige Landscape. Proposed Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Yates and unanimous in favour **RESOLVED.**

vi) Highway Issues.
Action: Clerk to chase repairs to the White bridge.
Action: Clerk to chase UPP broadband services to ask for pre work notification to be sent to all affect residents when they are working in the village.

Cllr. Corby gave an update on the recent Belmesthorpe HTPC/2023/09 road safety meeting with RCC Highways. Unfortunately, a 20mph options was not agreed, however they are considering a 40mph sign from the white bridge into the village.

23/24-63 **Reports from Councillors on meetings** they have attended as parish council representatives.

Mallard Pass Cllrs. Wilby and Corby had attended a meeting with Alicia Kearns MP and discussion regarding compensation for the parish, should the scheme go ahead, was the main topic. No good news was forthcoming. Windel Energy had offered a very low compensation package of a one-off payment of £500,000 for the 40-60 year project. RCC are working with advisers on this issue.

Cllr. Wilby stated that Rutland is now the number one county for the highest GCSE and 'A' level grades

23/24-64 **Correspondence** was noted from the agenda.

23/24-65 **To receive Items for Future Meetings**
Carried Forward Items:
update of Village Plan
Coronation tree
Communications, Facebook and Neighborhood Watch
Local plan - RCC consultation.

Meeting closed at 8.39

Dates of Meetings for 2023 commencing at 19:00 23 Oct-Methodist Church Hall, 20 Nov-Village Hall. **2024:** 15 January, February (TBC) 18 March, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 16 September, 18 November, 16 December