Minutes of Ryhall Parish Council (RPC) Meeting held on
Monday 3 February 2025 at 19:00 in the Methodist Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe (Chair), Richard Ludlow (Vice Chair), Andrew Nebel, Phill Davis, Simon Houghton, Marc Blake, Kevin Corby, & Jon Whowell

In Attendance: 2 Members of the public & Sarah Gresty-Parish Clerk

Cllr. Rolfe started the meeting with the sad news that Stella Smith had passed away earlier today. She had been a Councillor for 28 years and had been a great advocate for the Parish Council. She was a much-loved kind character in the village. A condolence card had been sent on behalf of the Parish Council to John her husband and family.
Cllr. Whowell, who had served on the council with Stella, wanted to express that she always had the heart of the village in everything she did and was very sorry to hear this news.
Cllr. Nebel asked whether a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland Dr. Sarah Furness be sent to John thanking him for Stella's long service.

Public Forum:
One member of the public wanted to hear an update of the library position before she completed her RCC consultation survey.

Agenda

24/25-128 Apologies for absence:
Were received from Cllrs. Markwell-Cook and Wilby. These apologies were unanimously accepted.

24/25-129 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:
There were none

24/25-130 Minutes of:
a) **6 January 2025** Parish Council meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events proposed acceptance Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous vote in favour-**RESOLVED.**

b) **13 January 2025** Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of events proposed acceptance Cllr. Corby, Seconded Cllr. Houghton, Cllr. Rolfe abstained due to absence, the remaining voted unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

c) **23 January 2025** Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meetings were presented as a true and accurate record of events proposed acceptance Cllr. Corby, Seconded Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Ludlow and Houghton abstained due to absence the remaining voted unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

24/25-131 Co option.
A co option application had been received from David Denman.
Proposal: To vote David to the vacant seat left by Andy Yates. Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**
David was welcomed to the Parish Council. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the rest of the meeting agenda items.

24/25-132 Actions
a) **Action Tracker updates:**
I. Meeting with school on 20mph scheme. Mr Reed had forgotten the arranged meeting so another has been organised.

II. Spinney Garages. Cllr. Nebel reported that RCC have now finished their survey of which garages are in use. They will produce a summary of how many are being let and paid for, how many appear to be let but not paid for and the remainder which are not used. Cllr. Nebel has asked for confirmation of which garages are fit for demolition and which may be fit for re-rental. Cllr. Nebel reiterated to RCC that members of the community who use these garages get value making them an asset for residents.
Cllr. Nebel thought that RPC were all in agreement that we would like to see the derelict garages removed and the site made clean.
Cllr. Corby suggested that the Spinney area was registered as a community asset. Action: Cllrs. Rolfe and Corby to submit a community asset status. c/f to March meeting for resolution.

Cllr. Corby suggested looking at other areas in the village for community asset registration.

III. Youths in the village. Cllr. Whowell expressed disappointment that the church has had to close due to vandals. Cllr. Davis confirmed that the parish council would like to support positive youth activities in the village. As the library has taken precedent recently this item would be revisited in the summer.

Current Year 2024/25

24/25-133 Financial matters presented by the Clerk as follows:

a) **Financial Report** for the period to 27 January 2025 with a copy of online bank statements were circulated prior to the meeting.

b) **Payments** as follows:

File Ref	Date	Detail	Net	VAT
88	7/1/25	Max Wealth	57	11.4
89	7/1/25	Plough Environmental inv. 3045	435	
90	7/1/25	Ryhall village Hall meeting room	20	
91	17/1/25	Nest Clerk pension	68.81	
92	24/1/25	RCC new bin inv. 9059024	153	30.6
93	24/1/25	S Gresty – Council expenses	134.98	16.17
94	24/1/25	S Gresty – Jan clerk salary	1336.25	
		Rutland Web inv 2626	26.25	
		Nest Pension DD	68.81	
		Unity Bank Charges	6.00	

c) To Note Income received

I15	10/1	National Grid wayleave	£5.75

d) Transfer from Savings account to Current account £5,000 dated 7/1/2025

The Council **NOTED** the income for the Months of January 2025 totalling £5.75. The Council **RESOLVED** to **AUTHORISE** the expenditure for the month of January 2025 totalling £2348.10. The Financial Report and bank Statements were checked by Cllr. Davis.
Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Whowell and unanimous in favour. Action: year end forecast for next meeting.

24/25-134 Planning Issues. To receive new planning applications and notification since last meeting to formulate response and to discuss (if required) ongoing applications.

a) **2025/0041/CAT** Dunster House, Foundry Road, Proposal: tree works.
Response: No Objection

b) **2025/0039/FUL** Refurbishment works throughout the existing house, including a proposed replacement front porch, two storey rear extension, garage conversion and addition of timber cladding to the existing rear dormer. 34 Balk Road Ryhall Rutland PE9 4HT **Response:** No Objection

c) **2025/0051/MAF** River Gwash Trout Farm. Section 73 vary condition 2 of application 2023/0991/FUL **Response:** We note the objection in relation to Plot 4 and concur with that objection. It is noted that condition 2 of the original planning consent as follows: -
1.'No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works for the site, which shall include any proposed changes in ground levels and also accurately identify spread, girth and species of all existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows on the site and indicate any to be retained, together with measures for their protection which shall comply with the recommendations set out in the British Standards Institute publication BS 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Construction.
Reason: To ensure that the landscaping is designed in a manner appropriate to the locality and to enhance the appearance of the development and to accord with policy CS19 of the Core Strategy and Policy SP15 of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD'. It is of concern that the protected hedge has been reported as reduced to virtually nothing, prior to granting of this application, and we would object to the proposed 5m extension on this plot on the grounds of loss of privacy for the neighbouring property.
We also note that confirmation is still required with regard to the affordable tenures, and would seek clarification in this respect.

Cemetery lay by being used for site vehicles. Action: Cllr. Corby to check application highways conditions. Cllr. Nebel to draft a polite letter to Simon Boon Homes encouraging him to speak to the contractors to desist to using the space.

d) **2025/0084/CAT** Pinfold House, Foundry Road – Tree work **Response:** No objection subject to Tree Officer recommendation.

A new application had been received today. **2024/1402/FUL** Fancourts Farm Shop Action: clerk to request an extension to response date to 3 March.

24/25-135 Neighbourhood Plan.
Quotes are still be sourced for a leaflet. c/f to next meeting. Action: Cllr. Blake to approach an alternative printer

24/25-136 Village Hall Land Registry.
Proposal: To proceed with the registration of the Village Hall with the Land Registry.
Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

24/25-137 Ryhall Library.

a) Cllr. Nebel updated the meeting after a Working Group had been created. Cllrs. Nebel & Rolfe had written to Mark Andrews outlining in some considerable detail the following argument against closure of the library:

i) The consultation was flawed and not compliant with process and procedure
ii) Contradictions on dates - when does it end?
iii) Serious doubt as the consultations ends on the same day as RCC are making the decision. Doubt they can demonstrate the required conscientious consideration of the proposals
iv) complained about failure to provide schedule of works
v) and a range of other short comings and disappointing behaviour.

We fully disagree with the proposal that they want to close the library. We have asked for clarification of how much the proposed expenditure is on converting the building into a "living Well" space and how much was simply remediation works of the fabric of the existing building.
When this Schedule of Works is available to us, we can further pursue volunteers and other surveys to examine them in detail. This will strengthen our arguments to restore the building.

Cllr. Rolfe had submitted a request to the Enquiries Board Ryhall from the Consultation process requesting when the Question and Answers will be published.

Cllr. Rolfe had also had a meeting with Rutland Village Community Connectors. RCC are employing them to survey the amenities for the county and they realise there is a shortfall for services in the community. So, whilst RCC are proposing taking away our library, this group is there to try and help assist in bridging gaps in facilities in villages. This seems contradictory.

Cllr. Nebel has submitted 3 Freedom of Information request to RCC and Cllr. Rolfe has submitted 1. A further submission requested a breakdown of all the s.106 monies they hold and what are they allocated for will be submitted.

Cllr. Nebel is working with Alicia Kearns MP.

Cllr. Rolfe reported that the "meet the team" session in the library are misleading. This is not part of the library consultation. The "Living Well" Representatives who are going to Ryhall library will not be in a position to answer questions regarding the closure of the library.

Cllr. Davis outlined the Action Group progress so far.

Cllr. Ludlow wanted to commend Cllr. Nebel for the work he has been doing as a representative for the Parish Council and pass gratitude to Charlotte Davis and the Action group team for the work and speedy responses they are achieving.

Cllr. Davis confirmed that the Ryhall Action group has been formed, and also the Ryhall Library Action Group as a sub project targeting the library specifically. The main focus for the Action Group is 'What happens if the library does close, what is the viability to run it as a Community funded library under a Charitable status.

The Parish Council need to consider what we might need to do to negotiate with RCC.

Cllr. Corby continues to lobby with fellow Independence Group Councillors who are very concerned regarding how this process has been conducted. He has spoken with the CEO and strongly urged him to speak to Ryhall and advised him that he, as County Councillor, still had not had sight of the costings.

Cllr. Whowell commended Cllr. Nebel for his letter writing skills. Reiterated the time frame of less than 3 weeks, theatrically on 27th RCC will make the decision. The Action Group are doing sterling job.

Proposal: The Parish Council to set aside £500 within its accounts for the sole use of the Action Group Save the Library campaign. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Whowell the remaining Councillors voted unanimously in favour-**RESOLVED.**

b) Community Right to Bid Application. To formally note the application submitted to RCC for the library building. This has been acknowledged and a review can take up to 8 weeks for a decision.

24/25-138 Governance Documentation.

i) Anti Harassment and Bullying Policy

ii) Communication Policy. c/f to next meeting.

CHAIRPERSON: DATE:

24/25-139 Allotments.
Proposal: Future Tenancy Agreements to be produced electronically (but making allowance for paper copies where necessary). For the Parish Council to provide a signed pro forma agreement for distribution to tenants. Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Ludlow and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

24/25-140 Village Issues – to receive updates or further information

a) Highways issues

Cllrs. Rolfe and Davis have a meeting with RCC's Andy Tatt (RCC head of Highway) and the contractor who undertook the recent works on 17th Feb 10.30 am to pro-actively look at the works done/a corrective works required. Clerk passed Cllr. Davis historical information regarding weight restriction on the white bridge this will also be part of the discussion. Actions: Additional questions to be channelled to Phill before the meeting.

b) Any Other Items.

i) Warm Spaces update – After a slow start we now have a regular group on a Friday of 16-20 people. It is helping people financially, socially and alleviating loneliness. We have agreed to continue 2 lunches every month until the budget runs out. Providing we have the volunteers and funds it is something we can continue. It has far exceeded what we set up to do said Cllr. Rolfe.

24/25-141 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives.

Cllr. Corby had attended the **Parish Forum**. Devolution debate: Those on the east side of Rutland feel very much that they would have welcomed South Kesteven as more association is felt with Stamford. However, it seems that Rutland will be affiliated with Leicestershire, however this is still all up in the air.

Budget will be an increase of 5%.

Cllr. Rolfe had attended the Alicia Kearns public meeting on **Devolution**. There is supposed to be more information of timing and detail to come.
Border changes: If we became 'Leicestershire and Rutland' at 762,000 residents there would be 3 County Council Representatives
If we went East/West with 403,000 residents there would be 6 County Councillors
At present we are 42,000 residents with 27 County Councillors.

Cllr. Whowell stated that its popular belief that Council Tax will be reduced, However he does not believe it and that 30 years ago the idea of devolution into a super county was discussed and dropped.

Cllr. Houghton reported on the **Village Hall** meeting and the research of ownership documents in the archives. Documents state that the car park is owned by the village hall and the RCC have incorrectly registered it in their ownership. Action: Cllr. Denman and Clerk are working with the Village Hall to source the missing conveyance original documentation.

24/25-142 Correspondence was noted from the agenda.

24/25-143 To receive Items for Future Meetings

Meeting closed at 20:54

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

CHAIRPERSON: DATE: