

## REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of **REMPSTONE** held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 09 March 2009

**Present:** Mr D M Walker (in the Chair) Mrs J Taylor  
Mr J Santoro Mr R Beeby  
Mrs A Lovett

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

Also present were 8 members of the Public, County Councillor Mrs L Sykes and PC Kelly Warwick from Nottinghamshire Police

Apologies for absence were recorded from Borough Councillor Mr R Adair, Mr D Bunker, Mr A Wilson and Mrs P Oldroyd

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Before commencing on the agenda the Chairman gave a special welcome to Mrs Sykes and Kelly Warwick and then asked for a short silence to remember residents whom we had lost during the year namely Mr R Beeby, Mr R Lord and Mr J Fenn.

### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 March 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Mrs J Taylor and seconded by Cllr J Santoro.

### 2. Matters Arising

The one outstanding issue concerned speeding traffic which the Chairman hoped that Kelly Warwick would be able to address during the evening.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### Administration

The Chairman reported that it was disappointing that during the year we had lost two Councillors, Mrs L Craven and Mr P Atkin, leaving us working well below strength. However, we have now recruited Mr D Bunker who unfortunately could not be with us this evening. This now leaves us now with one more vacancy to fill. The year has included eight Parish meetings, three Borough Seminars and a Conference, one Joint Wolds Parishes meeting and several Nottinghamshire County Council meetings. It has been a quiet year from Charnwood though we are appreciative of being kept in touch by correspondence.

#### Working Relationships

Our contacts with Rushcliffe Borough Council continue to be amicable and positive. We have also received support from Nottinghamshire County Council with minor improvements to the A60 footpath north, improvements to the traffic lights and part installation of the interactive sign and dragons teeth on the Wymeswold Road. We seem no closer in our bid to have the A60 footpath south improved. A further disappointment is the Old Wall Conservation Area as despite substantial planting taking place at considerable expense there was no maintenance plan and in the interests of tidiness end of season strimming took place completely destroying most of the new plants. It is believed that a new planting scheme is forthcoming together with a maintenance plan will be forthcoming. Roadside grass cutting was off to a slow start with the wet weather not helping but the general grass cutting carried out by the Environment Department has been regular.

#### Traffic on A60

Following the collapse of a mature but dead oak across the A60 it was necessary to have the situation investigated. Further damage occurred before the Tree Surgeon's report but quick remedial action by the landowner's agent dealt with this. Many of the remaining trees have been marked up for future attention and reference.

#### Village Sign

The Commemorative Plaque is now in place.

#### Public Transport

The 99 bus service to Loughborough and Nottingham remains supported by more people in the village. However the Soar Valley community bus running on Tuesdays to East Leake requires more use otherwise we shall lose it.

### **Allotments**

These are fully utilised.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks go to Nottinghamshire County Councillor Mrs Lynn Sykes for her strong support during the year; Rushcliffe Borough Councillor Mr Reg Adair for his interest in our activities; Amanda Craig for her hard work in the successful Lottery Bid; Robb Ross for the village website and to Richard Wadkin for keeping an eye on the bus shelter. Also to the Councillors for their support and finally to the Clerk who has had a year busier than ever.

### **The Year Ahead**

This is certainly one to look forward to. There may be only two more meetings in the old Village Hall before moving to the Church. The main task is to successfully build a brand new purpose built facility for all users to enjoy in 2010.

#### **4. Report for 2008/9 from County Councillor Mrs L Sykes**

##### **(a) East Leake Leisure Centre**

Built under the Private Finance Initiative Rushcliffe Borough Council have been paying £352,000 per year, since the running of the Leisure Centre has now been taken over the new owners now want to make an extra charge of £285,000 per year at a total cost of £637,000. Debate is currently taking place and although many are absolutely committed to keeping the Leisure Centre open the current elections may make a difference. RBC are reviewing the situation to reach a solution to benefit all Rushcliffe residents. It was established that there is obviously a problem with the heating as Cllr Mrs Taylor remarked on the over-heating in the school and hoped it was being included in the on going debates.

##### **(b) Council Tax**

There was a big debate resulting in NCC making an increase of 3% at an extra cost of £46 per year on a band D house.

##### **(c) A453**

A recent exhibition reflected good news with a graphic movie to show how it will look and operate. Construction is to begin in 2010 with completion in 2012/2013.

##### **(d) EDI**

Mrs Sykes' allocation is for £7,500 for next year, application from June onwards. In the past we have benefited by one doggie bin for the Wysall Lane and folding tables, a lockable cupboard and a flip chart for the Village Hall.

#### **5. Report for 2008/9 from Borough Councillor Mr R Adair**

At the time of his telephone call apologising for his absence from the meeting Mr Adair agreed with the Chairman on the issues concerning Rempstone and felt we were well informed.

#### **6. Representation by PC Kelly Warwick, Nottinghamshire Police**

PC Warwick made three points:

(a) Crime is down at the moment across the whole of her patch including Rempstone.

(b) Over the whole of Rushcliffe south there has been an increase in stolen 4x4's as thieves know exactly what they are targeting.

(c) To assist with speeding issues PC Warwick is now trained to use a speed gun. The only response the Police can now give with regard to speeding surveys is that they are not worth doing and depend on the criteria. She confirmed that she would try to be out more now that she was trained with a speed gun.

When the Chairman queried the use of the correct telephone no. on our agendas and asked if more feedback could be forthcoming, PC Warwick handed over a new business card with all the relevant contact details and referred us to the Police website for information. She confirmed that the time between complaints getting back to her depended on her shifts and where the complaint had been made. The Councillors asked that PC Warwick be aware of Tuesday evenings when the season with the bikers would soon begin. She was also made aware of the differences in the speed limits on the main A6006 beyond the crossroads towards Stanford where one way quotes 50 mph and the return 60 mph.

#### **7. Report from the Village Hall Management Committee**

Mrs J Schober, Chairman, reported that the past year had been a busy one for the Committee and wished to thank the Parish Council for their financial and strategic support. The year was marked by the landmark success in receiving the £293,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund to replace and rebuild the Village Hall.

- (a) **The Big Lottery Fund**  
A significant development for the village with thanks going to the Project Team who have given freely of their time to achieve a successful bid. Ongoing liaison between the Management Committee and the Parish Council will contribute to the decisions needed to develop the new hall. A final event will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the life of the old hall to which all residents are invited and there is a request to help store the contents of the hall for the period of the new build and anyone able to help to contact a Committee member.
- (b) **Village Hall Maintenance**  
Very few minor repairs only have been required this year. Crockery and cutlery purchases have been made for the kitchen and cleaning materials and an artificial Christmas tree for the Children's Christmas parties.
- (c) **Management of Events and Bookings**  
A range of events were held during the year and all were well supported. Thanks were to go to organisers and in particular to Mrs Barbara Mee who continues to process the bookings and give of her time generally with tireless availability.
- (d) **Accounts and Insurance**  
The Village Hall accounts were tabled and Mrs Barbara Mee explained that Account No. 1, the General Account, was in a healthy state with a closing balance of £5,938.08 due to the good social events for fundraising and the fact that there had been no major repairs required during the year. Account No.2, the Refurbishment Account, had a closing balance of £1,936.66. She thanked everyone for their contribution.

Finally, Mrs Schober said the Village Hall Management Committee looked forward to the next stage of the development of the new hall and the opportunities it would offer residents and friends of Rempstone.

## 8. **Report regarding New Village Hall Status Plans**

Since the original plans were conceived the Village Hall Committee have had the opportunity to fine tune their needs. This has resulted in changes made to the plans which are now shown. These changes can be summarised as follows:

- (a) Reduction in Bar size to increase the Kitchen area.
- (b) Additional WC in the Ladies.
- (c) Inclusion of Cleaner's Store with sink etc.
- (d) The separate Meeting Room has been abandoned as impracticable as it was not able to be used independently of the Main Hall. It also occupied space desperately needed for storage.
- (e) A small room replaces the large one which will be used as a Parish Office and Internet Facility.
- (f) One further change may follow when more design work is carried out on the Heating and Ventilation installation that may require a services area.

### **Project Status**

The following Consultants have been appointed in accordance with the Big Lottery funding plan.

- (a) Geoffrey Nicholls Associates (GNA), Quantity Surveyors, Project Management and CDM co-ordination.
- (b) Collins Hall Green, Structural Engineers
- (c) Mitten, Asbestos and Environmental Consultants, Type 3.
- (d) CJR Midlands, Acoustic Engineers
- (e) R Clarke, GNA, Boundary Wall (neighbour agrees).

At this stage the above quotes have all come in under budget.

### **Current Status**

Work is in hand by all the above. Structural Engineer on site Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and the Asbestos Survey is to be done on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Funding**

Shortfall of £87,000. Key submissions have been made to all local main funders:

- Star Energy
- J N Derbyshire Trust
- Cemex
- East Midlands Airport who have promised £2,000 (if approved) for furniture.

In view of the inevitable delays when applying for funding, Amanda Craig is preparing an application for a big amount from VEOLIA.

As with all Environmental grants Government rules state that 11% of our request has to be funded by a Third Party Funder. Rushcliffe Borough Council have agreed to allow their name to be used in this respect and David Walker is to formally apply with written details.

### **Project Programme**

We have a six month contract to be completed by 2010 and cannot yet predict the start on rebuilding until funding issues are resolved. However, if pushed into a substantial start on site demolition could take place but again some security of match funding is needed.

### **Charitable Status**

The first formal meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on 30<sup>th</sup> March facilitated by Bob Evans from Old Woodhouse who has had recent experience with their new village hall. The agenda of this meeting will be the Charity Commission documents together with the requirements laid down by The Big Lottery Fund conditions of acceptance.

### **Storage**

Just to reiterate Jane Schober's comments for help please to store village hall items needed to be kept for the new facility.

### **Disposal of Memoirs/Antiques**

Dedicated collectors are invited to lodge their requests and Joe Santoro will issue professional valuations. To date requests have been lodged for the front low wall, the main floor and some floor joists. These requests will be written on the walls in the Hall. Dealing will be done at the Finale Party to be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May in order to enable a schedule to be passed on to the Demolition Contractor. Health and Safety rules will only permit some non professional external removals. **Initially all proceeds to go to the Parish Council.**

## **9. Report from the Parochial Church Council**

In the absence of Mr A Wilson, Churchwarden, the Clerk read out his written report that contained the grateful thanks of the PCC for the continued financial support given by the Parish Council.

### **(a) Fabric of Church period 2008/9**

No serious problems have been encountered this period and the general state of the internal fabric is very good. The next Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2010 and all the report findings for the previous inspection in May 2005 have been corrected.

### **(b) Additions**

In April 2008 a smart water security system was installed and in October 2008 a new digital piano was donated by a member of the congregation.

### **(c) Churchyard Maintenance**

Problems have increased with the infestation of rabbits and also, despite attempts to restrict moles by licensed gas operatives, these too are on the increase resulting in increasing complaints from the general public because of damage to flowers on graves.

### **(d) Grass Cutting**

This is by far the most serious problem. The cost of cutting required by the contractor is prohibitive and no satisfactory solution has been found to date. At this point Mrs J Schober said she would make some enquiries as she may know of someone who could do this.

## **10. Report from the Neighbourhood Watch and Policing Matters**

Cllr J Santoro told the meeting that we had had a very successful year with only a handful of incidents and that the main concern had been the concentration of interest in scrap metals. However, over Christmas the price for metals dropped and hopefully this would prevent such large quantities being stolen. Cllr Santoro had been encouraged this year by the volume of people interested in helping with problems especially with speeding. He thanked everyone for making an effort.

## **10. Accounts for 2008/2009 and the Budget and Precept for 2009/2010**

The Clerk tabled the accounts to 9th March and said that the only change at 31<sup>st</sup> March would be the charges and interest to the two accounts. She would therefore be presenting the accounts to Audit as seen and approved by Councillors at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**11. Open Discussion Time**

When asked about deviating from normal practice throughout the meeting in allowing open discussion at all times the Chairman informed everyone that it was usual practice at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**12. A.O.B.**

Cllr Mrs J Taylor told everyone she had seen a road widening notice at the Stanford Hall entrance and the Chairman said this was what we had asked for when the application was considered.

**14. Date of Next Meeting:**

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 11th May 2009

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the proceedings and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_