RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ryhall Parish Council held on Wednesday March 19th 2011
In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

Present Mr C Parsons -Chairman, Mr P Huddleston, Mrs C Gardiner, Mrs S Smith, Mr S Fenn, Mr P Finch, Mr N Bellairs, Mrs S Hickman, Mr G Lloyd, Mrs B White

Seven members of the public and County Councillor, Charlotte Jones attended.

Apologies –Mr R Rushby

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 relating to the agenda items. They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.
Mr Lloyd - Francis Court & Neighbourhood Watch
Mrs Gardiner – Allotments & Belmesthorpe NHW
Mr Bellairs - Playing Fields, Parkfield Road Resident
Mr Fenn – Allotments, Ryhall Football Club, RMPF
Mr Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, PC Newsletter and RMPF Roadway
Mrs Smith – Parkfield Road resident
Mrs White – Francis Court, Spire Homes, Disability issues

Public Time
Vote of thanks on behalf of the Methodist Church for the precept donation allocated for 2011 towards the heating repairs.

Approval of Annual Parish Minutes.
It was proposed by Mr Lloyd seconded by Mrs White and agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 10th 2010 were signed as a true record.
Mrs Gardiner abstained.

Chairman's Report – written and presented by Mr C Parsons
(Additions in brackets by the Clerk)

' I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting which is at the end of a four year tem of office for us all and takes us to our elections and would like to thank you all for your support to me and help to run one of the largest Parish Council's in the county. Some of our Councillors are stepping down especially Sally (Mrs Hickman) who is stepping down after serving the parish for the past 20 years. Thank you. The past year has seen us improving the village by (progressing) the *purchase of an extension to the burial ground on Belmesthorpe Lane. We have also progressed with the Affordable Housing going ahead and all the street lighting upgrades being done leaving us with two to be done this year. Unfortunately we have had to keep the gate shut on the playing fields and we had no response from the school. We have benefited from the village news allowing us to communicate to everyone in the Parish. I would again like to thank all for your support and special*

thanks to Caroline (the Parish Clerk) without whom my job would be nigh on impossible. I wish everyone all the best for next year even if they are standing down or loose out if we have an election'

Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Report Report by Mr A Capper

Mr Jonathon Harvey has resigned as Chairman of the RMPF Committee due to pressure of work, Mr A Capper as Vice Chairman is in the Chair until the AGM in April. The Committee are working on the pavilion improvements with students from New College Stamford assisting under supervision. The Committee hopes that a kitchen may be donated and repairs have been undertaken by the probation service to play equipment and hedge cutting.
Roadway Update. The total costs were in the region of £4,500 labour, kerbing and the disable access improvements. Four lorry loads of gravel were donated by Willmott Dixon. The roadway is now up to standard for recreational and sport use and the gate will remain closed to school traffic as before. No comment has been received from either the school or the community about the closure of the gate during school hours. Keeping the gate closed will retain the integrity of the roadway. Clerk to thank Willmott Dixon for the donation of gravel which was delivered as a gesture to the parish following works to school premises. On behalf of the Parish Council Mr Lloyd thanked Mr Capper for all his hard work on all the above projects over the years.
Disabled access at St Johns Close entrance. A quote for £895 to upgrade this access has been received by the RMPF Committee who will consider the upgrade once the pavilion is completed. There is a complication of drainage to install at this access.

Ryhall Village Hall Report – read by Mr P Huddleston
The hall continues to be in regular use by many village organisations as well as customers from outside the parish and the committee endeavour to maintain a high standard for the satisfaction of all.

During 2010, Ryhall Village Hall, once the village school, celebrated its 40th anniversary as a centre for the community. This was marked by an afternoon tea party, along with displays of photos past and present as well as photos of the building during and after major recent refurbishments. Archive material was also on display and members of the local community produced reminiscences of their involvement with the hall over the years. This function was very well attended and reminded the committee how much the hall is loved and plays a key role in the life of this parish.

The committee wants to widen the appeal of the hall and make use of its potential as a place of entertainment. For the past two years, we have been promoting a variety of shows and plays thanks to subsidies offered through Centre Stage, the Rural and Community Touring Scheme for Leicestershire and Rutland, co-ordinated by Art service and financially assisted by Arts Council England East Midlands, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council. These shows have included music, drama and comedy and while the feedback has always been encouraging the actual support for the shows has not been as consistent as we would have hoped and we have been lucky to break even. As such, the prospect of future events is being evaluated. The next is a music evening on Thursday 12th May with the acclaimed piano accordion trio Hell Said the Duchess.

A major success for the hall was the panto Dick Whittington staged in January by the Ryhall Pantomime Players and Ryhall Entertainments Association. Thanks to a lot of hard work and enthusiasm by the cast and crew, the magnificent sum of £1,300 is being donated to village hall funds.

Maintenance on the hall has been regularly carried out, as would be expected in a building of this age, but a recent inspection has revealed a damp problem. The committee are taking advice and are preparing for a large bill and some disruption. Other matters dealt with include a replacement water heater in the kitchen and new curtains for the small hall.

Our Treasurer reports that the financial results for the period from April 2010 to February 2011 show that the hall continues to run on a sound financial basis. Income from lettings and fund raising is £9,009, against expenditure on running costs and routine maintenance of £9,331. This shows that 97% of routine costs are covered by regular income, an improvement of 10 percentage points on last year. Income from hiring by organisations was 2.5% up and that for private bookings up by no less than 41%. Running expenses are up by 18%, reflecting the inexorable increase in utilities' prices and the high consumption during the recent cold weather.
We are, as always, very grateful to the parish council for its continued support. However we constantly strive to be self-sufficient and continue fundraising with monthly Bingo sessions, the Monthly Lunch club, Petticoat Lane and other activities and are always looking at other avenues of fundraising.

We have an active and dedicated committee but the numbers are down. We feel we would benefit by the addition of more members who, combined with the experience of the older stalwarts, would inject fresh ideas and energy into the running of the hall. We plan a recruitment drive this year to ensure that the whole parish is represented on the committee and all groups have a voice.

We anticipate a busy and challenging year ahead but the committee is pledged to ensure that all users enjoy the best possible service and facilities and the hall retains its reputation as one of the best in the county.

Library Performance - Report submitted by Mr R Clayton – Team Manager RCC Leisure & Culture

The total number of books borrowed from Ryhall Library between January and December 2010 was 11,693 – marginally down on the figure of 12,039 in the previous year. Just over 3,500 items including Talking Books were borrowed by children, and just over 8,000 by adults. A small number of CDs and DVDs were borrowed – 249 items in total. This is clearly an area where changing availability of items to download or rent by post will continue to affect the library service.
504 items were requested by Ryhall library users in 2010. The item on the proposed reduction in Library hours was discussed in the main Parish Council meeting.

Library News
Dave McQueen, Library Assistant at Ryhall library, died in November 2010, at the age of 48. He had worked at Ryhall library since June 2004. He always gave outstanding service to the people of Rutland, and the village of Ryhall in particular. Dave was highly public spirited and dedicated, helping to run a village junior football team and always friendly, cheerful and welcoming, making time to go the extra mile for his customers.

Ryhall Allotments

The annual agreement commencing now commences on 1st October (2010) until 30th September(2011). All allotments are taken up and are running smoothly, which is a testament to the community spirit of the allotment holders.

Ryhall Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – report by Rachel Miller

Rachel Miller tried to find a replacement to take over the reins but unfortunately no one came forward. Not wishing to loose the excellent network of street contacts and all their efforts, Rachel continues to act as Village Coordinator.

Burglaries in Rutland have fallen by 51.6%

In the last year Ryhall has had the following crimes

House burglaries 3; Burglaries other premises 2; various damages and theft

St Johns Close became a Smart Water area and Spinney Close is now a No Cold Calling Zone.

The scheme has managed not to incur any costs in the last year.

Street contacts continue to communicate via email or telephone and Rachel keeps them informed with relevant police information.

Thanks to street contacts and residents as the scheme continues into a fourth year.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.