

**Minutes of Ryhall Parish Council Meeting (RPC) held at Ryhall Bowls Club on
Monday 15 November 2021 commencing at 19:00**

In attendance:

Cllrs. David Amies (DA)-Chairman, Stella Smith (SS), Deborah Rolfe (DR), Sarah Markwell-Cook (SM-C), David Wilby (DW), Andrew Nebel (AN) and Phillip Davis(PD).
Caroline Adams and Sarah Gresty Clerks and 4 members of the public.

Agenda

2021/11/01 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Adrian Gumbault, Nick Bellairs and Emma Sismore. District Cllr. Richard Coleman had resigned from his post with Rutland County Council (RCC).

2021/11/02 Declarations of unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests there were none.

2021/11/03 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2021 were proposed by SS and seconded by DR to be a true and accurate record of events and signed by DA - unanimously **RESOLVED**.

2021/11/04 Matters Arising

Waste/ dog bin on A6121 start of footpath to Tolethorpe – still pending.

2021/11/05 Planning Matters were noted from the agenda.

Only comment made was regarding:

App Ref: 2021/0251/MAF Address: Gwash Valley Farm, Great Casterton Road, Ryhall
Proposal ; Change of use of redundant farm barn to function venue with associated car parking and camping site. **Action: Cllr. DW would chase for an update.**

2021/11/06 Public Forum

- a) DA read correspondence received regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm from Greatford Parish Council, Greatford Flood Warden, Essendine Parish Council Chairman and a Greatford Resident regarding their concerns about this project, drawing notice to the end of the consultation period of 16 December 2021 and a meeting at Greatford Village Hall on 2 December 2021 at 19:30 to pool ideas for objecting to the scale of this application.
- b) A member of the public asked if the Mallard Pass project would result in compensation for residents. Information shared at the meeting reported that no legal right to a statutory compensation would be eligible. The process was a difficult one to pursue with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS)
- c) 2 members of the public in attendance from a neighbouring parish spoke of their concerns regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm. They spoke at length, giving information they had researched so far. Their main concerns included:
Who has read the leaflet under really understood the scale of this solar farm.
The companies driving this project and their credibility.
The fact that a National Significant infrastructure Project (NSIP) bypasses the local planning system.
Timescale for comment is very short.
It is presented as a green project. However, there are many environmental issues.
Change of use of the farmland from crop production
Flood risks and run off

They urged everyone to visit the Public Consultation Exhibitions and to look at the Clevehill project in Kent to gain a better knowledge

Consideration of crowd funding for legal advice fees.

Response: An exhibition is being held in the Ryhall Village Hall on 23 November after which RPC will formulate its plans.

Action: RPC to consider calling an Extra Ordinary Parish meeting after the Exhibition on 23rd.

Would like to see clearer maps and facts. It was expressed that we want an honest approach to this project with honest facts and figures

DW urged everyone when responding to be concise, to check facts and be intelligent in their responses.

RCC are also gathering facts and evidence.

- d) A member of the public reported that the dog bin on Foundry Road by White Bridge has not been emptied. **Action:** Clerk to contact Biffa

2021/12/07 Mallard Pass Solar Farm Stage One Consultation – This was discussed in the public forum above. Public Consultations noted: Tuesday 23 November 2021 14:00- 18:00 at Ryhall Village Hall.

2021/11/08 Resignation. Noted Jo Gresty has resigned as a parish councillor but would be prepared to remain on the Meadows Playing Field Committee, if appointed by the Committee. The Notification of Vacancy period has now passed with no nominations coming forward and the Co-option process will now commence.

2021/11/09 New Clerk was welcomed on her first day at this meeting. DR proposed her salary scale to be SCP 18 per hour based on the 2021-22 National Salary Awards, Seconded PD and unanimously voted in favour – **RESOLVED.**

2021/11/10 New email: clerk@ryhallparishcouncil.co.uk confirmed by Cllrs who unanimously gave their consent to be contacted by their generic parish council emails.

2021/11/11 Final Clerk handover

- (1) Purchase of the laptop & additional costs for security and office package and completion of the new clerk recruitment was confirmed within the £1,500 ring-fenced amount, total £860.00. Proposed acceptance DA, Seconded S M-C and unanimously in favour – **RESOLVED.**

- (2) Handover hours for former Clerk & update on the situation regarding gratuity payment. Handover hours to be logged from 16 November until handover process complete plus holiday pay. Gratuity is not possible due to NALC instruction in 2012.

DA Proposed recommendation that these are paid, Seconded SS and unanimously voted in favour – **RESOLVED**

Action: Caroline would log her hours until the handover is complete

2021/11/ 12 Parish Defibrillators – Proposal to agree to ringfence between £168-£200 for replacement batteries and pad to purchase now for May 2022. Proposed acceptance DR, Seconded S M-C and unanimously voted in favour – **RESOLVED.**

2021/11/13 Millennium Signs paint cost of £36.50 – Proposed reimbursement of costs SS, Seconded DR and unanimously voted in favour – **RESOLVED.**

2021/11/14 Grass Cutting 4 quotations were presented after consideration of provisions of insurance, health and safety, and previous experience for the 2022 Season based on 12 cuts per year.

1. Proposal by AN. To accept Quotation 3 for items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 and Quote 4 for item 6. There was no Seconder for this proposal.

2. Proposal by DR. To accept Quote 1 for items 1, 2, 6 & 7 and Quote 2 for items 3, 4 & 5
Seconded SS. 3 Cllrs. Abstained leaving the casting vote to the Chair who voted in favour. –
RESOLVED. Action: Clerk to notify Contractors.

2021/11/15 Hedge Cutting 2 quotations were presented after consideration of provisions of insurance, health and safety, and previous experience for the 2022 Season

AN proposed acceptance of Quotation 1, Seconded DR and unanimously voted in favour - **RESOLVED**
Action: Clerk to notify Contractors

2021/11/16 Finance

(1) Financial statement, October Bank Reconciliation from the Community and Burial accounts.
Proposed acceptance of a true and accurate record by DA, Seconded DR and unanimously voted in favour - **RESOLVED**

(2) Cash flow update issued by email. PD proposed acceptance, Seconded DA, Cllrs. DW, S M-C, AN in favour, Cllr. DR and SS abstained. – majority – **RESOLVED.**

(3) It was noted midyear update bullet points from Cllr Gombault as follows:
Income and expenditure is wholly on track, with 49% of budget still available to be spend at the end of September

A slight increase in income was offset by expenditure on insurance and audits arising in the first half. Half weighting in grass cutting expenditure was offset by nil expenditure on hedges and streetlighting. There was no anticipated expenditure for items such as church clock maintenance, defibrillators and noticeboards.

The overall surplus stand at £24,738 but much will be used up in the second half of the year
The Reserved Account (ie ring-fenced capital items) of £7,500 has not yet been touched. The library is not now anticipated to require funding. Plans for the white bridge and the cemetery extension pending

Reserves total £24,800 which is half way between the minimum of £20,000 and the optimum £30,000 recommended by LRALC. Additional reserves are carried in the Current Account as a buffer (delete) against uneven expenditures, given our contingency fund only £1,000

The Burial Account, now separately itemised, has a positive cash balance of £1,601 as a result of unanticipated income of some £2,000.

Proposed acceptance of mid-year update PD, Seconded AN and unanimously voted in favour - **RESOLVED.**

(4) Internal Auditor's mid-year report was noted.

(5) Bank - Confirmation now received of 4 new signatories, making 8 in total for bank payments.

Invoices authorised for payment:

Hills Accountants – Mid term audit £150

RCC Tree Inspection £418.76

Mrs C Adams expenses to November 2021 £146.12

T&S Fenn £292.55

R Doyle Topple Testing £85

D Toon Burial administration £850

Mr Hastings paint expenses £36.50

ACR Computers £230.00

SS proposed approval of all payments, Seconded PD – majority **RESOLVED.**

2021/11 /17 Meadows Playing Fields

New Clerk to become a signatory and Cllrs. DR and SM-C have agreed to become Trustees.

Drainage issues. SM-C is monitoring this situation.

Licence for pony on the playing fields graveled area. Ready to issue.

Tree Inspection report has been received. Quotations will be sourced to undertake works required.

Deferred

(1) Constitution as Trustee status & future RMPF chairman/Lead

(2) Future works to middle hedge

(3)New quotes for the reduction of willow directly behind St Johns property fences

2021/11/18 St Johns Church / Village Clock Restoration – Rev. Jo Saunders has advised the PCC that it is responsible for the longer-term restorative work on the clock. The PCC have submitted three grant applications. AN will await contact from Simon Fenn regarding the regular maintenance and report back to next meeting.

Action: AN to pursue regular maintenance.

2021/10/19 School Travel Ambassador Initiative & 20 mph scheme.

Estimate costs of £5,750 plus VAT from RCC based previous years costs were noted . The 20mph survey will be undertaken to establish level of support. In the event of progressing ,funds have been identified .CIL £1,790, Library funds set aside but not used £2,500, Clock funds set aside but not used £1,000 , leaving a shortfall of approximately £460 from reserves.

A new email has been registered for replies to survey: ryhallparishcouncil@gmail.com

Public Survey now ready.

Deadline for survey 3 December to enable report to next meeting.

Action: PD & AN to take this survey forward and report results.

Proposal by AN for approval of printing costs of £12 for 100 hard copies. Seconded SS and unanimously in favour – **RESOLVED**.

2021/11/20 Highways Issues

i) White Bridge – alternative proposal to be considered at the December meeting

RCC will be undertaking masonry repairs and the funds have been allocated for this and the road closure/portaloo etc

To be able to do the repair works ACON are undertaking a wildlife survey for the Environment Agency RCC may be able to undertake the painting subject to cost and available budget.

RCC are obtaining quotes for painting by 1st December ahead of RPC 15th Dec budget setting meeting

RCC asked if Ryhall Parish Council would be in a position to contribute towards the painting element of the repair scheme. **Action:** Issue to be carried forward to next meeting.

ii)Pavement dressings issues. No response received.

iii)Quality of the resurfacing on Rutland Way. PD has been researching this issue and reported that the surface done was not fit for purpose. **Action:** PD to work with Clerk to pursue this with RCC Highways.

iv)Community Speed Watch – nothing further to report

v)Flagpole Licence. This is pending.

vi) New benches. specifications, installation costs and Licences. A sample of the recycled material was presented at the meeting. Further research into cost, durability was required. **Action: Carried forward to next meeting.**

vii) Conifer trees – RCC confirms highways are still liaising with the owner of the land the trees and fence have been erected next to. With regards to the fence to the left of the gateway, RCC is meeting on site in mid-November to finalise what action is to be taken. The trees to the left of the gateway are to be removed as these are definitely in the highway. The trees to the right have actually been planted on the land boundary and the fence relocated within the boundary. RCC will not be looking to enforce any removal as they are not obstructing the highway.

2021/11/21 Cemetery Maintenance DA thanked Caroline Adams and AN for the great job they had done in weeding new cemetery gravel and clearing ivy at the old cemetery. AN recommended the removal of all the ivy and a check on the condition on the walls to be undertaken.

Old Cemetery

Maintenance issues had been brought to the attention of RPC who are the burial authority by a resident including a complaint about grasscutting. The Clerk and Cllr AN had met with RCC on site and working with RCC undertaking the following actions:

Remove stakes by bin

Update on asbestos panels – advised to leave in current position

RCC undertaking yew tree assessment for action next financial year

Ivy removed from pillars

Continue to work with RCC re: ownership of the land

Topple testing to be undertaken imminently.

The New Cemetery

Topple testing completed : one headstone to action.

2021/11/22 High Sheriff. Plans for the visits are underway. More details to follow.

2021/11/23 Village residential housing and maintenance contact. DW suggested that a nominated Parish Councillor have this role as a point of contact for residents. Idea carried for to next meeting.

2021/11/24 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended as parish council representatives. There were none.

2021/10/25 Correspondence noted

14.10.21 LRALC Resilience and wellbeing course

18.10.21 Notification of the resignation of Cllr J Gresty

18.10.21 & 01.11.21 & 08.11.21 Rutland County Council weekly roundup

21.10.21 Draft Minutes

21.10.21 From Cllr Stephenson – Network Meeting Climate Action 1/11/21

21.10.21 Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal and webinar

21.10.21 Gallagher Insurance webinar

21.10.21 Age UK Newsletter

26.10.21 LRALC Survey (delete)

01.11.21 Welcome back to Community Newsletter

01.11.21 LRALC Newsletter

03.11.21 From LRALC re virtual meetings survey

05.11.21 Mallard Solar Panel Farm

08.11.21 Road Closure Belmesthorpe lane 13 – 17th December

Other Correspondence

From RCC Live and Local in Your Community. Request for contribution of £280 from 9 parishes

Response: felt this was more relevant for the Village Hall Committee.

2021/10/26 Open Forum. No further items.

The Village Hall are putting up their prices to £10 per hour for hire charge.

2021/10/27 Items for future agenda items from Councillors

Consideration of CIL/Section106 money regarding 2021/1268/FUL and what these funds could be used for

Smart phone app reconsider.

Website accessibility. £60 - £90

Consider request from village organisations or the 22/23 financial year.

2021/10/28 Meeting closed at 21:20

December (budget setting meeting) to be held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at the Village Hall 7pm.

Proposed dates of Meetings for 2022

Monday January 17 2022 – precept meeting held in the Village Hall Ryhall 7pm

February date and venue to be confirmed

Monday March 21 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting and ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7pm

April Meeting date and venue to be confirmed

Monday May 16 2022 – Annual Council Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7pm