Minutes of Ryhall Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 April 2025 at 19:00 in the Methodist Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Rolfe (Chair), Andrew Nebel, Simon Houghton, Sarah Markwell-Cook, Jon Whowell & David Denman

In Attendance: 0 Members of the public, Mitch Harper, Strategic Lead – Rutland Public Health Leicestershire County Council and Sarah Gresty – Parish Clerk

Public Forum:
Mitch gave an overview of a potential pilot project for our area. It requires a representative to share information at the upcoming AGM to gain any interest in being part of a group of Community Connectors. While Connectors can be any residents with an interest, the project does benefit from a representative or two from the Parish Councillors as Connectors. It would be useful to gauge any interest across Ryhall Parish Council.
There are a couple of colleagues at the Council waiting to be assigned to the community projects if there is an interest. Introductions can be made and a group setup to meet with neighbouring villages to bring together Connectors and start leading on some action to benefit communities.

- Enable the community to take the lead in building on its strengths
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Increase awareness of health and wellbeing support available to residents
- Increase engagement and outreach to vulnerable residents or health inequality groups
- Establish effective communication streams for sharing project information

Cllr. Nebel outlined the complexity of county border health care and the lack of NHS Dentistry.
Cllr. Whowell asked if all mental health issues were included. It was confirmed that loneliness, alcohol and drug abuse were included.

Action: Mitch to ask his colleague Kate Stead to summarise health needs/demographic overview for this area. (this will likely be broader other villages) but data will be useful.
c/f to the next agenda for further discussion.

Agenda

24/25-158 Apologies for Absence: were received from Cllrs. Corby, Ludlow, Blake and Davies. These were unanimously accepted.

24/25-159 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. There were none.

24/25-160 Minutes of:
a) 3 March 2025 Parish Council meeting were presented as a true and accurate record of event proposed acceptance Cllr. Whowell, Seconded Cllr. Markwell-Cook, Cllr. Houghton abstained due to absence the remaining voted unanimously in favour-**RESOLVED**

24/25-161 Actions
a) **Action Tracker** was discussed and issues updated as follows:

- 20mph scheme. Cllr. Rolfe purchased for the scheme high viz tabards and a cut out policeman. The school are looking at a mini school speed watch, to also include parking issues for Rutland Way and St John's Close. The school are producing 6 posters to use to highlight this campaign. Work continues on this project.
- Ambulance parking bay – Cllr. Rolfe to pursue its repainting.
- White Bridge. Cllr. Nebel had received a response from the police stating that they were not pursuing a claim against the lorry driver who caused the damage due to lack of evidence of the

actual impact. Cllr. Nebel was authorised by full council to respond to this letter with huge disappointment.

- Asphalting in the square. Work has been rectified. Issue now closed.

Action: Clerk to pursue with RCC Highways Zig zag yellow lines on the corner by village hall car park.
Clerk to pursue Street light issue and update at next meeting
Clerk to ask RCC Highways to check the width of the new path on Belmesthorpe Lane.

Current Year 2024/25
24/25-162 Financial Report

a) **Financial Report** for the period to 31 March 2025 with a copy of bank statements was presented by the clerk.

b) **Payments**

The Council **NOTED** that 2 Internal transfers from the savings account to the current account totalling £8,000. The Council **RESOLVED** to **AUTHORISE** the expenditure for the month of March totalling £5,977.78 shown on the Agenda. The Financial Report and bank statements were checked by all councillors prior to the meeting and signed by Cllrs. Rolfe and Denman.
Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Houghton and unanimous in favour.

c) **Proposal:** To earmarked reserve for potential elections costs of £2,500 in the accounts and to give delegated authority to the Clerk to decide on election spending once she has received a full council majority authorisation via email should the situation arise. Proposal Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Markwell-Cook and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED**

24/25-163 Planning Issues

- **2025/0268/FUL** – 20 Castle Rise Proposal single storey rear extension, demolition of existing conservatory and outside wc insertion of new and replacement windows and door and associated works. **Proposed Response:** No objections.
- **2025/0314/CAT** – Meadow View Foundry Road – Tree works. **Proposed Response:** No objection, subject to Tree Officer consent
- **2024/1402/FUL** – Butchers Shop – To note Planning permission Refused.
- **Meadow Lane Action Group**. Cllr. Markwell-Cook gave a brief update that a meeting has been arranged with residents, a WhatsApp group is to be set up and a possible door to door leaflet drop to affected houses to canvass for the formulation of a small committee.

24/25-164 Neighbourhood Plan (NHP).
Cllr. Denman has spoken to the Ketton NHP project lead and gained some useful information.

1. Parish Council need to have the level of commitment in the process
2. Parish Council to formally inform RCC that they wish to proceed with a NHP
3. RCC Local Planner to guide us in the process
4. Area will be the parish boundary.
5. Parish council will become the body
6. Looking for 7-8 people to commit to process
7. £1k budget has been set for 2025/26 to explore the first stage

The next stage is to canvass for volunteers at the Parish Meeting on 30 April 2025 and to produce a leaflet for all residents.

Proposal: Parish Council agree in principle that it wishes to encourage the community to pursue a NPH and for Cllr. Denman to lead the process. This had been previously resolved at a full Council meeting on 16 September 2024 minute ref 24/25-66b
Proposed Cllr. Nebel, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe and unanimous in favour. **RESOLVED.**

CHAIRPERSON: DATE:

24/25-165 Ryhall Library.
Cllr. Nebel gave a brief update. RCC have deferred the decision on the library's future. RCC have made a public announcement that they may have found some money for library provision of Ryhall. Since this Cllr. Nebel has received information from a charity known as The Library Campaign. They had requested a Freedom of Information Request to the Arts Council England (who supplied the libraries funding for the library improvements in Rutland). A copy of the RCC submission has been received in which it says that the money is to support all four libraries in Rutland, stating that Ryhall and Uppingham were the libraries in greater demand of works required. The precision of Ryhall's objections has disproved a lot of RCC's arguments and highlighted their failure to their process.
Cllr. Nebel has asked if we could have a meeting with Cllr. Christine Wise and have a constructive discussion about moving forward.
Cllr. Rolfe reiterated the disappointment that we found out this news only via the media.
Cllr. Nebel stated there appears to be an inexplicable delay in RCC proceeding with the application we have made for the library building to be made into an Asset of Community Value given the precedent for doing so has already been illustrated by Ketton having been granted this status.
Action: To push for a joint meeting with Christine Wise.

24/25-166 Governance Documentation.
i) **Proposal:** To **agree** and **adopt** the revised Equality and Diversity Policy. Proposal Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Markwell-Cook and unanimously voted in favour.

24/25-167 Allotment Committee. Cllr. Whowell had an allotment inspection meeting today and all was fine they have the scarecrow event coming up which has included the wider community.

Proposal: To authorise the Tenancy Agreement as presented to the meeting. Proposed Cllr. Whowell, Seconded Cllr. Rolfe, Cllr. Markwell-Cook abstained from voting as she was an allotment holder, the remaining unanimously voted in favour-**RESOLVED.**

24/25-168 Village Issues – to receive updates or further information

Highways issues
a) Community Speed Watch (CSW)**.** The request from Belmesthorpe Neighbourhood Watch to undertake 4 days CSW in combination with Essendine.
The Parish Council agreed to do the CSW as a Parish (the Parish being Ryhall and Belmesthorpe). At no point when recruiting volunteers did anyone from Belmesthorpe volunteer their time. Therefore, with not enough volunteers, we had to decline our participation in CSW. It was reiterated that we are a Parish and should work together. Ultimately the final positions for CSW had, at the time of recruiting volunteers, not been finalised. The Councillors felt very disappointed.
Proposal: For the reasons above Ryhall Parish Council do not support the request for Belmesthorpe Neighbourhood Watch to undertake CSW. Proposed Cllr. Rolfe, Seconded Cllr. Whowell and unanimous in favour-**RESOLVED.**

Any Other Items.
b) Localism Act 2011, Assets of Community Value.

- Application for The Spinney has been submitted. Should hear a decision soon.
- Consideration for further applications. No further applications at present.

c) VE Day Celebration. The flag will be raised. VJ Day may be potential event for consideration.

d) Mallard Pass Community Benefit Scheme update. Cllr. Nebel gave an outline of a meeting he attended with Alicia Kearns MP regarding her initial meeting with the new owners Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners. At first sight they seem amenable to engaging with the community and to set up a Community Benefit Fund. The Parish Council need to consider how they might work with the other affected parish council areas to the benefit of all concerned and how monetary compensation could be managed.

CHAIRPERSON: DATE:

Action: c/f to May agenda for discussion and resolution

24/25-169 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives.

Cllr. Nebel attended Alicia Kearns meeting on Devolution. Where it showed the desire for Rutland to join with North Kesteven, South Kesteven and South Holland. Little interest in joining with Leicestershire as it was felt that we were too remote. Given that Stamford is seen to be more affiliated with Rutland that was the way attendees felt we should go. Cllr. Corby has arranged a meeting for 13th May to talk to the Chairs of all Parish Councils to gain their views.

Action: c/f to next agenda to formulate Parish Council views on this topic

24/25-170 Correspondence was noted from the agenda.

24/25-171 To receive Items for Future Meetings

A wildflower garden plaque in memory of Stella Smith at Parkfield Road

The Meeting closed at 21:01

2025: 12th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 9th June, 7th July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November & 8th December.

CHAIRPERSON: DATE: