

## REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the VILLAGE HALL at 7.40 pm on  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011

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

In attendance: Mrs J M Walker (Clerk to the Parish Council). Also present were County Councillor Mrs L Sykes and Borough Councillor R Adair and 22 members of the Public

Apologies for absence were recorded from Mrs P Oldroyd and Mr & Mrs B Kenney

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Before commencing on the agenda the Chairman gave a special welcome to Mrs Sykes and Mr Adair and then asked for a short silence to remember local residents Philip Barker, Linda Craven, Joy Heywood, and Ann Sanderson whom we had lost during the year.

### 1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th March 2010 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 D Bunker.

### 2. Matters Arising

There was concern about lorries mounting the footpath at the corner. Highways are not able to use anything more permanent than wooden or plastic posts because of causing accidents. It will be necessary for us to keep in touch with Highways regarding the corner and the crossroads.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### Administration

As Mrs Dalton joined the Parish Council the Chairman was able to report that in the last business year we have run with a full complement of seven Councillors ensuring a more equitable sharing of the work load. We have had seven full Council meetings with varied agendas including eleven planning applications, a reduction on the previous year. The village website is also now up-to-date with thanks to Mrs. Dalton for taking this on.

#### Working Relationships

This remains strong and productive at Borough and County level although we await the outcome and impact of Local Government cutbacks.

#### Library Van Services

It would appear that we will still benefit from this service although the frequency of visits and timings are likely to change. We must encourage greater use of this facility.

#### Public Transport

A daily first class service is provided by Premiere Travel with usage by parishioners increasing. Much use is made of the concessions and it is hoped these will continue.

#### Allotments

These have been fully utilised in the last year although one will become available at the end of this month. The Clerk will be advertising this vacancy.

#### Village Hall

This time last year the old Hall had two weeks left of its eighty-two year life with demolition starting on 6th April. The new building is living up to expectations with good positive feedback from those who have hired and used it. Thanks are due to Mrs Jane Schober for keeping her enthusiastic committee on the straight and narrow.

#### Highway Matters

The year ahead is one that will hopefully see improvements to our footpaths. With support from Notts. County Council there is to be the implementation of a 50 mph speed limit on the A6006 from the crossroads to the Old Hathern station.

## **Elections**

Elections will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May. For our Parish Council all Councillors will receive their bundles at the end of this meeting.

## **Future Annual Parish Meetings**

During the coming year we will be discussing a change in the format to this meeting to make use of our new facility and to introduce a more informal approach.

## **Acknowledgements**

My thanks are due to Notts County Cllr. Mrs Lynn Sykes and Borough Cllr. Mr Reg Adair for their help and support over the year plus their support for the new village hall; to Richard Wadkin for the bus shelter maintenance; to my fellow Councillors for their support and finally to Jenny Walker whose workload this year handling the Village Hall accounts has been enormous.

### **4. Report for 2010/11 from County Councillor Mrs L Sykes**

Cllr. Mrs Sykes reported that we all will have heard of the financial pressures the County Council has been under and the savings to be made. £154 million has to be saved over three years and £87 million in 2011/2012. Of this £87 million, £42 million will be reinvested in 2011/12 largely in services for the most vulnerable. £18.7 million will be invested in children and young people concentrating mainly on children in care, social workers and school transport to make sure that vulnerable people will be protected.

No libraries will be closed but services will be reduced; gritting measures will be improved; there are to be local safety schemes on the A60 and signing work on the A6006. She referred to the £1000 contribution to the village hall for curtains and invited a further application for the new financial year and closed by saying how much she was looking forward to the Official Opening.

When asked about speeding through the village Mrs Sykes confirmed that she would approach Kelly Warwick to get some monitoring of the speed of the traffic. She advised that we need to prepare an agenda and have a proper meeting with representatives of the Parish Council and inviting all residents, herself and Mr A Harrison, Head of Highways and that we could do this with her support.

### **5. Report for 2010/11 from Borough Councillor Mr R Adair**

Cllr. Adair reported that from a Borough point of view it has been a very quiet year for our village. Although there is no increase in council tax we now have to pay £25 for a green bin with a further £10 for a second one. If any bin is in a bad condition it will be replaced. Regarding the Police they are reviewing the situation of police stations as the Police want to work with Parish Councils. Cllr. Mrs Taylor asked how the Police were funded and the Chairman replied that individual council tax payers provided monies, the Police apportionment being shown on individual household council tax statements. Cllr. Adair congratulated everyone on the new village hall.

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

Mrs J Schober, Chair, presented the report as follows:

#### **(a) The Village Hall Rebuild**

An exceptionally busy year for the Committee meeting weekly since March 2010 to fulfil the responsibilities necessary for the successful outcome of the rebuild including the optimum use of funding so that fixtures and fittings were fit for purpose and taking decisions on shades, heights and styles and choosing key items for the eventual use of the hall. Outside of meetings there was also much work to be done collecting samples but everyone pulled together with a combined desire to get the project right though inevitably there were some delays with deliveries. She recorded grateful thanks to David and Jenny Walker for being on hand daily to resolve building and administrative issues.

#### **(b) The New Village Hall**

A testament to all involved with its planning and development that is already attracting bookings and interest. The Official Opening is to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March and has been organised by Mr Richard Beeby. The on-going work for the Committee is to identify Management Trustees and to pursue a successful application for Charitable Status. Thanks to be recorded to the Holding Trustees, Mrs Nicki Dalton for the website, Mrs Sharon Barker for keeping the website running in the interim and during a very difficult year for her, to Mrs Jill Bryan for joining the Committee and to Mrs Barbara Mee for her everlastingly tireless work in many aspects of the running of the Hall.

(c) **Fund Raising**

Despite the rebuild fund raising has continued with the tombola at the Rempstone Rally, the Children's Christmas party, two raffles and the plant sale shared with the Church. Thank you to all who sold raffle tickets and to Mrs Lesley Jebson and the Garden Group.

(d) **Grants**

£1,000, yet to be spent, was received from Notts. County Council, and £500 for crockery from the Borough Council through the auspices of Mrs Lynn Sykes and Mr Reg Adair respectively. The village 'gold envelope' appeal raised £1,445 to be used to fund the Opening Event and to purchase the plaque which will be a permanent symbol of this landmark occasion.

(e) **Overview of Accounts**

The main account currently stands at £10,110 though we are in the process of reviewing the management of the accounts, full details including income and expenditure, of which will be available at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Mrs B Mee then spoke briefly confirming the £10,000 in the bank of which £500 was raised recently at the Fish and Chip Bingo and then listed future events to date.

At this point the question of whether or not the Village Hall Committee was satisfied with the use of the Village Hall was raised from the floor. The Chairman responded that the Hall would take a while to generate activities and that it was the intention of the working group to see that the Hall does run well as they do expect to achieve the costs of running the building. He reminded everyone that the Hall was only fit for purpose in February and that the events so far have been a bonus. The Hall is being marketed and as well as some regular events coming in it would be good to see some initiatives coming from village residents with whom we would be pleased to work. We could also extend an invitation for residents to come to the Village Hall meetings. He said that nothing has been planned for the Royal Wedding. The question of car parking was also raised but the use of the slip road had been adequate in the past.

7. **Report from the Parochial Church Council**

In the absence of Mr Alan Wilson, Churchwarden, who sent his apologies, Mrs Margaret Sutton, reported on the following.

- **Fabric of Church, period 2010/11**

In May 2010 Mark Stewart Architects carried out a full inspection of the church at a cost of £416 and produced a very comprehensive report that was tabled for viewing. No fault of any great consequence was discovered but there are many small jobs to be done.

- **Electrical Inspection**

An electrical inspection required to be carried out by all churches was carried out in June 2010 at a cost of £300 and again this is tabled for viewing. The resulting remedial work cost £1,267 and included replacement of the floodlights. A new lighting system has also been installed in the car park. Water damage to the south wall of the church caused by the guttering is to be repaired by Mr Gary Poxton of Wysall Lane without charge. Grateful thanks were extended to Mr Poxton and the work will be carried out after Easter when convenient. Unfortunately the Millennium Scroll was damaged due to this water damage and it is now hoped to display it in a different location.

- **Churchyard Maintenance**

This is an ongoing problem with grass cutting being the main concern. Grateful thanks to be given to the Parish Council for their donation and for manual help received from parishioners.

Mrs Sutton said that we now had an ageing congregation and it would be good to see some younger faces. There are some new helpers with the flower rota and happily we have had the great pleasure of four wonderful weddings this year.

8. **Report from the Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr J Santoro opened by paying tribute to two members of the neighbourhood watch team, Linda Craven and Ann Sanderson, who were no longer with us and explained that it was good that Rosemary Craven and Neil Humphries had replaced them.

In July 2010 representatives from Parish Councils in the Rushcliffe area were invited to discuss the forwarding Police problems as they want Parish Councils to take a much more important role by having a direct line to the Inspectors. Although the incident reports are useful any ideas should be given to the Parish Council whom he thanked for their support. Although the Police are getting results and are catching people it is difficult to contact Kelly Warwick, Beat Manager. There have been thirteen crimes in Rempstone including burglaries and seven arrests made. For the future the main problem is tying Kelly Warwick down to come into the village to cover the problem of speeding traffic.

He concluded by thanking all his co-ordinators and Neighbourhood Watch people for their efforts and asked that everyone be vigilant.

**9. Accounts for 2009/2010 and the Budget and Precept for 2010/2011**

**(a) Accounts for 2010/2011**

The Clerk tabled the accounts to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and explained that because of the on-going building costs with the new Village Hall there was still a large sum in the current account but that this would be considerably diminished by 31<sup>st</sup> March though there would still be outstanding items. At this stage she was not sure quite how the final accounts would look but would present them to the May meeting for approval by the Councillors before going to Audit. Any large variances due to the building contract would need to be explained.

**(b) Precept for 2011/2012**

The Clerk confirmed that for a further year there had been no increase made to the Precept and that she would therefore be guided by the accounts as estimated, tabled and approved by Councillors at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January. She explained that slight adjustments may have to be made due to the Insurance on the Village Hall and BT costs.

**10. Open Discussion Time**

- (a) Reference was made to the poor quality of the sub-soil in front of the Village Hall and that it had been decided that turfing would be used to tidy it up for the Official Opening. It was confirmed that surveillance cameras give protection at the front and rear of the building.
- (b) Concern was expressed about BMI Baby over-flying the village when they have clear conditions and the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council has reported this to the Airport. Ryan Air were also guilty but no longer do this.
- (c) Mention was made of protection from terrorism at East Midlands Airport as due to the Police cuts it is not at all sure that they can continue with current levels of security at the East Midlands Airport as staff are being made redundant.
- (d) It was confirmed that a seat has been requested for the bus shelter on the Nottingham side of the crossroads.
- (e) Attention was once again drawn to the on-going problem of dog mess mainly along the left-hand side going up the Wysall Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would once again alert residents on the next Agenda.
- (f) The Chairman confirmed that the public footpath from St Peter's in the Rushes to the A6006 towards Mr. Burton's land has been diverted for a period of eighteen months due to the operations by Cemex.
- (g) Bus Wars! Discussion took place around the Premiere Travel and Kinches Buses issue that seems to be on-going for the present time.

**11. A.O.B. None**

**12. Date of Next Meeting:**

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 16th May 2011

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the proceedings and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

