RYHALL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ryhall Parish Council held on Wednesday March 7th 2012
In the Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Ryhall.

Present Mr C Parsons -Chairman Mr P Huddleston Mr R Rushby
Mrs S Smith Mrs E Sismore Mr N Bellairs
Ms R MIller

Six members of the public attended.

Apologies –Mrs B White, Mr G Lloyd, 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 relating to the agenda items. They completed the Declaration of Interest Book.
Ms Miller – Fun Squad and Parish Plan
Mr Bellairs - Playing Fields, Parkfield Road Resident, Diamond Jubilee Committee
Mr Huddleston- Village Hall, Playing Fields, PC Newsletter, Parkfield Road resident
Mrs Sismore- Ryhall PTA
Mr Parsons – Playing Fields

Approval of Annual Parish Minutes.
It was proposed by Mr Huddleston seconded by Mr Bellairs and agreed (four in favour) that the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 19th 2011 were signed as a true record. Three abstained RR, EM, ES.

Rutland & Leicestershire Police to update on local Policing Issues – PSCO Liam Bourne gave an overview of the last twelve months. Forty five crimes have been recorded on the system for the parish including 2 burglaries seven thefts and six thefts from motor vehicles, which were targeted as items are usually left on display. PSCO Bourne asked that all incidents be reported even if the cars were not locked at the time. There are a limited number of tamper proof screws available at Oakham Police Station. He asked that villagers remain vigilant. There were 5 accounts of damages and anti social behaviour but an increase in foot patrols and police presence in the patrol cars. PSCO Bourne spoke about the Community Speed Watch initiative if funding is available , it would require volunteers. He highlighted the 101 phone number for non emergencies and the Neighbourhood Link where messages and crime prevention updates are put out to signed up members via the website, www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

Ryhall Parish Council –Chairman's report on 2010/11 Chairman's Report
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.
Every meeting during the year was well attended by the majority of Councillors. It has been a busy year, the Parish Council are scheduled to have bi monthly meetings a year but are always willing to schedule extra-ordinary meetings and planning sub committee meetings as and when required.

The Parish Council always has a particularly busy meeting in January with the precept and have aimed to keep the precept at the same level as last year despite rising costs . Insurance and public liability, Clerks salary, audit fees and general admin costs all make up the running costs as well as paying for some parish lighting - the actual electricity costs and the annual ongoing maintenance and repairs to lights. The PC has completed a series of upgrades, and the final two street lights in Belmesthorpe have now been

upgraded. The clerk has the inventory of the lights under Parish Council remit and the ones belonging to RCC. Every year the accounts are professionally audited both by a local firm in Oakham and externally in Birmingham. Stringent checks and balances are in place and the public have access to the accounts and the audit papers during the audit period which is usually in the summer months – details posted on the Notice board.

The Parish Council also cover provision and maintenance of community allotments, provision of and funding of water at the cemetery and allotments, some hedge cutting and grass cutting. The funding of the sponsorship of the BT phone box and provision of dog and grit bins are also covered by the Parish Council and historically have looked after the church clock maintenance, with thanks to Mr Fenn for keeping it on time. The Parish Council funds the Christmas tree lights in the Square.
The Parish Council undertake risk assessments and keep this up to date, with log books, checking procedures, purchasing the relevant signage and reviewing the risks from time to time.
Last year Mrs White and Mr Rushby worked hard on the production of a Community Response Plan in the event of an emergency – this will hopefully be completed shortly. Mr Lloyd took over the role of Allotments Chairman and has formed an active allotment committee who meet twice yearly, restructured some of the allotment plots, set up nursery plots and we now have 27 allotment holders.

The Parish Council endeavour to communicate well with the village and as well as the provision of notice boards, there is a file in the Library in which the Minutes are collated. The use of the website has been a bonus with thanks to the webmaster who kindly uploads the agendas and draft Minutes. The Parish Council have a page in the Village News and for an edited version of the Minutes but the full Minutes can be found on the website.

During the past year so far the Parish Council has dealt with 22 planning applications. Thanks go to the Planning Sub Committee, chaired by Mr Huddleston, assisted by Mrs Smith Mr Fenn. Last year saw the opening of the new development St Ebbas Close at the top of Essendine Hill, with new families moving into Ryhall. The major planning issue in September to November 2011 was the Rutland County Council Issues and Options Consultation of its site allocations and policies development plan. An extra ordinary meeting was called to discuss in depth the document and produce a response and comment to all the questions. The public were invited to attend and observe the process.

The next stage in the process is for the Council to assess the responses and to carry out a technical assessment of the existing and new sites put forward before publishing a preferred list of sites and policies as part of the Preferred Options version of the DPD by September/October 2012

The Cemetery extension at Belmesthorpe Lane has been an ongoing project last year. Following a trial dig, the clerk has been working with the solicitors to organise the paperwork for the transfer of land. The PC is grateful to Mr Flint for selling the land to ensure the provision of burial space for the future generations of the parishes. The Parish Council will approve a grazing licence which will agree to the Flint family continuing to graze the land until such time as it is needed. A post and rail fence will be erected to define the boundary.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the representatives on the village organisation committees who work hard for the village in many capacities. In 2012 committees are organising Diamond Jubilee events in Ryhall and Belmesthorpe.

The Chairman thanked 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

The past 12 months have seen Ryhall Village Hall benefit from some major improvements.

These include the refurbishment of the bar area (complete with a catering sized refrigerator), the installation of a sound system and audio loop for the hard of hearing, and a new lighting arrangement for the foyer. The hall now has its own website ryhallvillagehall.co.uk which will allow everyone on the internet to keep in touch with activities at the hall. Regular maintenance has also been carried out to keep the building in tip-top condition and attractive for those who use it.

Weekly activities at the hall ensure that a wide range of age groups and interests are catered for. These include, a mother and toddler group, dog training, yoga, tai chi, pilates, Zumba exercise, an art and craft group and classical dancing.

During the past year, the hall committee has joined forces with Ryhall Entertainments Association to host two concerts by Ruff'n'Ready, an Irish folk band. Both concerts were hugely successful. In January, the REA, with the Ryhall Pantomime Players, staged the pantomime Snow White and the Seven (Or So) Dwarfs of Ryhall with profits going to the village hall. With a lot of hard work and enthusiasm both front and backstage, the magnificent sum of £1,000 was raised for village hall funds.

Our Treasurer reports that the financial results for the period from April 2011 to February 2012 show that the hall continues to run on a sound financial basis. Net income from lettings and fund raising is £10,363 against expenditure on running costs and routine maintenance of £9,672. This shows that 87% of routine costs are covered by regular income, a slight reduction from last year, but still a very creditable performance, which shows a high degree of financial self sufficiency. Income from hiring by organisations is 5.6% up, although that for private bookings is down by 13.5%. Total letting income has slightly increased. Running expenses are up by 14%, reflecting the inexorable increase in utilities' prices, as well as that for insurance and other routine costs.

We are, as always, very grateful to the Parish Council for its continued support especially with regard to the gifting of the sound system. We were also grateful to Spire Homes for their generosity in awarding us a community grant for the bar area.

However we are mindful of the need to regularly raise funds and this continues with monthly Bingo sessions, the monthly Lunch club, and Petticoat Lane. This year we were delighted with the sales of our village calendar and have, as a result of our photo competition in the summer, produced a postcard for the village. We hope more will follow. The committee are also actively looking at other avenues of fundraising.

The management committee are very much aware that the hall is at the hub of community activities in Ryhall and Belmesthorpe. As such, we will endeavour to ensure that it is run smoothly and efficiently for all and continues to nourish the social life of the village.

Ryhall Meadows Playing Fields Report

During 2011 /12 The committee carried out the following activities.
St Johns Close entrance has now been upgraded which brings to a conclusion the programme of improvements we started last year when we re did the car park ,and Parkfield road entrance.

Sports Areas

We have laid new turf in the goal mouths and the goal posts have been painted.

Play Equipment
Repairs have been done to the wobbly bridge and stilts, the junior swings,the seating shelter,and the monkey bars on the multiplay unit have been replaced
Pavilion
With help from New College students who assembled and fitted the new kitchen and also personnel from the local R.A.F stations who carried out plumbing, painting ,tiling , and the carpentry & joinery,we were able to re open the sports pavilion.
Our official opening ceremony was carried out by Darren Ferguson the Peterborough united manager the weather was delightful and a lovely day was enjoyed by the whole village.
Fund raising.
£1752.97 was raised this year at the Fun Day, marking the opening of the pavilion.
Future plans
Next year we plan to replace the climbing frame and carry-out repairs to play equipment where required

Fun Squad Report
The club continues to be a success, with an average of thirty young people attending on a weekly basis. We operate during term times from April to October/November depending on the weather, and hopes to return on Wednesday 18th April.
However this will only be possible if people come forward to help. We are down to just three volunteers on a regular basis. Volunteers are desperately needed to help out at the sessions, once or twice a month for two hours.

Our current financial situation is as before with no income we rely on grant funds to sustain the club. With the £500 precept received from the Parish Council in 2011, £54 has been spent on hiring the village hall to trial indoor sessions, and £225 on charges for equipment storage to the Ryhall Meadow Playing Field Committee.
The club will need to source around £450 for the annual insurance policy due in May.It was not possible to charge for the sessions as it is open access and very fluid.

An article will be in local papers soon requesting volunteers and making people aware of the clubs situation. If anyone is interested in volunteering or generally assisting with developing the clubs future then please contact Rachel Miller.

Ryhall Library
In November 2011, as a result of pressure on Rutland County Council spending, opening hours were reduced in Rutland's libraries. Ryhall Library had its opening times reduced to a core of 9am – 12 noon , 2pm – 5pm on Mondays and Thursdays, a reduction of 5 hours a week. At the same time Uppingham library had its hours reduced by 4 hours per week and Oakham library lost 3 hours a week. Ketton Library has not had a reduction in hours as the Parish Council raised one year's precept to maintain the hours. It is anticipated that this funding will cease in 2012-13 however, it is likely to be replaced through income as a result of Ketton Surgery moving on to the site to share premises. If Parish and Town councils will directly fund extension of hours through raising a precept, Rutland County Council is happy to consider such initiatives. Volunteers are welcome in the library with a range of opportunities available for participation in the service. The saving made by the reduction in hours at Ryhall Library is around £4,500 per annum. The Parish Council were disappointed that RCC did not acknowledge their suggestions for hours of opening.

Library Perfomance.
Library visits at Ryhall fell in 2011 prior to the introduction of the new hours. There were a total of 7,841 visits in 2011 compared to 9,323 in 2010 around 150 visits to the library each week down from 2180 per week in 2010. This represents a reduction of around 16%.At this fairly early stage, visitor figures have continued to reduced following the

reduction in hours with around 100 fewer visitors each month in November and January, although visitors in December were around the same level as the previous year. If this trend continues, visits will reduce by around 1,000 in a full year. In 2010, evening and Saturday visits totalled over 3,600 which suggests that a proportion of the visitors who used the library at these times are now coming to the library at different times.

Allotments Report

There have been two allotment plot holder meetings this year. An allotment committee has been formed with the objective of supporting the Parish Council with the management of the allotment plots. The allotment committee have met regularly and have drafted changes to the tenancy agreements. Minutes are available for inspection on the plot holder's notice board.
A rent increase has been agreed.
A working party was organised to trim borders saving the PC £600.
A social event held raising £55 for plot holder's funds.
The number of plots increased to 35 which are now full with a small waiting list should a plot, become available.
A scarecrow competition will be held on the 17th March all welcome.
An allotment plot inspection will take place in June.
The allotment association have been awarded £300 precept request by the Parish council, which they would like to thank the Parish Council for. They are opening a bank account and will produce accounts for next year's meeting.
Plant sharing and fund raising ideas are being developed.
The allotments and borders are presently well maintained.

Neighbourhood Watch Reports

As of January 2012 Rachel Miller is no longer the NW village coordinator for Ryhall. PCSO Liam Bourne has given a crime update this evening. Rachel wished to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Ryhall for their support and commitment over the last four years.

Although the scheme in its current format has ceased, Rachel hoped residents will continue to remain vigilant and make use of the new Neighbourhood Link website. This delivers current crime information, direct to every household via email.
Go to www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk to register.
Details available at the library, shop and village notice boards.

Rachel requested that the PC fund the replacement of lamppost signs as and when required.

Other Village Amenities

On behalf of Ryhall Gardeners, Mr Massingham sought permission to plant up three union jack flags with red white and blue petunia's for the Jubilee. The cost is £14.99 per pack and they could be either permanent or temporary. It was proposed from the Chair seconded by Mrs Smith and agreed to fund the three flags (1 metre square) if Rutland County Council grant permission as the sites are on their land, on the green areas at the bottom of Coppice Road and Essendine Hill and by the Library.

The meeting closed at 7.41