DRAFT: Minutes of Ryhall Parish Council (RPC) Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024 at 19:00 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe (Chair), Richard Ludlow (Vice Chair), David Wilby, Andrew Nebel, Phil Davis, Simon Houghton, Kevin Corby, Sarah Markwell-Cook & Jon Whowell

In Attendance: 2 Members of the public, Paul Middlebook on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Dave Pearce and J Lambert from the Allotment committee and Sarah Gresty-Parish Clerk

Public Forum: Dave Pearce gave an overview of the allotment committee's plans and the hope that RPC would support the application request (agenda item 24/25-90d)

Agenda

Items on the agenda were discussed out of order to accommodate attendees having to leave before the end of the meeting.

24/25-86 Apologies for absence: were received from Cllrs Yates & Blake. These apologies were unanimously accepted.

24/25-87 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests: Cllr Markwell-Cook declared that she was an allotment holder and a Trustee of the Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Association (RMPFA). Cllr. Rolfe declared herself as a Trustee of RMPFA.

24/25-88 Minutes of:

a) 21 October 2024 Parish Council meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events. Proposed acceptance Cllr. Houghton, Seconded Cllr. Wilby, Cllrs. Davis, Ludlow and Markwell-Cook abstained due to absence, the remaining unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED**.

24/25-89 Action Tracker

a) Actions from Review:

- Clerk to pursue 20mph scheme with new employee at RCC for an update.
- Cllr. Rolfe to chase RCC for repainting ambulance parking bay
- School Parking issue. Cllr. Rolfe to work with school since the new year intake to address the increase in parking issues and to address speeding especially in St Johns Close.
- White bridge missing bollard. Cllr. Wilby to check on whereabouts of bollard and to pursue its reinstatement

Current Year 2024/25

24/25-90 Financial matters presented by the Clerk as follows:

a) **Financial Report** for the period to 30 October 2024 with bank statements.

b) Resolve **Payments** as follows:

a/c Ref	Date	To Whom	Net	VAT
60				
61	11/10/2024	Plough Environment	£ 470.00	
62	11/10/2024	RJ Flowers	£ 760.00	£ 152.00
63	28/10/2024	Nest	£ 57.50	

CHAIRPERSON: DATE:

64	30/10/2024	S Gresty	£ 87.91	£ 0.36
65	30/10/2024	Methodist Church	£ 45.00	
66	30/10/2024	ACR Computers	£ 29.17	£ 5.83
67	30/10/2024	RJ Flowers	£ 700.00	£ 140.00
68	30/10/2024	S Gresty	£ 1,226.39	
69	31/10/2024	Unity Trust Bank	£ 5.40	

Proposal: To **accept, adopt and resolve** the financial records above. Proposed Cllr. Ludlow, Seconded Cllr. Corby and unanimous in favour.

c) Grass Contract for 2025. **Proposal:** To award the contract to RJ Flowers for a 3rd year at a cost of £850 per cut, with allowance for extra cuts to accommodate the longer grass growing season. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Markwell-Cook and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

d) 2025/26 Budget (First Draft)

A Covering report overview was produced by the Finance Working Group and circulated prior to the meeting.

Actions: Auto speed watch is unlikely to happen next year. RCC are looking at another speed initiative. remove this value from the budget. Cllr. Rolfe asked if election costs should be included as an annual cost element in case of a called election.

20mph scheme costs would be reconsidered at the next parish council meeting once up to date figures are received.

Working group will present at the next meeting percentage options for the precept for further consideration.

- **Allotment Grant Application. Proposal:** To award the sum of £726 under s.106 of the Local Government Act for purchase of a generator and shelter from 2024/25 contingency budget funds. Proposed Cllr. Wilby, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe, Cllr. Markwell-Cook abstain, remaining unanimous in favour.

It was hoped by awarding the grant the Allotment Association could improve the social side of the allotments for family events and to encourage a widen village participation.

Cllr. Whowell wanted it noted that the previous and present committees have done a marvellous job in improving and bringing the allotments together.

- **20mph scheme.**

Action: Clerk to make contact with RCC for potential increased costs of this project.

Cllr Rolfe to reach out to RCC and School to see what alternative initiatives could be done.

December meeting Agenda. A full council decision on how to proceed with this project.

24/25-91 Planning Issues

a) To receive new planning applications and notification since last meeting and to discuss (if required) ongoing applications.

- **2024/1189/FUL** Proposal: single storey rear extension 18 Parkfield Road. Proposal: to submit no objections. Unanimously agreed.

b) Neighbourhood Plan (nhp) working group

Proposal: To **accept, adopt and resolve** the Terms of Reference for Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow and unanimous in favour.

The Steering group are in the process of completing a Communication Policy. It is important to gain an independent view of the community. The NHP will be a progressive plan with its aim to be forward thinking. Recruitment of volunteers is presently underway, Cllr. Rolfe has agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the Steering Group. Paul reiterated that a NHP could cost in the region of £15-20k, and that funding is available to support the project however not guaranteed. Cllr. Wilby having had experience of other plans in the county reiterated this and the need for costs to be kept as low as possible, with using information from successful plans as a helpful way of doing this.

Action: December Agenda item. The Steering group to present the Communication Plan and a budget. (to be considered for incorporating in the 2025/26 RPC budget)
Clerk to research if CIL monies can be used for the purpose of a NHP.
Paul requested results from the recent Housing survey. Cllr. Corby to chase this.

24/25-92 RMPF Lease.

a) The draft Lease had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Nebel stated that there are some aspects of the lease that would normally be included in a standard agreement between a landlord and a tenant, which have been removed, in order to make it easier for RMPFA to sign the lease. These items were unduly onerous and not necessary in the circumstances that exist between the Council and the Association. Cllr. Nebel recommends that the deletions are not significant and do not impair the ability for this Council to ensure that its property is well protected and looked after. Cllr. Nebel said that in his opinion RPC should consider accepting the terms of the lease so that we may proceed to instruct Chattertons to draw up the final version for signature. The land will then be registered with the Land Registry.

He referred to the advantages that RMPFA will enjoy once they are in possession of a legally correct lease; a significant one of which would be the Association's ability to fundraise from Lotteries to enable substantial expenditure if needed, such as replacing the existing Pavilion.

As the lease refers to the current trustees by name, when the new lease is completed, RPC will apply on behalf of RMPFA to the Charity Commission to vest the lease with its Custodian Land Holding Service, this alleviates Trustees from long term personal involvement, as should they stand down, the lease will not need to be re-issued with new trustee's identities. RMPFA is currently an unincorporated charitable association.
Cllr. Nebel suggested that it would be better for it to in time consider the additional trustee protection afforded by adopting an incorporated form such as a CIO [a Charitable Incorporated Organisation]. He offered to use his charity experience to assist the Association should this path be chosen.

Proposal: RPC adopt the terms of the lease presented and authorise Cllr. Nebel to proceed to execute the lease in conjunction with RMPFA. Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow, Cllr. Rolfe and Markwell-Cook, as trustees of RMPFA, abstained, remaining unanimous in favour.

Cllr. Rolfe wanted to note thanks to Cllr. Nebel and Jo Gresty for their help especially trying to make it right for both parties.

a) Land Registration of Allotments and Playing Fields. The Clerk presented the letters of acceptance from Chattertons for signature.
Proposal: To continue with the registration of both areas of land. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow and unanimous in favour.

Action: Cllr. Rolfe to sign letters and take them to Chattertons Solicitors.

24/25-93 Village Issues

a) Highways issues

The poor state of recent asphalt work in the square was discussed in depth. Many residents had also complained at the poor workmanship and non reinstatement of the white lines.

Action: Cllr. Davis to draw up a report

Cllr. Wilby to request an onsite visit by RCC Head of Highways to assess and amend the work. Also to request a strategic look at all the roads in the village producing a Highways Plan.

b) Any Other Items.

Water leak has eventually been repaired on School Lane, however the one outside Francis Court has not been addressed. Action: Clerk to chase.

The Clerk had received a communication from a resident about detectors being mounted on lamppost in the village. No one knew what these were for. Action: Clerk to investigate.

24/25-94 Media Policy. Action: a draft Communication Policy to be present at December meeting.

24/25-95 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives.

Cllr. Houghton. Village Hall Committee have been trying to address the issue with the surface of the car park. As a village resource for all would the Parish Council be in a position to contribute?

Cllr. Wilby thanked everyone on behalf of the RBL for the well attended services in the area. He thanked Richard Ludlow for putting up the poppies on the lamp posts and taking them down again.

Parish forum meeting emergency plan. Action: Clerk to look at collating RPC's plan into the new format.

Cllr. Nebel had attended the North West Anglia Foundation Trust board meeting held recently in the Stamford & Rutland Hospital. Choosing to hold the meeting in Stamford can be taken as a commitment to maintain this service in the town. He was pleased to report that a significant multi- million investment in the Stamford hospital's new minor treatment wing was well underway. He felt this highlighted the need for LLR ICB to make a similar investment in the rather neglected Rutland Memorial Hospital in Oakham.

24/25-96 Correspondence was noted from the agenda.

24/25-97 To receive Items for Future Meetings

New Employment Rights Bill and consideration of new policy

Cllr. Houghton asked councillors to reduce the email storage archive space.

Cllr. Davis had to leave meeting at 20:06

The meeting closed at 21:06

Date of future meetings: 2024: 16 Dec

2025: 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 12th May, 9th June, 7th July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November & 8th December.

CHAIRPERSON: DATE:

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