MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
16th MARCH 2016 AT THE METHODIST SCHOOLROOMS, MILL STREET , RYHALL

PRESENT Mr P Huddleston (Chairman) (PH),Mrs E Sismore (ES),Mr D Wilby (DW), Mr P Harris (PKH),Mr A Gombault (AG) Mrs S Smith (SS),Mr N Bellairs (NB),Mrs D Rolfe (DR) Mr R Rushby (RR) Mr C Parsons (CP)

01/16 APOLOGIES- None

02/16 DECLARATIONS OF UNREGISTERED DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FROM MEMBERS ON MATTERS IN WHICH THEY HAVE A REGISTERED DISCLOSABLE PERCUNIARY INTEREST
There were no DPI 's or requests for dispensations received from members.

03/16 REPRESENTATION FROM COUNCILLOR TAYLOR ON BEHALF OF STAMFORD FIRST ON THE STAMFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN INITIATIVE. (See the Minutes of the ordinary meeting 16/3/16)

04/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING
It was proposed by ES, seconded by NB retrospectively due to no nominations recorded in the absence of Mrs Adams in March 2015. It was agreed that the Annual Parish **Minutes** of the meeting held on 11 March 2015 were correct, and could be approved and signed.

05/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – report by Paul Huddleston - Chairman
The past year has been a busy one for Ryhall Parish Council and overall successful, though not without some issues. The council has ten of its 11 seats taken. Consequently there was no voting needed last May for the local elections. We were sorry to lose Simon Fenn who no longer lives in the parish and retired after 22 years. However, we were delighted to co-opt two new members Patrick Harris and Debbie Rolfe and saw two of our councillors, Chris Parsons and David Wilby, elected to Rutland County Council.

Through the year we have welcomed a variety of speakers to keep the parish updated on various developments. These included:
Adrian Hames of Network Rail spoke on proposals to close Greatford rail crossing (March).
PC Laurie Appleton gave an update on policing in the parish (May).
Mr Dunnett, Director of Marrons Planning, spoke about the proposed planning application for eight houses on the paddocks next to the trout farm (July).
Kevin Hunter from the National Grid updated the council on work on the substation being built to power the East Coast Mainline (September).

Our work on improving the parish and boosting its facilities continues. We have now set up our own website (ryhallparishcouncil.co.uk) and now organise our own grasscutting and that, albeit with some teething problems is, overall, going well.
With our Burials Administrator Dave Toone we continue to monitor the new cemetery and ensure that it is a dignified and respectful place. The Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Association keenly look after a major village asset.
Ryhall Library, monitored for us by Adrian Gombault, has been galvanised by volunteers helping to organise extra opening hours and we have seen a cycle rack installed.
The Allotments, under its energetic committee, is proving another vibrant village asset.
The Flagpole committee ensure that important dates and events are observed. The council have additionally purchased a Commonwealth Day flag.
We sought but failed to get extra funding with a Community Funding Parish application to Awards for All for funding to support fitness and IT sessions.
However we have maintained a watchful eye on projects that affect or can benefit our community. These include parish responses on a Sport, Leisure & Community Facilities Grant scheme; aYouth Housing Project co-ordinator for scoping excercise for RCC, and a Rutland Environmental questionnaire mapping excercise to produce a comprehensive overview within Rutland of the work undertaken by National Government and agencies, county councils and parish councils.

We have also posted responses and reacted to
– the Environment Agency in May on the River Gwash Flows project.
– the chicken farm fly issue.
– Network Rail on the Greatford Road rail crossing.
– St John's Church clock dial restoration.
– the Diocesan Office re Vicarage Lane.
– the Spinney Close parking issue.

We hear on the activities of other councils through our representatives attending the Parish Forum meetings in Oakham.

Planning is important. Our planning committee of Stella Smith, Emma Sismore, Bob Rushby, Nick Bellairs and myself, have studied 14 planning applications and nine tree applications.

Other items the parish council has dealt with include getting a larger gritter for our snow warden, George Roberts, and sponsoring the Christmas tree lights in The Square.

This could not all be done without team work and I want to thank all the councillors for their enthusiasm and commitment and our clerk, Caroline Adams, for keeping parish matters in excellent order. We have all done our best to ensure that through our work the parish of Ryhall and Belmesthorpe is a better place for all its residents.

06/16 RYHALL MEADOWS PLAYING FIELDS – report by David Wilby - Acting Chair RMPF Committee
This has been an interesting year.
The Senior Footballers moved to the new stadium facilities at Borderville, Stamford and so ended their links with Ryhall. Junior football has continued to flourish and we have also become the home to OneTouch Football which also focuses on youth training. Both organisations seem to be functioning well and are good tenants.

The Tennis Club introduced some opportunities for casual visitors and this will continue in the coming season. Additional members would be welcome.

The Bowls Club, continues to thrive with much activity in local leagues and County representation. The adjacent tree in the SE corner of the pitch was felled and this has helped to improve natural light and prevent seedlings invading the pitch surface. Work is planned to improve the pitch dressing and surface. The expenditure on same will delay the proposed short new path to link with existing path surfaces.

A cricket square has been identified and it is hoped to start our own Test Series in the coming season.

The Playground equipment has been repaired and refurbished as necessary and remains subject to annual inspection to meet health and safety requirements. Additional equipment will always be considered as funding becomes available or can be raised.

The removal of the old portacabin changing rooms has improved the vista and helped to prevent attacks on the pavilion roof. The storage shed has been fitted with shelving and continues to serve a very useful purpose. The dugout on the far football pitch has been kindly refurbished by OneTouch Football.

We suffered a spate of mindless junior vandalism at the start of the summer which caused some additional repairs. The local Community Police Officers were made aware and continue to monitor the situation, which seems to have settled.

The gravel car park has had some additional use due to on-going works at the School and may need some attention in the coming season.

Drainage problems associated with the newly surfaced approach by the Vicarage have been addressed and seem to be working adequately.

The newly planted Orchard suffered a major setback when the young trees failed to prosper but plans are in hand to replant and take closer attention to aftercare watering. Plans to revitalise the living hedge on bordering fields are also being reconsidered with a view to obtain help from the Woodland Trust.

The Pavilion has had some minor refurbishment and proving adequate to requirements. Without doubt, a new and more comprehensive facility would be ideal if funding became available.

Plans for the proposed TrimTrail were put on hold after the outbreak of vandalism, but Parish funding of £2000 has been ring fenced for this project, which is planned for the Spring.

General tidiness of the fields will be an on-going problem and we would always be very grateful and welcome the additional kind help of regular dog walkers and casual visitors in picking up any litter or reporting any perceived problems as they pass.

Special thanks are due to our hardworking and very obliging caretaker and handyman, Keith Altham, for his kind, swift and efficient services.

The Playing Fields Association funds currently stand at around £9000 wIth all bills paid. Great credit to our long serving and very prudent Treasurer, Sue Capper. However, since losing the major revenue stream of an annual Fete, now replaced by the Village Gala which has a wider remit, we need to raise more capital to be able to keep our equipment and facilities in good order.

This year we plan to hold a Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and this will be held on St George's Day, Saturday 23 April. Though early in the season to de conflict from the Church Fete and Gala, we plan to hold a self help old style celebration to market our combined recreational facilities to improve awareness and membership, to raise some capital and to enjoy the celebrations.

The Committee was sad to lose the careful stewardship of Andy Capper after a long and distinguished service as Chair but now continues under temporary management until a new and willing Chair can be found. We are fortunate to have found a new secretary, Cynthia Gandeborn, and have a complete representation from all our users.

07/16 RYHALL CE ACADEMY – report presented by Ms K Walker - Headteacher

The School converted to an Academy October 2014 – part of a Multi-Academy Trust: Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (Northampton), with a rebranding and new uniform

There is a Local Governing Body of 10 members; 3 Foundation, 2 staff members, 2 Co-opted, 2 Parent Governors and the Headteacher.

In Sept 2014 there were 118 children on roll; in March 2016 – there are now 141 children on roll from a catchment area of Ryhall, Stamford, Essendine, Carlby, Tallington, Greatford, Langtoft, Edenham and Great Casterton. The bus is only available from Essendine and Carlby.

Currrently the School has 5 mixed year group classes which will become 6 (2 mixed and 4 single year group) in September 2016.

The OFSTED report was 'Good' in July 2014 and is due for inspection from Oct 2016. The current review is 'Good' and the school is working towards 'Outstanding'.

SIAMS (Church School Inspection): 'Satisfactory' (Nov 2010) – due for inspection any time from Nov 2015. Current review 'Good with elements of Outstanding' – the school is aiming for 'Outstanding' at next inspection

School Values are Compassion, Endurance, Friendship, Respect & Trust.

The School is now opens every1st Sunday of the month for 'Ryhall Academy Praise' – a service led by Ryhall Methodist Church.

The Bronze Eco-Award, RE Quality Mark and Arts Award are awards that the school is applying for in Summer Term 2016. Ryhall Junior Road Safety Officers – there will be posters to parents, and a survey of traffic/parking with local Police- the school is very aware of parking issues.

Ryhall Academy Eco-Warriors: are undertaking 'Clean for the Queen', litter surveys in the village, developing an eco-friendly environment, maintaining the wildlife garden and looking after the nearly planted apple trees on RMPF.

The Academy thanked the parish council for their support with the signage and drainage projects

08/16 RYHALL ALLOTMENTS- report submitted by Allotments Secretary David Pearce and presented by two committee members

All the plots are let for 2016. We have seen the trend of having to sub- divide a plot into half or even into thirds to keep up with the demand and found these to be popular and easier to manage.
We still apply the flat rate of £15 for the smaller plots and the £30 bond is applied also so if the plot is not handed back in good order, the bond will be kept to reinstate the plot in a useable position.
There are currently 2 prospective tenants on the waiting list.

Community involvement

We have had 6 social events up the allotments, including Wimbledon day, conker events, fireworks evening and an open day for the village in support of MacMillan Nurses which raised over £200 .All the events have been well attended by the plot holders with their families and friends.

Site improvements

In 2015 we have installed 4 new water butts. All the water butts now have wooden framed mesh covers on them to stop pigeons using the allotments as a watering place.
In 2016 we intend to improve the site security by erecting a fence that is sustainable and easy to maintain in the coming years. The Committee will continue with the laying of a concrete path for the disabled access
The Retreat building has been recoated with a high quality brand leader covering.
All the hedges that were out of control have now been cut down to 6 foot.
Gravel hard standing has been laid to the vehicle entrance on the site.

Finance

We have managed all the finance with the water authorities and rent collection in a timely manner in 2015.
We have renewed the Public liability insurance and NSALG membership from the rent money

09/16 RYHALL VILLAGE HALL – report submitted by Anne Virgin - Secretary

During the last year, Ryhall Village Hall has seen various improvements, including the re-sanding of the main hall floor, to keep it up to the high standard expected by our hirers.

The financial results for the period from April 2015 to February 2016 show that the hall continues to run on a sound financial basis.

Income from lettings and fund-raising is £9,509 against expenditure on running costs and routine maintenance of £9,897. This shows that routine costs are very nearly covered by regular income. Although income from lettings is 9.8% down this must be seen in the context of a 32% increase in the previous financial period. Individual lettings have increased but lettings to organisations are down and, sadly, this includes one of our long-running established groups: The modern sequence dance club which used to meet on Friday evenings has folded.

The hall accounts show a considerable increase in running expenses, after an apparent reduction last year. This is mainly due to the timing of heating invoices. Repairs and maintenance costs continue to be low for a building of this age: at £980, a reduction on last year. Capital expenditure has been small, although major improvements to the toilet facilities are planned and the committee thank the parish council for its financial help through the precept.

We continue fundraising with monthly Bingo sessions, the sale of a Christmas Calendar, and the village postcard. The committee has also successfully organised a return visit of Ruff ‘n’ Ready, the Irish hooley band, and a general knowledge quiz. Both events were well received and, we feel, contributed to the life of the village. More are planned.

We have a sound, loyal committee but would welcome volunteers to step forward so all sections of the community can continue to be fully represented.
Ryhall Village Hall remains at the centre of many activities in the parish and the committee endeavours to ensure that it is run smoothly for the benefit of all.

10/16 RYHALL LIBRARY – submitted by Rutland County Council – supplemented and presented by Mr A Gombault.
Opening Hours With the support of a precept from Ryhall Parish Council, Ryhall Library is open:
Monday 10am – 12noon 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday 2pm – 4.30pm (Volunteer operated)
Thursday 10am – 12noon 2pm – 7pm
Friday 2pm – 4.30pm (Volunteer operated)
Saturday 10am – 1pm
The library is staffed 15 hours per week, at an annual cost of £2,500 to the Parish, which covers the Saturday hours. Staffed opening hours are supplemented by an enthusiastic group of 21 active volunteers, who operate "Open House @ Ryhall Library" on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The first half year has been very successful.
Service Changes A new suite of large, touch-screen PCs has been installed in the library, which appear to be giving a much improved service to customers. A Self-Service terminal has also been installed, which has improved the speed of service, and enabled extended use of the library through volunteer support.
Rutland County Council has supported the volunteers through training and other service improvements, and hope to continue to work together to make the most of the service in future years.
Full visitor figures were circulated to the Parish Council. Whilst it was noted that evening opening continue to be quiet, particularly the 6-7pm on Thursdays overall library visits increased with 7,500 recorded for 2015(not including Open House visitors) Fridays are the busiest with a record number of visitors (34) on 4th March. The new hot drinks machine,copy of the Stamford Mercury and IT sessions have increased the visitor experience. Thanks expressed to Mrs Gandeborn for volunteering her time to facilitate IT sessions and all the volunteers. He operates the rota for the open house sessions but would be willing to hand on this key job now that it is established. The Parish Council thanked Mr Gombault for all his work and time on the Open House scheme.

11/16 Ryhall Neighbourhood Watch – verbal report by Mrs D Rolfe
The NHW continues to make good steady progress – the aim is to encourage villagers to sign up for the email alerts and communications. Meetings are regular and there has been a newsletter promotion to all households recently. The organisers urge villagers to sign up and join the NHW.

12/16 Belmesthorpe Neighbourhood Watch - submitted and reported by Mr A Gombault
Belmesthorpe NHW is now in its 25th year and, happily continues to flourish, with signed up membership around 80% of its permanent residents and a committee of 8 representing the different parts of the village and meeting 4 times per year.
There has been only one criminal incident in the last year. Crime prevention activity has hopefully played a part in this, and this year's programme has included quarterly newsletters, the issuing of Stay Safe booklets to all households, new membership packs for new arrivals and a successful property marking event in January, with a superb turnout, after extensive advertising.

Our social activities provide an important underpinning to the above. Three socials have all seen the Blue Bell Inn pleasingly filled, with 30-40 residents and guests enjoying the annual Spring Quiz, a summer musical evening and an autumn drinks and nibbles event respectively. The monthly Lunch Club has become a firm favourite with senior residents, with around 20 households attending at one time or another and a record 31 village residents enjoying the Christmas special.

Belmesthorpe NHW also has an eye for the village's appearance and Committee members regularly remove litter from the verges around our entrance points. The bulbs which have been planted over recent years are even now bringing joyful Spring colour to our roadsides. The 30 mph speed limit stickers which we have recently obtained for our wheelie bins will hopefully build on the speed monitoring activity held in 2014 and reduce the incidence of speeding through the village.

The group have recently conducted a broadband speed survey, the results of which are being analysed and will be shared with the May meeting. Belmesthorpe NHW would like to place on record appreciation of the financial support which the Parish Council have lent us over recent years.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm