RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council On Thursday 28th October 2010 In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

PRESENT

Mr C Parsons (Chairman)	Mr P Finch	Mrs S Smith	Mr S Fenn
Mr R Rushby	Mr P Huddleston	Mr G Lloyd	Mr Bellairs

Mr A Capper attended to represent the RMPF Committee. The meeting was open to the public to attend as observers – Ms R Miller attended. There were no representatives at the meeting to represent the Ryhall Primary school.

APOLOGIES

Mrs. C Gardiner, Mrs S Hickman, Mrs B White

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 in relation to the one item on the agenda.
They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.
Mr Rushby – Ryhall Neighbourhood Watch
Mr Lloyd – Neighbourhood Watch, Francis Court
Mr Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, Parkfield Road
Mr Bellairs- Playing Fields, Parkfield Road resident

RYHALL MEADOWS PLAYING FIELDS ROADWAY

The Parish Council voted to keep the gate shut at the previous extra ordinary meeting of 30th September 2010 until the roadway was made safe and fit for purpose with an upgrade, speed bumps, disabled access. Negotiations all through the summer had reached a stalemate with no further progress or commitment to action from Willmott Dixon the contractors working on the school refurbishment under RCC remit. It was noted again that the Parish Council, in their bid to cooperate, had allowed Wilmott Dixon access, when requested in July, for their construction vehicles necessary for work.

The Parish Council had contacted RCC again after the 30th September meeting asking for immediate assurance of action with winter approaching. The meeting considered the email communication dated 14th October (received 18th October) from Mr. Terry King, Deputy Leader of Rutland County Council. On behalf of the Council, Mr. King and Ms Bambini (RCC Property Services) had visited the site during school pick up time and gave their opinion on the impact on the surrounding streets of parents parking to pick up. They concluded that with pick ups taking place in three locations this spread the pressure on to three street and many of Rutland schools experience similar problems. Mr. King stated that the current arrangement appeared to keep

cars away from young people when they left the rear of the school and allowed them to disperse in safety,

Mr. King stated that RCC has no budget for providing or maintaining schools access roads. Schools have funds delegated to them for general maintenance and some capital funding. Ryhall School has spent the monies available to them on the recent refurbishment work and in addition has had other funds from the BS4A programme which has specific outcomes to be achieved.

The School did a survey of parents, the outcome was that over 50 parents indicated to the school they may wish to use such a road and in Willmott Dixon's opinion this would mean a substantial investment in the order of £80k. In view of the fact that the Parish Council indicated it has only £6-12k to put into this project there is no means of funding the gap. Any work less than that level of investment for a specification that would not be fit for purpose would not be warranted by Wilmott Dixon nor be something that the Council would accept design liability for.

However, in discussions with Wilmott Dixon / Newlife (their subcontractor) about doing some repair work, RCC had negotiated a substantial contribution in terms of materials, machinery and labour that would provide new top dressing stone, spreading and rolling work to top up the current surface. This offer is without prejudice and without warranty for length of serviceability. This offer has been made as a kind gesture of goodwill by Newlife as a social enterprise for which they have no contractual commitment and is only made in this format and is not cashable.

The Parish Council, whilst appreciative of some offer of work, noted that as this meant funds would never be achieved for the roadway to be properly upgraded, it would be better to accept that temporary annual up- keep was now the only option along with the necessary safety features. However, as the RMPF had done the gravel maintenance and roadway had been shut and only used by recreational playing fields users over the summer, the surface was still in good order and not in need of another stone dressing at this juncture.

However, not wishing to refuse the offer of work, it was agreed that the priority was proper raised kerbing (using the kerbs stone already there) to prevent gravel gravitating onto the grass and cars driving on the playing area.

It was agreed that Mr. Parsons would ask RCC/ Wilmott Dixon to reinstate the kerb stones. The Parish Council resolved that Mr. Parsons as Chairman would make representation and have delegated powers to move forward without the need to call another meeting.

The Parish Council would use their ring fenced sum to create a disabled access and consider funding a grass screed one meter footpath along the kerbing (pitch side) for disabled and buggy use. (Estimated costs £750). The Parish Council would purchase speed bumps to place on the gravelled track to slow traffic. When all this was achieved the roadway re-opening could be considered.

Regarding upkeep, the gravel would need to be maintained annually. All the users of the Playing Fields are members of the Playing Fields Association and therefore to use the road the School and playgroup would need to become Members of the RMPF

Association. This had been suggested in the past. The School and playgroup would pay a membership fee as do all other members who use the road if they wished to access the roadway. This money would be used to maintain the roadway with gravel and therefore the RMPF Committee would not have to fundraise and use their precepted money for road maintenance, but on its intended purpose of recreational.

The School and Playgroup could decide if they wanted to allow parents to use the roadway or not. As RCC had stated that the School had a budget for this annually so this would be the solution. The RMPF Committee would communicate the membership proposal to the School who would be the primary member representing the play school as their sub tenants.

It was proposed by The Chair, seconded by Mr. Bellairs and agreed unanimously that the RCC temporary barriers be removed immediately and the request for the kerb work be communicated to RCC by Mr. Parsons. The gate to remain closed until work was completed to a level of satisfaction for safety purposes.