

REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 12th May, 2008

Present: Mr D M Walker (in the Chair) Mr J Santoro
Mrs L Craven Mr R Beeby
Mr P Atkin Mrs J Taylor

In attendance: Mrs J M Walker (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Also present were County Councillor Mrs L Sykes and thirteen members of the Public

There were no apologies for absence.

1. Election of Officers for 2008/2009

- (a) **Chairman:** Cllr D Walker was re-elected, proposed by Cllr R Beeby and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Craven. There were no other nominations. Cllr D Walker then formally signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman for the Clerk to keep on record.
- (b) **Vice Chairman:** Cllr R Beeby was re-elected, proposed by Cllr D Walker and seconded by Cllr J Santoro. There were no other nominations.
- (c) **Representatives to the Village Hall Committee:** It was a requirement that three members of the Parish Council should be represented on this committee and therefore Cllr D Walker was reinstated, proposed by Cllr Mrs J Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Craven; Cllr R Beeby was reinstated, proposed by Cllr Mrs L Craven and seconded by Cllr J Santoro and Cllr J Santoro was reinstated, proposed by Cllr D Walker and seconded by Cllr P Atkins
- (d) **Vacancy for Councillor:** The vacancy having been advertised from 14th January to 12th May there had been one written application from Mrs A Lovett for the Council to consider. It was agreed that Mrs Lovett be co-opted and her appointment was proposed by Cllr D Walker and seconded by Cllr R Beeby. Mrs Lovett was then invited to take her place with the other Councillors. The Clerk would write to Rushcliffe Borough Council to inform them of the co-option and to request any necessary papers to be forwarded.

2. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th January 2008** were accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr P Atkins and seconded by Cllr Ms L Craven.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (a) **Dog Fouling**

The Chairman explained what actions had been taken including putting posters on the notice boards and agendas and that the Dog Warden from Rushcliffe Borough Council was making random visits to the village. It is hoped to tighten up on this nuisance and the threat of high fines should be a deterrent.
- (b) **School Lane Hedge**

The views of the immediate householders have now been taken and a reply has gone to Highways with a request for the cutting and laying of the hedge this coming autumn. We are awaiting a reply to see if this can be done as cutting alone would not now be adequate.
- (c) **Golden Jubilee Commemorative Stone**

Central Memorials now have the York stone marked out with the inscription ready for inspection and the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be going to see it later this week.
- (d) **Eco Town on Kingston Estate**

The Chairman reported that although the option for the Kingston Estate has now been vetoed, Rushcliffe Borough Council is still charged with finding a site for an Eco town within the Borough. The Clerk read out a letter recently received from Kenneth Clarke MP that confirmed that the rural land around Kingston is now out of danger. County Councillor Mrs L Sykes told the meeting that RAF Newton is favoured at the moment.
- (e) **Postal Identification** (new houses opposite Vine Cottages, Wysall Lane)

Residents at Vine Cottages have had a meeting and the Borough Council are providing a postal sign numbering the properties from one to six. This has not yet arrived but is expected soon.

4. Matters Arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 10th March 2008

The Chairman reported that there was only the problem of litter that he had followed up by contacting Streetwise requesting them to attend to this.

5. Glass Recycling

After attending a recent Forum at RBC the Chairman felt that hopes had been raised artificially about this issue. There have been trial areas resulting in residents refusing to support kerbside collections because of the costs involved. The problem is in the type of glass collected (clear glass is saleable but coloured glass is not) and this involves sorting. Rushcliffe Borough Council would like to continue with the 'Bring Sites' that are successful extending these to 'Micro Recycling Centres' but not all parishes and town councils have appropriate locations for these because of space and noise problems. RBC hopes to introduce a battery collection service and possibly one for low energy light bulbs but this is a problem for the future because of the mercury. The 'Bring Sites' will definitely continue and it was reported that people still have difficulty in defining what goes in which bin. To this end every resident will recently have received a copy of 'Rushcliffe Reports' that hopefully clarifies this problem. The Chairman hoped to have more feedback for our next meeting.

6. Village Hall Lottery Bid – Presentation by Mr Shayne Rice

For the benefit of the meeting the Chairman reiterated the background to the Big Lottery Bid explaining that last year the Parish Council had given a mandate to a Project Team to prepare documentation for a Bid. The current position is that all the information has now been gathered and after a successful Stage 1 for which a sum of money was awarded we have come to the point of finalising a design and have brought the options down to one that Mr Shayne Rice is putting together. Because of our commitment to the Big Lottery Fund we must present our proposals by 31st August and this also means that the planning approval must be ready by that time.

Mr Shayne Rice together with his colleague then gave a computer visual based presentation that took the form of a virtual tour of the new building giving both inside and outside views. Mr Rice said that the old building was time expired and that they had spent a good part of two years doing research. The site could not be increased but that they are looking to maximise the footprint but they have had to abide by planning regulations that have brought about certain restrictions. He said they had tried to come up with a building that would be in sympathy with the village and that Rushcliffe Borough Council whom they had met on site were initially interested in the design but that after planning approval has been granted we must adhere to that design.

After Mr Rice had answered a few questions with regard to the future use of the Village Hall and had assured the meeting that the Project Team felt that we had something that fitted in with the village and our requirements, the Chairman thanked to Shayne Rice and his colleague for coming along to the meeting and said he felt sure that everyone had enjoyed the opportunity to see the proposed design.

7. Open Discussion Time

The following points were raised:

- (i) Reference was made to the notice on the back of the agendas about grass mowing and the fact that only one cut had so far been made up the Wymeswold Road this year with the cutting back only about two feet. The Chairman said that there were two departments who dealt with grass cutting; one dealt with the environmental areas and a second dealt with the verges and that he would ring to clarify the position for this year.
- (ii) Concern was expressed with the lack of maintenance to the planting at the old wall and the capping that was still requiring attention. The Chairman said he would yet again contact the officer responsible at Notts. CC about this.
- (iii) There was concern about the road resurfacing to take place and the fact that when this was done previously the road had been closed but that this time the workmen were expected to cope with moving traffic and HGVs while the work is progressing.
- (iv) A resident asked about the possible resurfacing of the strip of land behind the bus shelter and although it was established that there was a special licence to occupy and that this was not a thoroughfare nor was it owned by the County Council, the Chairman undertook to revisit the old files to clarify the position.
- (v) When asked about the resurfacing of Wysall Lane, the Chairman confirmed that although this is down for resurfacing no date has been given.

- (vi) The question of speed was again brought up as it is bad again and Cllr J Santoro, Neighbourhood Watch, undertook to contact the Police again.

8. Planning Issues

- (a) 03/311/REM Mr D Hunt, 14 Wymeswold Road, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RN. Retain extended domestic curtilage and barn. **Appeal dismissed.**
- (b) 08/00432/FUL Brooklands Racing Stables, Land Adjoining Nouvelle Farm, Wysall Lane, Costock, Nottinghamshire LE12 6XQ. Use of land for the keeping, training and breeding of racehorses and erection of stable building. No objection returned from Rempstone Parish Council. A decision not to object was dealt with by delegated powers and ratified at this meeting. **Awaiting decision by RBC.**
- (c) 08/00643/FUL Saunders Brothers Ltd, Rempstone Hall Farm Cottage, Ashby Road, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RG. Construct detached double garage. No objection returned from Rempstone Parish Council. A decision not to object was dealt with by delegated powers and ratified at this meeting. **Awaiting decision by RBC.**
- (d) 08/00748/FUL Mr N Taylor, 20 Main Street, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RH. Construct detached two-storey building incorporating single garage and granny annex. **Application withdrawn 30.04.08.**
- (e) 08/00408/FUL Chek Whyte Industries, Stanford Hall, Melton Road, Stanford-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire NG66 6BS. Change of use of Hall, Theatre, Abbots Wing and Cedar Mews to Hotel including construction of enclosed walkway to west wing.
The Chairman said that we do not get the full documents because this is not in our parish but that they consult us in case there is anything that might affect us. It was decided not to object but to make the observation that we have concerns about the traffic issues and would wish to see junction improvements plus future access to the theatre and site.
- (f) 08/00594/FUL T Prosser, Greenoak Hill Farm, Wysall Lane, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RW. Front porch; single storey side extension; chimney; insert three dormers in roof slope of garage to form games room at first floor level in roof space. Construct covered seating area in rear garden.
The Chairman said there had been no comments from the immediate neighbours. A decision to support it was recorded and a response returned not to object.

9. Finance and Audit

Before proceeding with the finance items the Clerk explained that she had been advised by the Internal Auditor on a way forward for dealing with the monies received from the Big Lottery Fund.

So as to avoid delays in payments out of the Big Lottery Fund money and in order for payments to be drawn down a Motion was to be passed authorising the Clerk and two Councillors (preferably ones who are eligible to sign cheques) to agree and deal with a payment at any time prior to a Council meeting. This would then be followed up by ratification by the Council at their next meeting and entered in the Minutes in the normal way.

A Motion was passed, proposed by Cllr R Beeby and seconded by Cllr J Santoro that Mrs J Walker, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and Councillors D Walker and J Santoro (signatories to the Bank Account) would be given authorisation by the Council to deal with payments as and when they arose. This was carried unanimously.

(a) Audit Commission

- (i) **Bank Reconciliations for the quarters 1st September to 31st December 2007 and 1st January to 31st March 2008.**

The Clerk tabled these papers together with the final accounts that were unanimously accepted.

- (ii) **Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008**

The Clerk began by reading the satisfactory report of the Internal Auditor who wished to continue to receive quarterly bank reconciliations. She then took Councillors through Section 1 of the Audit Return and explained the variances as required by Audit of 10% or more. Agreed that the accounts be accepted and recorded as Minute reference 9(a)(ii) dated 12th May 2008.

- (iii) **Statement of Assurance, Section 2**

The Clerk took the Councillors through the nine points on the document. It was agreed and accepted that the Statement of Assurance be recorded as Council Minute reference 9(a)(iii) dated 12th May 2008.

(b) Payment of Cheques

- (i) Cheque No. 325 for £1,125.66 was made payable to Allianz Insurance for renewal for the financial year commencing 1st June 2008 (including Village Hall).
- (ii) Cheque No. 326 for £77.03 was made payable to the Notts. Assn. of Local Councils for Annual Subscription for the year commencing 1st April 2008.
- (iii) Cheque No. 327 for £12.00 was made payable to Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire for document relating to Trust Deed for Charitable Status.
- (iv) Cheque No. 328 for £45 was made payable to Mr. I Fraser for Internal Audit work for the year ended 31st March 2008.

The Council is requiring a third signatory to the bank accounts and Cllr P Atkins offered to take up this responsibility. The Clerk agreed to contact the bank for a way forward.

10. Anabaptist Graveyard

The Clerk read out a letter from the East Midland Baptist Co Ltd who was asking if there was any possibility of the Parish Council managing the site. After deliberation the Council were unanimous in declining this proposition and the Clerk was asked to communicate their decision to EMB. The question of the infestation of rabbits was again raised but it was emphasised that since the treatment imposed by Conquer Pest Control last autumn the problem with rabbits was very much improved. There were residents from Kingsbrook, however, who were presently experiencing trouble again this year. It was felt that the footpath leading from School Lane along the edge of the Kingsbrook development and leading to the Main A60 was a cause for concern and the Chairman also mentioned that the hedge along the public footpath affecting and owned by several people could be a problem area.

11. Correspondence

- (a) The Best Kept Village Competition entry forms had once again been received but we agreed we were not taking part.
- (b) Correspondence had been received from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding an event on Tuesday 17th June to promote Building Better Communities. It was felt this should be passed to Ms Amanda Craig as it could be a source for funding should the Lottery Bid be unsuccessful.

12. Any Other Business

- (a) The Chairman explained that he was still requiring two more volunteers to become Trustees of the Village Hall in order to put the Charitable Trust status in place.
- (b) Cllr Mrs A Lovett asked about the traffic calming scheme for the Wymeswold Road and the Chairman confirmed that we are expecting an inter-active sign and a dragon's teeth scheme but no date has been given.
- (c) Cllr Mrs J Taylor raised the question of the 10 metre tree boundary at the Dales Estate as some of the areas have still not yet been put back. The Chairman said he had made Bloors aware that there is still an issue.
- (d) Cllr J Santoro said there were drains blocked on the main road and that one had received attention and not the other with more up the Wymeswold Road requiring attention also.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th July 2008 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the proceedings and the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____