DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 25 May 7pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe (Chair), Richard Ludlow (Vice Chair), David Wilby, Andrew Nebel, Andy Yates, Phill Davis,& Jon Whowell
In Attendance: Vanessa Yates, Sarah Markwell-Cook, Veronica Sutton, Rose Bushby, Win Peck, Marian Taylor, Sharon Mosley, Keith Mosley, Sylvia R, David Holland, Bas Clare, Val Lofthouse, Patti Wilby, Nick and Lindsay Parker, Sheryl and Rob, John and Leigh, S Davies, Tony Orvis, Andrew and Mandy Rogers, Simon Houghton, Malcolm Rylance, Jeanette Dupree, Michelle Nebel, Nick Bellairs, Dave Amies and Sarah Gresty Parish Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a warm welcome, glass of wine and some cheese.

Agenda

1. Debbie Rolfe, Ryhall Parish Council chair opened the meeting with: Good evening and welcome to Ryhall Parish Annual Meeting.
For those of you who do not know me my name is Debbie I have been a councillor for 9 years and I am the newly elected chair for Ryhall Parish Council. I think I am also making history by being the first female chairperson for Ryhall Parish Council. I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to Dave Amies for his dedication and hard work as our Chairperson, I have big shoes to fill and I, like the rest of the councillors would like to reassure you that as a council we will endeavor to serve the parish to the best of our ability. Our thanks must also go to Adrain Gombault who after 15 years has decided to retire from the Parish Council. Adrian was a very active councillor for the residents of Belmesthorpe, Neighbourhood Watch and over saw the Open House Scheme at Ryhall Library which was very successful.
We are joined by Tony Orvis from Essendine who is heavily involved with the Mallard Pass Action Group and will shortly provide an update.
So firstly let me introduce you to the other fellow councillors
Richard Ludlow – Vice Chair
Andy Yates – Planning committee
John Whowell – Allotments representative
David Wilby – who we are lucky enough to have as our reelected county councilor
Kevin Corby – our newly elected county councillor who also sits on the Planning committee
Phil Davis
Andrew Nebel – Planning committee
We also have Dave Toone who is our burial warden but not a counillor.
And lastly but by no means least we have our Clerk Sarah who pretty much does all the ground work and keeps us in order.
Ryhall is a very active village with many facilities and committees and we must ensure we make use of them if we are going to keep them going. We are also always on the look out for volunteers to help keep these assets to our village alive, so if any of you have any spare time and would like to help out in any way it will be greatly appreciated. I will leave the individual committees to provide you with an update on what they offer to the community.
The council is also looking for new members, we currently have 4 vacancies on the council. If you are interested please do get in touch. It really is very rewarding role.
We would also welcome any comments that you may have on what you would like to see happen in your village so please do stay for a glass of wine afterwards and talk to us or please feel free to drop us an email, our details are on the website .. but remember we do not have that special magic wand.

So thank you for taking the time to come along and now I will hand you over to…….

2. Tony Orvis on behalf of Mallard Pass Action Group. Tony Gave an update On the Planning Inspectorate examination period for Mallard Pass. He urged everyone to send their written representation, submissions via the Planning Inspectorate portal, by the 15 June deadline. The process will be concluded by 15 November at which point the Planning Inspectorate presents the case of the Secretary of State, presently Grant Shapes. If anyone needs help please contact the Action Group.
Following the preliminary and public hearings last week the Planning Inspector have already issued 70 questions mainly to the Developers, asking for additional information. As an Interested party, should you wish to speak at a future event registration is required. Questions discussed were regarding: the size of the substation, the construction period and highways disruption and safety, disruption to bus services, no compensation to residents and the community and the overall over bearing nature of the scheme.

3. Meadows Playing Field Management Association – Chairman Jo Report:
As I am sure everyone here is familiar with the playing field, I won't go into detail about the past year, other than to say that the playing fields has continued to be well used.
Instead I thought I would give a little update on the Management Association itself.
You may not be aware that the Association is a registered charity, founded in 1979, since when it has managed the playing fields, leasing them from the Parish Council. The current lease ends in 2024 and I am pleased to say that terms for a new 21 year lease have been agreed. This will allow the Charity to continue to manage the playing fields on behalf of the local community.
The playing fields were purchased by the Parish Council in the 1970s. Over the past 50 years things have evolved. In the past, the emphasis was on formal sport with football, cricket and tennis clubs using the facilities, all of which have now folded. In spite of this, I am pleased to say that the bowls club seems to be doing quite well and informal recreational use of the fields has increased, with the playground being extremely popular.
With this in mind, the Charity has decided to update its constitution. Firstly, it plans to change its name to Ryhall Meadows Community Trust. It is hoped that this may make the Charity, and the running of the playing fields, less remote from the residents of the parish. Secondly, the charity will tweak its objectives to reflect the changing patterns of recreational use and to recognise that the playing fields are a village facility which cannot match those of better equipped council run sports centres and schools.
Going forward, we are considering improving the appearance of the playing fields, perhaps with some tree planting around the edges as well as maintaining and upgrading the existing facilities where possible. For example, a new path suitable for all users around the edge of the playing field could make the playing fields more accessible to those who are less physically able or just do not want to walk around the muddy fields next to the village.
The Charity will be seeking the views of residents in the parish as well as new hopefully recruiting some new volunteers to help push the Charity and playing fields forward.

4. Ryhall Bowls Club – Chairman Malcolm Rylance.
The Bowls club has increased membership and is well attended with 25 members, regularly having 16 for an evening game. There is a need to encourage younger people to join and anyone is welcome to come and have a go every Wednesday evening or Saturday afternoon. The club is seeking possible funding from the Parish Council for some small projects such as, new guttering to collect rainwater from the roof and to be stored in large water storage tanks to be used to help water the green.

5. Village Hall – Report by Nick Bellairs. Nick welcomed everyone to the hall and promoted its facilities. The hall is the heart of the community and provides a space for many recreational activities for all age groups as well as providing areas for meetings. Activities currently using the hall are: Toddlers group, Scottish dancing, Zumba, yoga, Pilates, clubbercise, art and craft, karate,

children's birthdays parties and meeting. All of the groups can be contacted via their fliers/posters on the notice boards around the hall or by our website: www.ryhallvillagehall.co.uk. The hall is actively seeking new committee members, so if you have an hour or so to attend our bi-monthly meetings, and you are interested in joining our friendly committee you will be made very welcome. The next one is June 6th at 1pm.

6. Open House at Ryhall Library Report – Adrian Gombault

The Covid pandemic was a huge challenge for the Open House initiative, bringing a lengthy and unwelcome hiatus to the our volunteer operation.

Happily, "normal service" has now been resumed, and, although visitor levels may not be quite up to the levels we were enjoying before the pandemic, there are satisfactory numbers regularly coming through the doors once again, to supplement the service provided by the County Council on its opening days.

Particularly pleasing is the fact that volunteer numbers have held up, with new volunteers coming forward to replace the few who have retired from the roster.

This year has seen an increase in our opening days and hours, thanks to a merging of the Winter Warm Place and Open House teams at the end of the winter. The resulting increase in numbers of volunteers gives us greater flexibility in arranging the duty rotas. The library is now open at some time on every weekday plus Saturday mornings, with the Open House opening times extended to include Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Experience will dictate whether this arrangement can continue, or whether we will need to prune our opening days from four to three over the summer months. But either way it represents a significant step forward, and it is very likely that we will be offering the full four sessions again next winter, at least.

It remains a disappointment that we have been unable to prevail upon Rutland County Council to undertake the redecoration work that the exterior of the library building so urgently needs. We can only hope to see action taken some time in the coming year.

My thanks are due to Maggie Cummings for her help and cooperation in merging the two teams, and, as ever, to Andrew Downing and Janet Gray for their enthusiastic and stolid support. Last but not least, we must all thank our band of volunteers, some of whom have been a part of the team throughout our eight years of service. for their unfailing commitment and goodwill. They are a shining example to the community of what can be achieved through joint effort in a worthy cause.

7. Belmesthorpe Neighbourhood Watch Report – Adrian Gombault

The Neighbourhood Watch group in Belmesthorpe has been serving the village now for some thirty years.

It continues to operate through a committee of eight residents, each of whom is responsible for a share of the homes in and around the village. The fact that it has been possible to welcome four new members in recent years, as former members have retired or left the village, is a testament to the regard for which the Watch is held in the village and for the value of the service which it continues to provide.

The Covid pandemic presented unusual challenges, but meetings were continued via Zoom, and it is hoped to resume live meetings once again this year.

Over 80% of the village's residents are now signed up to a circular email service, and this has made it possible to dispense with printed newsletters. The emails have proved a far superior medium for passing on urgent crime alerts, and are also used for other important communications, such as arrangements for the Coronation celebrations and information concerning the Mallard Pass and Meadow Lane proposed developments.

The Coronation Picnic on Sunday 7th May weekend was the major social event of the year, and was attended by some 80 residents, including a good number of young children. A gloriously sunny afternoon was enjoyed in a special riverside setting, and a range of entertainments provided, including a Coronation-themed quiz, a Village History display, vintage car and farmyard vehicles, children's activity materials and a bring and share tombola. Several residents contributed to a

heaving table of cakes and buns, which were served free of charge throughout the afternoon. Prizes were presented for the best of the thirty homes who responded to the call to decorate them with bunting and the like, and also to the winner of the Quiz. A group photo was taken, which appeared in the Stamford Mercury and has been circulated electronically to all residents who attended, and special commemorative mugs were sold, bearing the official Coronation emblem and the Belmesthorpe village name.
The village is grateful for the generous donation towards the costs of the event made by Ryhall Parish Council.
Earlier in the year, a pub social was held to welcome new residents to the village, and it is hoped to repeat this in the future.
An extensive survey was also conducted to ascertain residents' concerns about vehicle speeding in and around the village, and what they wished to be done to prevent it. The survey was completed by two thirds of all households and revealed near unanimous concern over the safety of our roads and desire to have urgent action taken to improve it. A report containing details of the responses was circulated to residents and presented to the Parish Council for its support. It has now been sent on to Rutland County Council, where it awaits a response.

8. Cllr. David Wilby gave an update on Rutland County Council position after the election. Urged people to respond to the Mallard Pass in a short, concise way and stressed that Alicia Kearns MP was very much fighting the cause. David welcomed Kevin Corby as the new District Council and very much looked forward to working with him on behalf of the parish.
David would love to see more group activities on the playing fields such as the reforming of a tennis club and maybe a local cricket team. David is working very closely on local issues such as the Stamford North and Meadow Lane, Great Casterton potential applications, both he and Kevin are on the RCC Planning committee. However, he stated that we all support small developments that bring new families to the area to help support the amenities we have in Ryhall and Belmesthorpe.

9. Play Group report read by Phill Davis.
Playgroup is open every Monday 9-10:30 during term time at Ryhall Village Hall. We have anywhere from 15-30 children under five attend. We provide a sensory activity, craft activity and lots of toys, plus a baby corner and singing with story together at the end of each session. We provide drinks, fruit, biscuits and homemade cake too which always proves to be popular! We sometimes struggle to find enough volunteers to help wash up (10am - 10:45am if you can ever offer any help, whether a one-off or regularly).
With thanks to The Village Hall, who offer us a discounted room hire cost and free use of a storage cupboard, plus a generous grant from the Village Fete this academic year, we offer a very cheap entrance price of £1.50 for one adult and one child, with 50p per additional child. Open Monday 9-15-30 children sensitivity. Story and singing.

10. Michelle Nebel – Fete Committee A plea for anyone who would like to volunteer to help at the fete or to just come and enjoy the event and spend their money. The Fete is on Saturday 15th July and supports many local causes so has a direct benefit to the village as well as being a lovely afternoon to enjoy. For the first time we have a child on the committee who has voiced the need for more children's entertainment which it is hoped to be achieved on the day. **COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE AFTERNOON.**

Closed at 20:01

CHAIR: _____ **DATE: _____**