RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 15th July 2009 In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

PRESENT

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

18 members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES Mr S Fenn, Mr P Huddleston

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed Mr Martin Grimes, Independent Member of the Rutland County Council Standards Board.

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.
Mrs Gardiner – Allotments & Snow Warden
Mr Whowell- EMRA
Mr Lloyd - Francis Court & Neighbourhood Watch
Mr Rushby - Neighbourhood Watch & Parish Plan
Mr Bellairs – Playing Fields (Parkfield Road resident)
Mrs Hickman – RMPF Roadways (School Governor)
Mrs S Smith - Playing Fields (Park field Road resident)

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meetings

It was proposed by Mr Rushby seconded by Mr Finch and agreed to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting of **9th May 2009** as a true record

Minutes of the extra ordinarily meeting held on **10th June** – Affordable Housing
It was proposed by Mr Rushby seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to accept the Minutes as a true record.

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on **18th June 2009** – Acceptance of Annual Statement of Accounts and Local Development Framework. It was proposed by Mr Lloyd seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to accept the Minutes as a true record.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Waterloo Homes and Ms Heather Violett from Rutland County Council to the meeting to update the Parish Council following the Public Consultation that had been held in the Village Hall on the afternoon of 15th July. The Chairman hoped that attendance had been satisfactory as posters promoting the event had only been posted three days before. However it was noted that the event date and times had been published well in advance in the Village Magazine.

Ms Violett reported that there hade been mixed reaction and varying levels of support to the proposed site behind The Crescent accessed off Back Lane. The Parish Council were keen that residents comments submitted today would be taken into consideration – Waterloo Homes would supply the Parish Council with the outcome on the consultation before the Parish Council can decide whether or not to go ahead and endorse / support the scheme at this site.
There would then be further consultation and engagement with the Parish Council and the planning applications would be submitted to the Development and Licensing planning department together with sustainability assessments. It was noted that with our two elected Ward Councillors in the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, Ryhall and Essendine were well served in this arena.

The Parish Council was not in a position to make an informed decision as to whether to proceed with this site until all the comments had been assessed. It was agreed it would be desirable to hold an extra ordinarily meeting open to all, to discuss the comments before the next PC meeting in September. Various comments were noted about the impact of traffic on Back Lane which is Bridleway Open to all traffic (BOAT) and other suggestions for possible sites. However it was noted that if the Parish Council does not accept this site, then the afforardable housing would not go ahead in Ryhall.
The Parish Council accept the density and mix of housing proposed for the site, should it go ahead.
The Chairman thanked Waterloo Homes representatives and Ms Violet for attending the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Highways Traffic Calming Consultation
RCC had conducted traffic calming consultation outlining the design for traffic calming scheme which included a bus pull in at the Library, gateways on the entry to the village and Speed Indictor Devices (SID's) on approaches to the village on A6121.The consultation graph supplied by RCC indicted that the majority of respondents were in support of the above. RCC had invited residents to make any comments on the consultation sheet, which have been passed to the Parish Council for review. A number of comments had been returned and it was agreed to circulate to Councillors for consideration at the next meeting.

Local Development Framework Consultation.
The minutes of the extra ordinary Meeting held on 18th June outlined the responses of the Parish Council to the 24 preferred options. The response sheet had been submitted to RCC for the deadline of 30th June.

Snow Warden Scheme
This will be reviewed by RCC Cabinet at the meeting on 18th August. Mr Parsons reported that he had requested a review of the gritting routes in the villages at this Cabinet meeting.

Spire Homes
Mr Parsons and Ms Jones had been asked by the Parish Council to present two questions to the full Council Meeting of RCC on 15th June. Mr Parsons asked:
Given the present publicity on expense claims and need for clarity in County Council expenditure, can it be made clear who will pay the Rutland Management Boards expense and the salaries of the council officers who will manage the social housing

register given the complexity of future allocation – for example with four separate housing association managing social housing in Ryhall.
Will these costs be met by the council tax payer as the council no longer receives housing income?

He reported the following response:
The proposed Rutland Management Board will be funded entirely by Spire Homes: Responsibility for the service to homeless people and to run the housing waiting list for Rutland remains with the Council as it always has done. This work was always been funded through the General Fund (and thereby the Council Tax payers Not the tenant). The transfer proposal does not change this.
At the moment the Council has contract with Spire Homes under which they manage the homelessness service and the waiting list on RCC behalf RCC intends that this contract will continue for the time being but as with any contract it is reviewed from time to time.
Although the housing matters are the County Council responsibility they do of course welcome the interest of Parish Council and in particular note the support that Ryhall has given to the proposed affordable housing scheme to be provided by De Mont ford Housing Association (subject of course to funding and planning permission) If the Parish Council would welcome a fuller briefing on housing issues at one of its meeting, Mr Jackson would be pleased to respond to an invitation.

Ms Jones asked:
In the *Your Housing Choice Brochure* – produced by Rutland County Council the stamement is made that Spire Hones will spend 21 millions over the next five years on improvements. However if the transfer does not go ahead RCC will only spend 3.8millions. Why is it that when RCC collects 4.1 millions in resent annularly of whey they retain 2.7 millions? This equates to 13.5 millions of income over five years, Why are they only able to second 3.8 millions on improvements? Where are the other 10 millions? RCC figures take not account of the expected 3.5% increase in rent annually. Why?
There has been no competitive tendering process for the sale of the social housing stock – how does the Council know that the £4,000 received for each home is the best price achievable?

She reported the response:

If the transfer went ahead, Spire Homes would spend £21 million on a programme of works to improve all homes within the first five years, whereas if the transfer did not proceed, the Council could only spend around £3.8 million on improvements to tenants' homes over the same period.

Spire Homes would have the advantage firstly of being able to re-invest all rent income received (whereas the Council was currently required to pay some £1.3 million to the Government each year), and secondly of being able to borrow money for the proposed investments. Under Government rules, the Council could only borrow money to spend on its homes if it could afford to repay the borrowing, which was made unlikely by the annual Government levy.

It was resolved at the full council meeting held on the 15th June that a formal Stage 2 letter be issued to all secure tenants confirming:-

a) the terms of the Council's offer as set out in the Stage 1 formal consultation document;

b) the tenants' right to communicate objections to the Council's housing transfer proposal to the Secretary of State within twenty eight days of receipt of the Stage 2 letter;

c) that the Secretary of State will withhold consent to the proposed transfer if a majority of affected tenants do not wish the transfer to proceed.

2. That Electoral Reform Ballot Services Ltd be commissioned to carry out a formal ballot of tenants in respect of the proposed transfer.

Mr Parsons reported that there had been wide discussion on the Spire Homes transfer issue at the 15th June Meeting. On that evening at the vote, Mr Parsons reported that he had abstained. Ms Jones reported that she had voted to support the transfer. It was noted at the Parish Council meeting that Ms Jones voted in favour of the transfer despite the views of the Parish Council. Mr Whowell wished it to be minuted that the Parish Council, at the lowest level of democracy, had been ignored by the County Council on this issue. He further noted that 250 thousand pounds had been spent on producing the marketing material. Comment was received from the floor, through the Chair, on Ms Jones's voting decision. The final tenants vote closes on 20th July.
Mrs Jones remarked on her voting decision and highlighted that fact that the full Council Minutes of the Meeting of 15th June were available on the RCC website.

AGENDA ITEMS

Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields

The Chairman read out the letter from Ryhall Meadows laying Fields Committee:
'The playing fields car park (it is more of a car park than a roadway) was once again the subject of much debate at a recent RMPFA committee meeting and whilst several ideas were discussed we are all in agreement that this really is a much bigger problem than we can, or are prepared to, deal with on our own.
Parents taking children to school & play school are by far the main users of the car park but there appears to be very little the school can offer as a solution to the problem as the car park is not owned by the school. The RMPFC believe that the school uses the car park as the main route for emergency vehicle access. The speed at which people drive along the car park is a great concern to some Park field Road residents as is the dust/dirt created in dry conditions & mud in the wet. As you know we have had written complaints regarding the above & concerns about the speed at which parents drive along Park field Road itself, not that we are in a position to have any affect on this problem other than closing the gates during school hours which might reduce the level of traffic using Park field - again though this is not a decision we are prepared to make in isolation.

As you know, we would all like to see the car park 'tarmaced' with the addition of speed bumps. However quotes for this are well in excess of £30,000 a figure which the RMPFA cannot fund without years of fundraising which we are reluctant to commit to as the gravel surface would be quite sufficient for the small volume of traffic under normal playing field use.
As this subject is so complex the RMPFC ask the Parish Council for their assistance on this matter'

The Parish Councillors & RMPF Committee members had been issued with a copy of the Notes of the Meeting of 10 May 2009 held in School with members of the RCC Property Services and Education team, the Head teacher, the Parish Council and the RMPF Committee representatives. The Notes set out the perspective and concerns of all parties.
It was established that there were two issues to consider – (1) the increased traffic of school related vehicles using the car park and thus causing concern for nearby residents and (2) the actual state of the road regarding safety and maintenance. The Parish Council wish to find the acceptable solution to both issues working with the school and residents and ensuring the safety of the children.
If the car park were tarmaced with the addition of the more effective rubber speed bumps included to slow traffic and a reinstated kerb, this would help reduce speeding, dust and mud issues on Parkfield Road. There would need to be a reduction in traffic volume to appease local residents and this would have to be addressed by the School. Supporting the 'Walking Bus' was suggested.

It was suggested that the original footpath (closed many years ago) which runs behind the Library and Francis Court to connect with the school's wild garden area could be re-opened. This would provide an alternative walking route into the School

Regarding the other entrance by the Vicarage, the Chairman reported that is was still being established by RCC as to who owned this road but he has requested the RCC Highways resurface it when they do the Church Street resurfacing shortly.
Mrs Hickman suggested that there were various funding avenues that could be actively perused. Mrs Hickman, Mr Lloyd and Mr Bellairs offered to set up a working party to seek out funding. Ms Jones suggested that Great Casterton Parish Council be approached as they had gained funding through the safer routes to school scheme.

It was proposed by Mrs Smith seconded by Mr Finch that the car park be tarmaced subject to funding. At the vote, 4 in favour, 3 abstained. Mr Whowell proposed an amendment to the motion that the gate to the Playing Fields be closed from 9pm until 6.pm the next evening to allow access only to Playing Fields users. There was no seconder to this proposal.
A counter vote was proposed because it was noted that Councillors who were residents of Parkfield road and therefore had declared an interest could partake in the debate but not vote.
It was proposed by Mr Parsons, seconded by Mr Finch that the car park be tarmaced subject to funding. At the vote, five in favour, I against, 3 non votes due to declaring an interest.

Consideration of fencing
The Clerk reported that the recent risk assessment survey had indicated that a fence would be desirable to differentiate the land between car park and grassed areas. It was agreed to quantify as to what type of fence, height and requirements would needed to satisfy the insurance company and discuss at the next meeting.

Risk Assessment - Asbestos Roof & new signage
The new H& S advisory sign is in place. The RMPFC have commissioned an asbestos survey on the pavilion roof which analysed the roofed material, dust on the ceiling and floor tiles. The Committee awaits the final written report and any suggested action would be taken before any refurbishment work took place.

Play area Checks
Mr Bellairs will be monitoring the play area safety checks on a weekly basis using revised documentation.

Gala Day – Sunday 13th September
The RMPFC invites all organisations to partake in the fundraising event. The Clerk is regrettably not able to assist this year. Mrs Gardiner offered to co-ordinate a small fundraiser on behalf the Parish Council if a good idea could be agreed.

Dog Bins
Cory Environmental empty the 7 dog bins in the parish at a fee of £2.50 each per week. Some have been missed in the past weeks but were reported quickly thanks to Rachel Millers vigilance. Cory will endeavour not to repeat the oversight. If a new dog bin is required it must be requested in writing for consideration to the Parish Council.
Noted that the base of the bin on the A6121 was in need of attention, it was suggested that this bin be moved along towards New Road and replaced by a waste paper bin by the bus shelter. Clerk to action. Mr Fenn to be asked to action the repairs/ relocation.

Cemetery/ Green Burial
Mr Toone - Burial Administrator - had made enquiries about the possibility of a green burial site for any possible extension the current cemetery. It was noted that whilst in principle it was a good idea there were many elements to consider and further investigations would need to be made. It was proposed by Mr Bellairs, seconded by Mr Whowell to consider at the precept meeting, the purchase of the land directly behind the cemetery for an extension in the future. At the vote, 4 in favour, 3 abstained

Risk Assessment & New sign for Allotment
The new Tenancy Agreement for the year commencing 1st October 2009 will include some additional clauses relating to the recent risk assessment review and the new advisory sign will be in place shortly.

Communication:
Purchase of larger notice board for Belmesthorpe.
The Clerk has obtained the permission of the home owner to place a double noticebaord in the same site, but planning permission as it is a conservation area still needed to be confirmed. Deferred to next meeting
New location for small notice board. It was proposed by Mr Lloyd, seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to offer the smaller noticeboard to Francis Court when it was re-located.
It as noted that the Parish Council Minutes are now accessible on Rutnet website via the Parish Plan co-ordinator.

Action in the event of swine flu in the parish

Mr Whowell proposed that the Parish Council organise a ' flu friend system' to a assist residents in the village in the event of a swine flu epidemic. 'Flu friends' would collect medication from local surgeries. He offered to co-ordinate this initiative, possibly in conjunction with the Neighbourhood watch scheme street leaders. Rachel Miller to liaise with Mr Whowell as to the practicality of offering this service. Noted that many surgeries already had plans in place.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Rutland County Council – George Phillips Award. This award is presented annually to the owner of a domestic , commercial or industrial development extended, refurbished or new build which is considered to have made a significant contribution to conserving the character of the built environment in Rutland. The award is organised jointly by the Rutland History Society and Rutland County Council. It was proposed by Mrs Hickman and seconded by Mr Whowell that the former Dunster House in Foundry Road be nominated subject to the owner's agreement. At the vote five in favour, two abstained.

From Rutland County Council – Sport Structures Survey - completed by the Clerk

From Spire Homes – Visit by Estate Officer to all Rutland villages to inspect estates. Parish Councillors are invited to join Mr Kirby – Ryhall & Essendine will be visited on 19th August commencing at 10.30am. The areas checked do not include the sheltered schemes that are warden controlled.

Documents in current circulation

Rural Community Council – Application to be a Trustee (by 21 Aug)
From Rutland County Council – Forum Minutes
From Rutland County Council – Standards Committee Minutes
From Rutland County Council – Active Rutland Brochures and leaflets
From EMDA – EMDA News magazine
From LAPLC – June Newsletter
NHS Excellence Booklet
Regional Plan Partial Review with Disk

FINANCE

Income received into Parish Account

From BT – Refund for Phone Kiosks - £230 per kiosk			460.00

It was proposed by Mr Whowell, seconded by Mr Parsons and agreed to endorse payments made since last meeting

10.6.09 E-On Street Light Repair	23.47	3.52	26.99
18.06.09 Veolia Crosscutting April	68.26	10.24	78.50
18.06.09 Veolia Grass cutting May	68.26	10.24	78.50
18.06.9 Ryhall Methodist Hall 2 x Meetings			20.00
18.06.09 Mrs C Adams Salary June			408.37
18.06.09 Eon Street Light Maintenance	290.28	43.54	330.82
18.06.09 Lamin & White Accountants Audit Fees	175.00	26.25	201.25
From Burial Accounts			
18.06.09 Veilia Crosscutting April	46.20	6.93	53.13
18.06.09 Veolia Grass cutting May	46.20	6.93	53.13

It was proposed by Mr Parsons seconded by Mr Whowell and agreed to make the following payments:

Expenditure:	**Net**	**VAT**	**Total**
Mrs. C Adams Salary July			408.37
Mrs. C Adams Expenses			127.38
Ryhall Methodist Church Hire of Hall			10.00
Rutland CAB Donation (agreed at May meeting)			50.00
Barker Signs - 2 x signs for allotment and RMPF			96.60

BURIAL

Income received into Burial Account – banked on 10/07/09

From M. Markwell Internment in purchased grave	53.00
J Barnett Memorial Fee	62.00
E Dinsdale Internment Fee & Admin	115.00
C Corby Memorial	48.00
E Dinsdale Memorial	48.00
Skellett Memorial	48.00

To note the approval of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2009 for external Audit – at the extra ordinary meeting held on 18th June 2009

VAT return has been completed – 2008/09 £ 1,496.71

OTHER MEETINGS - None

PLANNING

Full Planning Permission granted-

Mr P Copley Chartham, Church Street, Ryhall for Erection of three-bay detached garage to front (north east) of property.

Mrs I Bailey South Riding Essendine Road, Ryhall for Erection of two storey dwellinghouse and adjoined double garage.

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 Busby, & Meadow Lane, Ryhall for Construction of ground floor extension to the west elevation. Appeal by applicant

Current Planning under consideration

Erection of Satellite dish – Christmas Cottage, Main Street, Belmesthorpe

Determination as to whether the prior approval details is required (Agricultural and Forestry development)

Gwash Valley Farm Great Casterton Road, Ryhall for the Erection of 277 square metre grain dryer store. Dated 14.04.09

Mr R Shoon, Kirk meadow, Bretton Peterborough for Erection of timber storage shed. Land to the east of New stead Lane, Belmesthorpe. Dated 19.05.09

OPEN FORUM

Fly posting.
Noted that all the main lamp-posts in the village are used for fly posting. Organisations are asked to remove their posters as soon as possible after the event.

Affordable Housing
It was suggested that Gala Day might be a good event at which to offer the opportunity to villagers to comment further on the proposed affordable housing site. This could be advertised in the Village News and with a poster campaign as it was deemed important that everyone is aware of the proposals and has the chance to comment. Ms Jones was inviting to attend as Head of the planning Department at RCC and take questions. However, it was not concluded who would co-ordinate this.

Village Hall Fundraiser – Photo Competition
Appeal to support the fundraiser- details on all the notice boards and around the village.

Ryhall Village Sign – a letter missing and needs refurbishment – clerk to action

Highways Issues
Mrs Gardiner highlighted various highways issues in Belemsthrope that had not been directly addressed by the Highways department following the Highways walk. Mr Parsons reported that issues such as moving speed signs have to go before Cabinet.

PUBLIC TIME

Ward Councillor attendance at Meetings.
Ms Jones noted that due to a clash of dates with the Essendine Parish Council meeting she is not always able to attend the Ryhall parish Council meetings in her capacity as Ward Councillor. She stressed that villagers are invited to contact her at any time on any issue and asked that her contact details be included in the Minutes. Email address is cljones@rutland.gov.uk and home phone number which is 01780 765449.

Village news
Support and thanks were noted for the Village News Magazine.

Cycle path – Clerk to ascertain when work might commence on the cycle path over the Lincolnshire boarder to link up with Ryhall.

Qualifying for affordable housing
A resident has to live in Ryhall for the preceding nine months prior to applying for affordable housing or be working in the parish.

Flying the Flag
It was with great regret that it was reported that the flag flown at half mast on 6th 7th and 8th July 2009 at the Methodist Church as a mark of respect following the deaths of the British troops in Afghanistan had been stolen. This is the 8th flag to be stolen.

Walking Group and Footways
Rachel Miller has established a new walking group. On the recent walk it was noted that the footpaths and accesses were overgrown. This has been reported to the Footpaths Officer at RCC and will also be reported the Member in Charge of Public Rights of Way.
It was further noted that the kissing gates which RCC have agreed to install have still not been actioned, although Mr Parsons reported that it was imminent.

Information on the Website.
Details of Councillors names and responsibilities which are listed the new leaflets on the Notice boards will be posted on the website too.

NEXT MEETINGS
Wednesday 16th September 2009
Wednesday 18th November 2009