Minutes of Ryhall Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 6 January 2025 at 19:00 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe (Chair), Richard Ludlow (Vice Chair), David Wilby, Andrew Nebel, Phil Davis, Andy Yates, Simon Houghton, Marc Blake, Kevin Corby, Sarah Markwell-Cook & Jon Whowell
In Attendance: 1 Members of the public and Sarah Gresty-Parish Clerk.

Public Forum: Cllr. Rolfe opened the meeting with a New Year greeting. The first news received was sadly the resignation of Cllr. Yates which was accepted. The Parish Council wished Andy well in his new promoted job role and thanked him for his support over the past 3 years.

There was no further public business so the public forum was closed.

Agenda

24/25-110
Apologies for absence.
None received.

24/25-111
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:
None received.

24/25-112
Minutes of:
a) 18 November 2024 Parish Council meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events. Proposed acceptance Cllr. Houghton, Seconded Cllr. Wilby, Cllrs. Corby & Markwell-Cook abstained due to absence, the remaining unanimous in favour. **RESOLVED.**

24/25-113
Action
a) **Action Tracker** was reviewed items updated:

- 20mph and parking issues Cllr. Rolfe has a meeting with school on 20 Jan and will report back at the February meeting.
- Repainting ambulance bay – Action: Cllr. Rolfe to chase this with RCC
- Roadworks in the Square. Cllr. Wilby will continue to pressurise RCC to rectify this work.
- Francis Court Water Leak. Action: Cllr. Corby and Clerk to chase this yet again with Longhurst.
- Detectors on the lamp posts. It was thought that these were installed by Virgin Media who have taken over from UPP who installed the fibre in the village last year, it is believed that these detectors are monitoring the quality of the work that UPP installed. – Action : closed this item.

Current Year 2024/25
24/25-114
Financial matters presented by the Clerk as follows:

a) **Financial Report** for the period to 31 November 2024 with bank statements.

b) **Payments** as follows:

File Ref	Date	Detail	Net	VAT
80	5/12/24	D Toone-Cemetery annuity	850	
81	18/12/24	Eastern Garage Doors	383.33	76.67

82	18/12/24	LRALC – training	35	
83	18/12/24	RVH – room rental	20	
84	18/12/24	Farm Forestry Co	45.75	29.15
85	30/12/24	Unity Trust Bank	6.00	
86	30/12/24	S Gresty clerk Dec Salary	1336.25	
87	30/12/24	HMRC Tax and NIC Qtr 3	1307.60	

Income received

I12	03/12/2024	Cemetery Income	100
i13	13/12/2024	Cemetery Income	170
I14	18/12/2024	rmpf reimbursement	363.33

c) Transfer from Saving to Current account £5,000 required before next bacs payments made.

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

d) 2025/26 Budget and Precept Request.

In preparing its annual operating budget Ryhall Parish Council [RPC] requests Rutland County Council to provide a financial grant known as the Precept. The cost of the Precept is then added to each village household's Council Tax.

Over the past 4 years the Parish Council has kept the increase in the Precept to less than the cost of inflation affecting our expenditures. This has required the Parish Council to dip into its reserves in order to balance the budget. In 2022/23 due to Covid and general inflation running in excess of 11% no increase at all was made and in the current year, 2024/25 we drew down £9,481 from reserves in order to mitigate costs to villagers.

Proposal 1: Cllr. Whowell proposed a precept of £40,920 with the deficit being met by reserves. No Seconder was received for this proposal.

Proposal 2: Cllr. Nebel proposed that in 2025/26 we need to operate a balanced budget and can no longer reduce reserves. In 2024/25 the cost of the precept to an average Band D property was £60.57 and it is proposed this should now increase to £77.46 for the coming 2025/26 year. This represents an increase per average Band D household of £1.41 per month; or £16.89 in total for the whole year. Cllr. Nebel proposed a precept of £47,455, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe, 1 objection, 8 in favour. The majority being in favour this proposal was **resolved.**

24/25-115

Planning Issues

The meeting received the following new planning applications and recommendations for response by the Planning Committee.

a) 2024/1299/FUL – Erection of a two storey side extension 7 Manor Close. **Response:** No objections Amendment to size and density to the original plans had been made and thought appropriate.

b) 2023/0019/OUT Cross Boundary Outline Planning applications, Little Casterton Road. **Response:** This application was being determined at the RCC Planning Committee on Tuesday. No further response from RPC's Planning Committee's original response was required.

24/25-116

Neighbourhood Plan (NHP).

Cllr. Rolfe outlined the situation: Both Craig and Paul decided to withdraw their service's as the lead coordinators for our Neighbourhood Plan. You will also be aware that this was as a result of the negativity they both felt when attending the meetings. Whilst we recognise that there could have been a bit more detail in their requirements that would allow a more informed decision, I think we have to take some

responsibility on how we came across as a council. Both Paul and Craig had met on numerous occasions with the Planning Team which they described as positive and thought they had the backing of the PC however when they attended the meeting they felt the negativity was too much and the support of the majority missing, therefore they did no longer want to "Waste any further time or resource"

A discussion took place of the importance of the NHP and RPC's wish to continue in the pursuit of a plan. It was noted that getting detailed costs at an early stage are difficult. All plans need to be lead by the community. Reality is that a NHP will take approx. 3 years to be adopted and with Government changes the situation was unsure. In future with the threats of devolution NHP could become very important.
Actions: Public have to be engaged and informed.

- To produce a leaflet for every household explaining what a NHP is, its advantages and what is required to make it happen.
- Cllrs. Whowell and the Planning Committee to work together to produce wording for a leaflet for February meeting.
- Cllr. Nebel to look at quotes for printing a leaflet.

Housing survey. Cllr. Corby had shared the Housing needs survey results prior to the meeting. This could be used to form the basis of the NHP. Action: Cllr. Corby to invite Philippa McKenna Project Delivery Manager | Midlands Rural Housing to the March meeting.

24/25-117
Village Issues

a) Highways issues
   i. Cllr. Wilby is following up the recent highways issues as previously discussed.
   ii. Cllr. Davis had reported on f-m-s various pot holes
   iii. Standing Water on Belmesthorpe Road. Action: report ditch needing clearing f-m-s.
   iv. The recently repaired pot hole on white bridge has already started to fail again. Cllr. Wilby to add to Highways issues.

b) Any Other Items. No further issues raised.

24/25-118
Governance Documentation to receive, consider and resolve their adoption.

i) Anti Harassment and Bullying Policy. Action: Due to the festive holiday and illness this was c/f to the next meeting.

ii) Respect Statement for Parish Council correspondence to Read:

> "Ryhall Parish Council welcomes all feedback, suggestions and complaints from anyone in the community. However, these must be expressed respectfully and politely. Hostility, rudeness or unpleasantness shown towards staff or Councillors orally, in writing or on social media will not be tolerated. The Council's Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy published on our website will be applied in such circumstances."

Proposal: To add statement to all email correspondence. Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow and unanimous in favour.

iii) Communication Policy. Action: Due to the festive holiday and illness this was c/f to the next meeting.

24/25-118
Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives.

24/25-119

Correspondence received from last meeting was noted from the agenda.

The Clerk had received an anonymous letter regarding issues on Coppice Road. RPC are unable to respond to anonymous correspondence. However, it was noted that the Parish Council and Cllr. Corby had already been working with PC Jake Spruce who had visited Coppice Road and knocked on householders doors. The Parish Clerk had also put pleas in the Village News on anti social parking on numerous occasions.

Action:

- Another notice in Village News asking resident and car owners to be more thoughtful in their parking.
- Clerk to reiterate to residents that when corresponding with the Parish Clerk all correspondence is processed under the Data Protection Acts and therefore a residents name and details would not be kept confidential.

24/25-120

To receive Items for Future Meetings

Investigate with James W von der Voelsungen, RCC's Parking Services Manager any implementations for hardstanding parking in some areas to alleviate parking on the grass

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

Meeting closed @ 20:20