RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
on
Wednesday 13th March 2013
In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

PRESENT

Mr C Parsons (Chairman)	Mrs E Sismore	Mr G Lloyd
Mr R Rushby	Mr P Huddleston	Ms R Miller
Mr A Gombault	Mr S Fenn	Mrs S Smith

One member of the public in attendance

APOLOGIES Mr N Bellairs, Mrs B White, Mrs C Vernon County Councillor

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 Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, PC Newsletter, Parkfield Road resident
Mrs Sismore- Ryhall PTA
Mr G Lloyd – Francis Court
Mr A Gombault- Belmesthorpe NHW
Ms R Miller – Parish Plan
Mr S Fenn- Allotments, Ryhall United Football Club

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

It was proposed by Mr Huddleston, seconded by Mrs Sismore and agreed that the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 7th March 2012 were a true record. SF and AG abstained.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. Every meeting during the year was well attended by the majority of Councillors.The Parish Council meets bi monthly with occasional extra ordinary meetings held when required.

During the past year so far the Parish Council has dealt with 24 planning applications and 7 tree applications. Thanks go to the Planning Sub Committee, chaired by Mr Huddleston, assisted by Mrs Smith, Mr Bellairs, Mr Rushby and Mrs Sismore. Most members of the planning committee and the Clerk attended a well represented planning training meeting at Catmose in July. The Clerk attended two training sessions on insurance liabilities at the Local Association of Parish Councils in Leicestershire.
Mr Gombualt was co-opted on to the parish council in May 2012 and represents the interests of Belmesthorpe.

In 2011/12 the Library hours were reduced due to funding issues however, the Chairman was pleased to announce that as a result of a grant of £2,500 from the Parish Council, from April 2013 RCC will re-open the Library on a Saturday morning for three hours in addition to the current hours –the chairman stressed the hope that the parish will support the new hours.

A major planning issue was the Rutland County Council Issues and Options Consultation of its site allocations and policies development plan. Many hours of work were put in voluntarily from Councillors commenting on the two possible sites that were submitted.

After the consultation ended, the site allocated by RCC for Ryhall and Belmesthorpe in the future was adjacent to the Trout Farm on Belmesthorpe Lane.

The National grid proposed substation on land on the periphery of the parish is an ongoing planning issue. Network Rail has been in close consultation with both Ryhall and Essendine Parish Councils and it is anticipated that an application is due shortly.

The Cemetery extension at Belmesthorpe Lane has been an ongoing project land. The Parish Counicl is pleased to report that the transfer of land has been completed along with a grazing licence for the Flint Family to continue grazing the land until such time that it is needed for burial space. Other works have been completed in the Cemetery including the removal of the large clay pile and tree works. Further improvements are scheduled to improve the cemetery.

The PC supported the jubilee committees of Ryhall and Belmesthorpe during the Jubilee year and with resulting funds a flagpole has been suggested for the centre of the village.

In November 2012, The Parish Council hosted the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) who presented their proposals for changes to the structure of the service to a very well attended meeting. The Parish Council made representation on behalf of the village to the consultation and will continue to monitor the outcome.

The Chairman thanked the representatives on the village organisation committees who work hard for the village in many capacities and the Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their valuable work on the Parish Council. All Councillors are volunteers giving up their free time and offering their expertise and willingness to serve the local community.

Ryhall Village Hall Report

During the last year, the village hall has been much improved with the sanding of the main hall floor and the replacement of the flat roof over the toilet block. These two items alone cost in the region of £8,500. He Village Hall has also replaced the old and out-dated kitchen crockery the cost of which was generously donated by a village resident. Stage lighting was also purchased with the help of a donation from Ryhall Entertainments Association. In addition to these, many smaller maintenance jobs have been carried out to keep the hall in the condition the hall users rightly expect.

The financial results for the period from April 2012 to February 2013 show that the Hall continues to run on a sound financial basis. Income from lettings and fund raising is £11,608 against expenditure on running costs and routine maintenance of £11,760. This shows that 99% of routine costs are covered by regular income, an improvement of 2 percentage points on last year. Income from hiring by organisations was 10.4% up, and that for private bookings up by no less than 45%. Income from this latter source has nearly doubled in three years. It was thought that increasing hiring fees this year was not appropriate. Running expenses are up by 13.3%, reflecting the inexorable increase in utilities' prices and the high consumption during the recent cold weather. Maintenance costs are high, as complete reconstruction of one section of the flat roof cost £7,140. Apart from this repairs and maintenance costs continue to be low. The main capital cost has been the complete replacement of crockery with that considered to be more appropriate for the increasing number of private functions: the cost of £1,243 was generously met by an anonymous donor.

Fundraising continues with monthly Bingo sessions, the sale of a Christmas calendar, two different postcards, as well as Petticoat Lane and other activities. Buy a Brick competition has been launched to help with the roof replacement.

During the past year, the Village Hall have hosted a concert by Ruff'n'Ready an Irish folk band in conjunction with Ryhall Entertainments Association. This concert was hugely successful and very well attended. Another concert is planned for later in the year.

The Village Hall has a good, loyal committee and this year have attracted two active younger members. The experience of the older stalwarts combined with 'new blood' will be beneficial to the village hall and its enterprises.

The Committee aim to ensure that Ryhall Village Hall remains at the centre of community activities in the parish, providing a solid base for the many diverse groups and ages. This includes the toddler group and a monthly luncheon club, which regularly attracts more than 20 diners. The hall committee fully appreciate how valuable the hall is as a key village institution and endeavours to ensure that it is run smoothly for the benefit of all.

Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Report

Sports area New turf was laid in the goal mouths. The matting around the basketball ring was re-laid and repaired, and a new safety sign attached.
The football clubs supplied and installed spectator benches in memory of Dave McQueen, our late librarian, who managed a junior team, and Johnnie Ewing who played for the seniors

Pavillion The finishing-off work on the pavilion is now completed. The disabled toilet has been fitted with a low level lock and a specialised alarm system. Other items, such as safety signs, smoke alarms etc have been put in place and a hire agreement has been drawn up.
The Parish Council have agreed to provide the RMPF with tables and chairs and the Committee hopes other village organisations will now benefit from all the hard work put in by everyone on past and present committees.

Play Equipment The Committee's main objective last year was to attend to the need for an overhaul of all our play equipment, which involved repair, maintenance or replacement. This work was completed in November. However constant monitoring of all the play equipment willstill be required particularly below ground level
In addition, the Parish Council had agreed to set aside monies from the precept for new play equipment and the committee decided to replace the badly rotted step-and-stretch posts (which had been removed) with a new rolling-log and a see-saw.

Public Areas Now that the car park is no longer used by the school, the Committee have only had to spend £180 on maintenance this year partly on the road surface and the rest having the trees cut back, the school side of the car park was included in this work.
The School have now accepted responsibility for the hedge on their side, as well as the entire hedge, on the north side of the playground, which has been lowered and trimmed.
The dog waste bin and litter bin have been given new fixings and the shelter roof has been repaired and re-felted.

Repairs costing just over £700 were needed following a night of vandalism requiring repairs to the pavilion roof and guttering and a new roof for the garage.
The shelter was used as weekend accommodation by a homeless person, which redressed the balance in favour of human kindness, as he was shown a great deal of generosity by the people of the village, both young and old.

Allotment Report

Although due to weather, it has been a difficult growing year on the allotment plots, all are taken and looking good for the forthcoming season. Ryhall has a keen and enthusiastic allotment community in place.
Two successful social events have taken place and on-going maintenance been undertaken. All plots have now been numbered, the main gate fixed, the community plot re-seeded. A working party took place in the autumn when all hedges and borders were trimmed.
Thanks expressed to all those plot holders who gave of their own time to help.

Regular meetings have taken place with the allotment committee. And an annual general meeting took place where general issues were resolved and this year's committee elected. A precept was not requested this year but it is hoped that the allotment committee may be able to access some of the capital grants money for the construction of a disabled toilet. This will enable plot holders to spend longer on the plots and to run more fund raising events. Labour would be provided free By Stamford college construction students. Ryhall School and the Brownies have visited the plots to see how vegetables are grown. A link the committee would like to develop.
A monthly inspection of the plots takes place. There are no unresolved issues to report. There is now an allotment account and the committee are in the process of drawing up a constitution, without which they cannot access grant funding.
The general overview is that the allotments are well maintained and well supported.

Other Amenities
New Bus shelter installed outside Francis Court, Rutland Way
New Bench installed on the grassed area outside the Library.

Neighbourhood Watch Report.
Mr Gombault updated on recent NHW activities. There have been two burgleries and thefts from vehicles but also increased police patrols in the area. New Safer Neighbourhood Team posters have been erected.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.37pm