

REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 13th July, 2009

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

In attendance: Mrs J M Walker (Clerk to the Parish Council)
Also present were six members of the Public

Before the commencement of the meeting Mr P Barker, new co-opted member of the Council, was welcomed by the Chairman. He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form that was witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk and then joined the Councillors at the table.

1. **Apologies** were received from County Cllr Mrs L Sykes, Mrs L Craven and Mr P Atkin
2. **The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009** (with a spelling amendment to the VEOLIA reference) were accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr R Beeby and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Taylor.

3. **Chairman's Review**

The Old Wall

Highways South have now become involved to give Environmental Services (Landscape) a push to replant, trim and maintain with particular reference to the lay-by side of the wall where it has been badly neglected.

Interactive Sign

The sign is now operational and feedback is that it is being effective and is accurate. The expected dragon's teeth have not been forgotten and will be implemented in due course.

Fly Tipping

Rushcliffe Borough Council (Streetwise) do have a policy for the removal of fly tipping from Council owned and public land (their target is to remove within seventy-two hours) but if the fly tip is on private land then it is the owner's responsibility to remove it. Contact is Gary Pickering on 0115 891 9911, Ext. 276 to report problems.

Traffic Lights/Junction

We have again requested physical improvements to the footpath south. Design for implementation has gone through to Nottinghamshire County Council for budgeting but this is the issue here. We need to provide clearer definition of current threats at the traffic lights where the set up is still a headache to us all and it is difficult to understand the thinking behind the present set up that was revisited by NCC and changes were made in 2008.

Bikers Signs

It was felt at the last meeting that the bias was too much in favour of the bikers who can show disregard for residents, speed limits and other road users. These comments have been sent to Nottinghamshire County Council emphasising how ineffective the signs are particularly when the bikers attend organised biker events. NCC have been invited to visit the village during such occasions.

Dog Fouling and Dogs under Control

This situation was discussed at the last meeting and both Departments were contacted and subsequently have supplied us with the latest notices for distribution.

Administration

The Clerk and I attended a presentation of Rushcliffe Borough Council's plan called "The Big Picture" inviting input from Parish Councils on meeting our aspirations towards the new structure plan. The presentation, by Borough's appointed Media consultants, was disappointing and no feedback has since been received. The Clerk also attended the Annual Regional Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks in June that gave an opportunity to network with other clerks and to be aware of the latest information.

Current Strategies

The East Midlands Regional Assembly – a partial review consultation. This will be circulated amongst Councillors for a formal response, if required, at our next meeting.

Rushcliffe Development Framework. This document will again be circulated amongst Councillors with a response required by the end of the month.

4. Planning Issues

(a) East Leake Quarry, Development Plans Application 8/07/02187/CMA. **Approval granted with conditions.** The Clerk to circulate a copy of the Conditions to all Councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

(b) 09/00536/FUL Mr N Dalton, The Bothy, Main Street, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RH. **Permission granted to revised application with conditions.**

As a result of this decision once again the issue of approval being given to amended plans by RBC, unseen by Rempstone Parish Council, came under discussion. Cllr Mrs Taylor felt she was not happy to make further decisions on plans until a representative from the Planning Department came out to Rempstone Parish Council. Local people who want to make an application are affected and in this case a small affordable property is to be demolished to make way for a large house. There were so many issues with this application and yet it was passed with amendments. Cllr. J Santoro wanted to understand why some applications go to Committee and the Chairman said that when we object as a Parish Council it would not automatically go to Committee but if there were technical issues and if the Ward Borough Councillor objected then the application would go to Committee. A list of the new members of the Planning Committee was to be given to Cllr. D Bunker. Planning issues needed to be clarified as everyone had objected to this application. The Planning Officer for this application was Malcolm Marshall and it was agreed to write to Rushcliffe Borough Council stating that we want more understanding of planning issues with clarity and consistency as we owe it to our parishioners with a copy going to the Borough Councillor Mr R Adair.

(c) 09/00999/FUL V Parker Pear Bank, Ashby Road, Rempstone, Loughborough Leics. LE12 6RG. Install 14 30 tube solar hot water panels on 45 degree frames on swimming pool roof. Rempstone Parish Council did not object. **Decision awaited from RBC.**

(d) 09/01100/FUL J Craven, The Old Coach House, 45 Main Street, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RH. Two storey side/rear extension with detached garage. **Application withdrawn.**

5. New Village Hall

The Chairman reported that we are well on the way with everything nearly done. There are no issues with the plans and the tender documents are under way but we still have an issue with the party wall and nothing has yet been signed because there is a difficulty with the working hours being specified. Structural issues are now well on the way including rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing and hot water insulation serviced by solar panels. Other environmental issues including the central heating are not an issue for us as underfloor heating would not be successful. The hall is to be a sealed unit as we are committed to a no noise situation. We are looking at two or three cassettes, roof mounted, with condenser units on the outside wall that will be built into the tender document. We have applied for a further £87,000 from VEOLIA and have other sources to tap into such as Cemex and possibly the Yorkshire Bank as we must get all of this money to go forward. If we do have a final shortfall we can apply to ACRE for a loan at an acceptable rate. The Chairman said the biggest problem is that of the retaining walls but we are expecting a definite and positive response from contractors of whom we have a tender list of five that is the maximum required by The Big Lottery.

6. Small Environmental Improvement Schemes 2009/10 Programme.

It was agreed to make no response this year.

7. Electoral Divisions Initiative

The Chairman reported that items of white goods were required for the new Village Hall and that it was intended to purchase one/two of these through this initiative of County Councillor Mrs L Sykes. As this item/these items are not required until the end of the financial year Mrs Sykes has asked for an estimated cost but says there will not be a problem with this.

8. Mayor's Charity Appeal – Neonatal Unit, Nottingham University Hospitals Trust

As we are not in a position to have any special event for fundraising this year it was agreed to make a donation of £100 towards this appeal. The Clerk to arrange this.

9. Police Liaison

- (a) A letter had been received from Nottinghamshire Police requesting that the Council nominate a member to become a Police Liaison Officer with a view to attending beat surgeries and liaising with the Safer Neighbourhood Watch Team. As Cllr. J Santoro was already the appointed Neighbourhood Watch contact for Rempstone it was suggested with his agreement that he also take on this extra duty. The Clerk to write to Nottinghamshire Police accordingly.
- (b) A letter had been received from the East Midlands Airport Police Aviation Team, via the Churchwarden Mr A Wilson, to raise awareness of counter terrorism issues and requesting help by community involvement. It was agreed to print this notice on the back of the next agenda.

10. Traffic Speeding

The interactive sign on Wymeswold Road on its own is not enough and the dragon's teeth project is still required. Concern was expressed about traffic going up the hill out of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to P C Kelly Warwick to remind her that we are still awaiting help with our speeding problem. As the Leicestershire initiative is different from that of Nottinghamshire it was agreed that the Chairman would talk to our contact Mr B Evans at Woodhouse to find out about their signs as Councillors were more impressed with the way Leicestershire do things. It was suggested that we try to build an evidence file of incidents within the village.

11. Website

The Chairman explained that our new Councillor Mr P Barker was keen to introduce a new village website and that the Councillors had already had an opportunity to view the proposal. Cllr Barker explained that he had made full use of the material on the original website but hoped to expand the new one making it easier to use and access and to incorporate much more local information. After discussion it was agreed to accept this new site and for the Clerk to write to the previous webmaster, Mr R Ross, to ask him to remove the old one and to thank him for all he has done in the past. The new website was called www.rempstonevillage.org.uk and would be advertised on the meeting agendas in future.

12. Buses

The Chairman reported that as from 13th July we were having a new service with a company called Premiere covering the day time and Veolia covering the evening service. He said that preliminary timetables have been put on the notice boards but these are subject to change. He said he was awaiting the new printed timetables and that in order to retain our bus service Nottinghamshire were heavily subsidising it.

13. Sherwood Foresters

A letter had been received extending an invitation to the Chairman and guest to attend the unveiling of the Sherwood Foresters Western Front Memorial at Yyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery near Ypres at 11.00 am on Saturday 24th October 2009. As the Chairman could not take up this invitation the Vice Chairman, Cllr R Beeby expressed interest and agreed to look into the possibility of going. The Chairman reminded the meeting that earlier in the year we had made a donation towards the memorial.

14. Finance

- (a) Bank Reconciliation for the quarter 1st April to 30th June 2009 to be presented at the next meeting as the Reserve A/C Bank Statement had not been received in time.
- (b) Report from Internal Auditor was read to and accepted by the Councillors.
- (c) Payment of Cheques
 - (i) 345 for £13.50 was made payable to NALC for copies of the Local Council Review for year 1st April 2009.
 - (ii) 346 for £661.25 was made payable to Mitten for Asbestos Survey for Village Hall.
 - (iii) 347 for £256.13 was made payable to Fraser Brown, Solicitors, re Licence for Village Hall and Highway.
 - (iv) 348 for £316.25 was made payable to Greenhatch Group Ltd for topographical survey for Village Hall.
 - (v) 349 for £517.50 was made payable to Turton Building Control Ltd for Building Regulation submission for Village Hall.
 - (vi) 350 for £45.00 was made payable to Ian Fraser for Internal Audit for 2008/9.
 - (vii) 401 for £56.35 (inc VAT) was made payable to SLCC for Clerk to attend Annual Regional Conference.
 - (viii) 402 for £250 was made payable to Rempstone Parochial Church Council in respect of annual grant for churchyard maintenance for the financial year 2009/10.
 - (ix) 403 for £1,000 was made payable to Rempstone Village Hall in respect of annual grant for the year 2009/10.
- (d) Cheque for £1,751.00 was received from Big Lottery Fund for invoices as at 14(c)(ii) to (v).

15. Open Discussion Time

Concern was raised about the placing of Open Discussion Time on the agenda and, in particular, how it related to the issue of planning applications as parishioners would have liked to participate in the discussion on planning matters but had no opportunity at the time. The Chairman explained that Open Discussion Time had been tried in various places on the agenda and it was felt it was best towards the end as many of the residents' queries had been dealt with by then and the public had listened to the Councillors deliberations. He took the point, however, over planning issues and agreed in future to make a small slot available at this time for collective comments from the floor.

It was also made clear that the footpath near to the property known as Wayside at the crossroads is the footpath causing concern with the lorries mounting the footpath but that funding is the issue over any changes to be made here.

16. Correspondence

- (a) A letter had been received from the NHS concerning their Annual Public Meeting to be held on 24th September but there was no take up.
- (b) An invitation had been received from Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire to a Parish Council Forum event on Housing to be held on 29th September but it was felt that much of this information would be accessed through the document on circulation to Councillors entitled Rushcliffe Development Framework, Core Strategy – Issues and Options Public Consultation.

17. Any Other Business

- (a) Cllr J Santoro remarked about overhanging branches from the tree on The Green. As Glen Reid, NCC, was currently working in the village Cllr. Mrs J Taylor said she would ask him to deal with this.
- (b) Cllr R Beeby remarked about overhanging bushes at the home of the Fosters and was asked to have a personal word with them.
- (c) Cllr P Barker wondered if the Parish Council were responsible for the maintenance of the splendid new gate to the field at the top of School Lane but was assured that this was the job of the NCC.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th September 2009 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 9.50 pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

