

## **RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr C Parsons Chairman	Mrs C Gardiner	Mr P Huddleston
Mr S Fenn	Mr G Lloyd	Mrs S Hickman
Mr J Whowell	Mrs S Smith	Mr R Rushby

17 members of the public were present.

**APOLOGIES** Mr N Bellairs

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the regulations, Councillors were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have and the nature of those interests. They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.

Mr Fenn – Allotments

Mr Parsons – personal and prejudicial interest on planning at Belmesthorpe & Ryhall

Mrs Gardiner – Allotments

Mr Whowell- EMRA & RSS

Mr Lloyd - Francis Court & Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Rushby - Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Plan

Mr P Huddleston – Village Hall, Playing Fields and PC Newsletter

#### **Election of Chairman**

The Vice Chairman took the Chair.

It was proposed by Mr Rushby, seconded by Mr Fenn and agreed unanimously to elect Mr Parsons as Chairman of the Parish Council. Mr Parsons abstained.

The Chairman took the Chair.

#### **Election of Vice Chairman**

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mrs Hickman and agreed unanimously to elect Mr Huddleston as Vice Chairman.

#### **MINUTES**

##### **Minutes of the previous meetings**

It was proposed by Mr Parsons seconded by Mr Lloyd and agreed to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 as a true record, with one amendment – Mrs Gardiner proposed the purchase of a double notice board in Belmesthorpe.

##### **Guest Speaker – Ms Carolyn Cartwright from the Planning Department at Rutland County Council on ‘The Planning System’**

Applications are date stamped on receipt and checked for validity by the Technician. They then commence an eight week consultation period. Parish Councils are always consulted and have 21 days in which to make comments or observations. This period can be extended if needed. Neighbours are notified by RCC. Site visits are made by the planning support team – with site notes and digital photographs produced. Ms

Cartwright explained the success rate of RCC in reaching the targets set by Government for responding to applications.

The Parish Council asked why applications with clear objections did not go to Committee but were passed without due consideration given to the objections. How do the Parish Council know which applications are going to be approved and which will be sent onto Committee? The meeting was informed that Parish Councils are not directly informed of these decisions, but County Councillors are made aware. It was agreed that, in future, Parish Council Planning Committee comments on applications with objections, would go directly to Mr Parsons who would ascertain if the application would go to Committee. If it was not then he could speak to the Case Officer. Mr Whowell pointed out that Council Officers were there to implement the law and wishes of our elected members.

It was noted that Miss Charlotte Jones, (County Councillor for the Ryhall and Casterton Ward) is now Head of Planning. It was further noted that she had not attended a Ryhall Parish Council meeting since 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. She was not present at this meeting due to attendance at the Essendine PC meeting

Outlined planning permission was explained – this is to determine the principle of the development, then a reserved matters application is sought for a new build. Any alterations to an existing build goes through the normal planning route. Applications once approved, are valid for three years.

The yellow notifications signs are to advise neighbours of a planning application and are posted as near as possible to the proposed development. Immediate neighbours are informed by post and have the opportunity to comment. If necessary RCC would advertise in the press to inform a wider audience.

The question of who follows up on any 'conditions' listed in the application was posed. It is the building inspector who completes the final inspection not RCC – to check if the build is in accordance with the approved plans and conditions. Parish Councils can assist in this process if it appears that conditions have not been adhered to. The Enforcement or Monitoring Officer would then conduct a site visit and applicants will either have to make good or apply for retrospective planning application.

Once an application is validated – details are uploaded onto the RCC website by the technician. Amended plans to the Committee also go on the website.

The general public can access the plans either at the RCC Council Offices at Catmose or by making an appointment with the Parish Clerk. Ms Cartwright emphasised that residents are welcome to contact the planning team at any time with any concerns.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment- as part of the Local Development Framework sites have been submitted by interested landowners for consideration in the future for new build of homes in Rutland under the remit of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). In future months, all Parish Councils would be asked to comment after the Issues and Options stage. It was noted that at this stage no housing allocation has been issued for any specific site and some sites submitted by landowners had been deemed unsuitable. The majority of any new build housing as part of the Regional Plan would be in/ around Oakham and Uppingham.

The Chairman thanked Ms Cartwright for the very informative talk.

### **Affordable Housing**

Mr Phillip Diffey from Waterloo Homes had intended to represent the housing association at the meeting to update the Parish Council on site development. Following the cancellation of the Land behind Flint Close site, two further sites had been identified (1) to the west of The Crescent with access from Back Lane  
(2) Land opposite Flint Close. Waterloo Homes request a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss these possible sites and future housing requirements.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Highway Walk**

The Parish Council and Clerk met with the RCC Head of Highways and the Group Manager (Road safety and Operations) to look at a variety of options for highways improvements. Following the walk, a report had been submitted from RCC to the Parish Council with the items Highways considered most viable given the level of funding. It was noted not all the PC requests had been addressed including:

- the removal of the kerbing on the White Bridge
- Certain speeding issues in and around Belmesthorpe.

**RYHALL** - Outline design for traffic calming scheme will include

- Bus pull in at the Library & Gateways on the entry to the village
- 30 Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) on approach to the village on A6121. The existing VAS speed signs will be removed.
- A traffic survey carried on at the Library / Church Street to determine if crossing is required and feasible given the visibility limitations.

Dropped kerbs at St Johns close subject to available funding

Sign for Manor Close

Drainage at the Casterton A6121 mini roundabout investigated in wet weather

The Parish Council suggested that a working party might take up the challenge of cleaning of the algae off the White Bridge. Clerk to follow up this suggestion.

### **BELMESTHORPE**

- Castle Rise – to consider resurfacing this year
- The directional finger post will be re-painted
- White lining renewed as part of the cyclic maintenance
- Speed limit alterations at the west end added to list of requests.

### **SKDC - Cycle path**

SKDC Highways has reported that the continuation of the cycle path into Stamford was being considered as part of the Stamford Community Travel Zone. Consultation will take place in Stamford during May and June. Ryhall Parish Council suggests that the cycle path is constructed on the same side as the Rutland path to avoid having to cross at the hill junction of Borderville on the county border.

### **Snow Warden Scheme**

The winter maintenance review is conducted by RCC at the end of April. No further update available yet.

### **Grass cutting update**

It was noted that the village grass cuts were improved but grass in the cemetery was not cut to an acceptable standard. Clerk to inform RCC.

### **Youth Service**

It had been agreed that the **Youth Bus**, currently located on the RMPF Roadway site, and used by young people aged 13- 18 on a Monday evening, can remain on this site for a further six month period from April to September 09.

RCC are no longer operating the 10 -14's **Youth Club**. RCC did try to recruit volunteers but no one came forward and the person(s) would have to be qualified. However, a new scheme recruiting 'Play workers' who are more specialised to work with young people under the age of 13 – is underway with appointments being announced. Youth provision will be reviewed after these appointments commence.

### **Local Development Framework**

RCC have now prepared the final version of the settlement appraisal for towns and villages in Rutland. This will form the basis of the evidence base for the Local Devolvment framework. For information on the full profile for the county visit [www.rutland.gov.uk/ldfevidencebase](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/ldfevidencebase)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Allotments Water supply upgrade**

The fourth water tank has been installed on the allotments, which will complement the water butts currently in use on some allotments. Thanks were expressed to Mr Fenn and Mr Carpenter who undertook the work on a voluntary basis.

### **Dog Bins – update and possible purchase**

The dog bins emptying has been monitored by Rachel Miller. Apologies have since been received for the deterioration in the service by Cory. Any request for another dog bin to add to the seven already in use in the parish would need to be in writing to the Clerk for consideration by the Parish Council.

### **Cemetery Extension**

Following discussion about the extension to the new Cemetery on Belmesthorpe Lane the Clerk had ascertained that the price of the land immediately behind the current Cemetery would be in the region of 0.60 acres @ 10,000 per acre = £6,000. This would equate to an approximate cost of £9.50 per household. Funding would have to be considered as part of any precept request in the future. A land draining assessment would need to be conducted and 'change of use' from agricultural land would need to be established, the cost is £335 for a full planning application, ( 50% reduction for a Parish Council @ £ 167.50) The suggestion that the land is designated as a 'Green Burial Site' is being investigated by the Clerk and the Burial Administrator.

### **Spire Homes update**

The proposed transfer of council housing stock to Spire homes is about to enter a period of formal consultation. Key dates are:

4<sup>th</sup> May – Tenants and leaseholders will have received a DVD or video tape giving information about the transfer proposal.

8<sup>th</sup> May- Tenants and leaseholders will receive copies of the formal Consultation Documents containing all the details of the proposed transfer

11<sup>th</sup> May – Official start of the consultation period– for four weeks

16<sup>th</sup> May – Fun Day for tenants at Uppingham C of E Primary School  
6<sup>th</sup> June – Fun Day for tenant that the Rutland County Museum Oakham  
8<sup>th</sup> June - Close of the consultation period  
15<sup>th</sup> June – Report on the outcome of the consultation process considered at meeting of the full Council. The meeting will decide whether to proceed to Ballot.

Mr Parsons, County Councillor, was asked to ascertain where a specific sum of funds ( 9.7 million) would be allocated and Mr Whowell asked the question of how much Spire Homes had already spent on the campaign. Following the last meeting, the Parish Council had written to Mr Begy – Leader of RCC - outlining concerns about the stock transfer and the funding issues. In response, Mr Begy has offered to meet with the Parish Council. It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to take up this offer and convene an extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange a meeting which would be open to the public and neighbouring parishes.

### **Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields – Roadway/track**

The Parish Council, as owners of the land, have a duty of care to the users of the playing fields. At the time of the March meeting, the options were (1) to close the gate to restrict access to everyone including school parents or (2) make short term repairs to the pot-holes to allow continued use of the roadway.

The advice of the Legal Department at RCC was to undertake temporary repairs to the pot-holes and convene a meeting to decide the long term improvements. Based on this recommendation, the Clerk asked the RMPF to action some repairs as previously undertaken in the past. RMPF Committee member and volunteers who will undertake the intermediate repairs were thanked. Mr Capper who attended the PC meeting to update Members was thanked.

The meeting to discuss the longer term options has been confirmed on **Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 11.00am.**

Attendees will be the Head Teacher and Head of Governors - Ryhall C of E School, Property Services and the Education Department - Rutland County Council, the Chairman and Clerk of Ryhall Parish Council and Representatives of RMPF Committee.

### **Risk Assessment**

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mr Fenn and agreed to ratify the Health & Safety Risk assessment document which has been circulated to all. It was noted that a review process would need to be implemented. The action points have been noted by Councillors who had commented on the circulated document. The Clerk would action the items highlighted for attention. This includes the purchase of new signs for the allotments and RMPF. Signs would cost £42.00 plus VAT per sign for a 24x 18 sign. When all the action points had been achieved –a date to review would be agreed.

### **Communication**

#### **Purchase of larger notice board for Belmesthorpe**

It has been proposed that the small notice board be replaced with a double door board in the same location. Clerk to check with planning regulations about location on the wall in a conservation area. Various quotes had been sought. It was decided to defer a decision until the next meeting.

#### **Consider new location for small notice board to be used for community notices**

Suggestions for a new location included (1) by Francis Court (2) a location in Belmesthorpe. To agree at next meeting.

### **Updated Information Cards**

It was proposed by Mr Parsons seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed that a maximum of £50 would be spent on updating the information cards.

### **Appointment of Representatives**

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mr Huddleston and agreed that the following representatives were elected:

Street Lighting Rep	Mr Simon Fenn
Planning Committee	Mr Paul Huddleston (Chairman) Mr Graham Lloyd Mrs Catherine Gardiner Mrs Stella Smith Mr Simon Fenn
Allotment Committee	Mr Jon Whowell (Chairman) Mrs S Hickman* Mr David Pearce- Hunt (former Councillor -seconded in advisory capacity)
Tree Warden	Mr P Finch
Village Hall Rep	Mr Paul Huddleston
Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Rep	Mr N Bellairs
Snow Wardens **	Mrs C Gardiner Mr David Toone
Burial Administrator	Mr David Toone
Affordable Homes Site Committee	Mr P Huddleston Mr Paul Finch Mrs Stella Smith Mr Graham LLOYD
Leics & Rutland Association of Parish Councils	Vacant (could be alternates)
Parish Forum Representative	Mrs C Gardiner

\*It was noted that Mrs Gardiner would not represent on the allotment Committee, Mrs Hickman offered to join the Allotment Sub Committee.

\*\*Noted that the two Snow Wardens might benefit from additional volunteers and an appeal would be placed in the Village News.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

From RCC – Notification of Parliamentary Election

From RCC – Temporary prohibition of traffic: Mill Street, Church Street & Coppice Road

Rutland CAB – Request for support/donation. In view of the current economic climate the resources of the CAB were stretched and an appeal for a donation was received. It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to donate £50.00. It was further agreed to ask the Rutland CAB for more publicity information

and to ascertain if they would be willing to operate a one-off drop in session in Ryhall.

### **Documents in current circulation**

From Rural Community Council – Diary of Village Events  
From RCC – Active Rutland Brochure  
From Equality and Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Duties  
From RCC- Ashwell Prisons Disorder – Key messages  
From Crimestoppers – Application for Board members

### **FINANCE**

#### **Income received into Parish Account**

- from RCC Precept funding 24,500
- Various Allotment rents: totaling £120 ( half payments made to Oct 09)

No payments made since last meeting

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mrs Smith and agreed to pay the following accounts:

<b><u>Expenditure:</u></b>	<b><u>Net</u></b>	<b><u>VAT</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Ryhall Methodist Church Hire of Hall			10.00
Mrs. C Adams Clerks salary April & May			816.74
Allianz Insurance – Annual			1,134.04
E-On – New street Light on Church Street	809.00	121.35	930.35
Allotment Society Annual Membership	55.00	8.25	63.25
Village News Precept Donation & page fee			1,500.00
Village Hall Precept Donation (half)			1,250.00
Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Precept donation (half)			1,500.00
St Johns Church precept donation (half)			1,250.00
Coleman’s Stamford – Copier Cartridge	105.12	35.69	140.81
EON Energy – Quarterly Electricity	534.47	80.17	614.64
EON Energy street light repair	23.47	3.52	26.99

#### **BURIAL**

Payments made from Burial Accounts - None  
Income received into Burial Account –  
06.04.09 May Wright – Added Inscription £44.00  
06.04.09 Ada Carpenter Internment of remains £51.00

### **PLANNING**

**Full Planning Permission granted-** None

**Listed Building Consent-** None

**Notification of decision in respect of Section 211 Proposing works to a tree or trees in conservation area-** None

#### **Refusal of Full Planning Permission**

Mr M Buxton, Cottingham, Market Harborough, Leics for Construction of two –storey extensions to the side and front elevation including demolition of outbuildings and minor alterations at South View, Mill Street, Ryhall Stamford Lincs PE9 4HF

#### **Current Planning under consideration**

Gwash Valley Farm Great Casterton Road, Ryhall for the Erection of 277 square metre grain dryer store.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Street Light in Foundry Road – to report for repair  
Village Hall - updates and thanks for support on recent social events  
Horse manure on footpaths - Clerk asked to write to local stables to request their assistance in clearing up after the horses.

#### **PUBLIC TIME**

Crown Street – unadopted road - closed of one day for renewal of gravel surface by residents

Priority over White Bridge- villagers reported an improvement with the new priority New Road to Church Footpath – needs maintenance

Grass cutting on verges - requests that the area from the Casterton roundabout to the bus stops on the A6121 be cut back of overgrown keck and included in the urban cut schedule. Clerk to write again to RCC.

Speeding on A6121 near homes on Essendine Road. It was noted that as from 18<sup>th</sup> February, the speed limit has been reduced form 60mph to 50mph on certain stretches of the A6121 although signs have not been altered to enforce. Clerk to report to RCC and seek advice on signs to advise about residents turning into their drives.

Good Neighbour Scheme Of the 619 questionnaire delivered, 116 were returned. 50 people volunteered to assist in some way as a good neighbour and 30 residents were identified as needing help. There is to be an Open Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.00pm in the Millstone Inn, where representatives of the Rutland Community Spirit Initiatives will be in attendance.

Neighbourhood Watch. Rachel Miller reported an increase in burglaries despite an increase in police presence. Everyone is asked to be vigilant especially when neighbours are on holiday. The 'Nominate a Neighbour' Pack is available from Rachel Miller and details will be in the Village News.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 (Note: Changed from 8<sup>th</sup> July)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009