

# REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 14th January, 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 five members of the Public

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1. **Apologies** were received from County Councillor Mrs L Sykes (by email); Mrs M Thompson and Mr & Mrs B Kenney
2. **The Minutes of the Meetings held on Monday 12th November 2007 and Planning Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007** were accepted, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Taylor and seconded by Cllr R Beeby.
3. **Chairman's Review**

The Chairman opened his review by informing the meeting that it was with great disappointment that he had to reluctantly accept the resignation of Mr Neil Humphries but that his reasons for leaving need to be respected. He gave thanks to Mr Humphries for all his valuable support over the past three years and hoped that one day he would feel able to rejoin the Council.

  - (a) **Doggie Bins**

In lieu of adding a further red conspicuous doggie bin into our village environment it was agreed at our last meeting that the nuisance of dog fouling would be brought to the attention of all residents by way of a notice at the top of the next agenda.
  - (b) **School Lane Hedge**

We requested the Highways Authority to look into the levelling of the hedge to a height of four feet to open up the footpath visually particularly for night time use. Highways are nervous about doing this without the views of immediate householders and we need to address this.
  - (c) **Anabaptist Graveyard**

At the request of residents at the last meeting the Clerk has written to the East Midland Baptist Trust Co. Ltd. informing them of the general concerns about Health and Safety now that the Graveyard was more exposed as a result of the very successful work carried out towards the end of 2007 with clearance and rabbit infestation. It would appear that a further problem has now been created. Awaiting reply.
  - (d) **Golden Jubilee Commemorative Stone**

Due to health issues the prospective supplier is now unable to give any further commitment to the project. An alternative source, Central Memorials in Loughborough, have been approached and have expressed an interest in doing the work and will forward quotes later this week.
  - (e) **Highway Issues**
    - (i) **The interactive sign for Wymeswold Road** has been approved to be included in this year's budget. Rempstone and Gotham are the two villages chosen in County Councillor Mrs Sykes ward and our thanks go to Mrs Sykes for supporting this on our behalf. Additional road markings and a Dragons Teeth scheme will be included.
    - (ii) **Wysall Lane re-surfacing** has been included on the NCC initial draft list for next year's programme. This scheme is budget dependent and therefore cannot be guaranteed.
    - (iii) **The Wymeswold Industrial Estate Sign** outside No. 4 Main Street is to be adjusted to improve exit facility for the owners. It is likely that such works would only be undertaken towards the end of the financial year.

- (iv) **The Traffic Light Post** obstructing the footpath on the Church side of the A60 has been investigated for relocation.
- (v) **The improvements to visibility splays for Nos. 1 and 3 Wymeswold Road** entrance driveways have been estimated at £20,000 and cannot be justified as NCC work.
- (vi) **Abbey Harlock and NCC Representatives** undertook a walk from the top of Wymeswold Road to the bus stop south on the A60 to demonstrate the perilous journey undertaken at 8.00 am by the young people to catch the school bus. One particularly dangerous point is crossing the A6006 at the traffic lights and NCC are looking at widening this footpath. They are also producing a preliminary design and costings for a footway on the outside of the bend by the Village Sign. NCC said how pleased they were that younger members of the community were showing interest and thanked Abbey Harlock for her input.
- (vii) **HGVs at Village Sign Corner** – design and costings on-going.

#### 4. **Open Discussion Time**

- (i) As Mr N Humphries had also resigned from the Village Hall Committee, Mrs B Mee, Caretaker and Committee Member of the Village Hall, wished to place on record their thanks to him for his past contribution and to wish him well for the future.
- (ii) The question of dog mess was again discussed at length in view of the fact that it is much worse than it has been for a long time particularly up the Wysall Lane where most of the dog walkers go. It was mentioned that the doggie bin along the Wysall Lane is not emptied often enough. The Clerk would contact the Dog Warden to discuss the matter and to request him to visit at different times of the day.

#### 5. **Vacancy for Councillor**

The Clerk explained that she had prepared notices for the Parish Council notice boards advertising the vacancy and that anyone interested should apply before the Annual Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May when the Council would co-opt a new member. Everyone to spread the word and encourage anyone interested.

#### 6. **Village Hall (Lottery Update)**

It was important for the Parish Council to have a representative on the Village Hall Project Team who would report back to the Parish Council at their meetings. As Mr Humphries was no longer in a position to do this it was agreed that Cllr D Walker, Chairman, would assume this role though Amanda Craig, Project Team Leader, would come along to report to the meetings.

Ms Craig gave a detailed overview to the Council of events to date emphasising that we had done well to be selected as one of 20 out of 1,500 to go forward to Stage 2 with a grant of £16,297. We must now look to what work is needed for Stage 2 in order to submit by the end of September and that we must put together the best package we can. Ms Craig then outlined what must be done saying that it was possible we would need some professional help with legal work, architectural work with detailed planning application, budgeting to ascertain accurate costings and moving forward the work towards Charitable Status in order to reclaim the VAT. She explained that from the initial meetings it was always made clear that people would be rolled on and off the project according to their expertise and when it was needed. If successful we would be chosen from one in twenty (approximately) from the whole of the Central Midland region. Achieving Charitable Status is vital and would mean that the Parish Council would relinquish responsibility for the Village Hall and pass it over to a Charitable Trust. Three people are required to enable this and although two volunteers have already come forward we are still looking for a third.

Ms Craig's attendance gave the Parish Councillors an opportunity for a better understanding of the project and they were able to ask many questions. She concluded that she had emailed everyone for a meeting towards the end of January or early February in order to start Stage 2.

#### 7. **NCC Electoral Divisions Initiative**

County Councillor Mrs L Sykes had contacted the Clerk requesting us to apply for funding before the end of April. Mrs J Schober, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had put forward a suggestion that was accepted by the Council. The Clerk would contact Mrs Sykes with the details.

**8. Postal Identification** (new houses opposite Vine Cottages, Wysall Lane)

The Chairman explained that he had already spoken to the developer and owners of one of the Cottages and that it had been agreed for the new houses to be included in the numbers of Vine Cottages, i.e. numbering them from 1 to 6. It is usual for the developer to erect a sign but Rushcliffe Borough Council are happy to do this. Cllr Mrs L Craven and Cllr P Atkin were to negotiate with Mr Mrs Scott (No. 1 Vine Cottages) and Mr G Woods, RBC, for a location for the sign.

**9. Finance**

**(a) Bank Reconciliation for the quarter 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

To be tabled at the next meeting as the Clerk had not been able to prepare the figures as she had not received all the necessary bank statements.

**(b) Payment of Cheque**

Cheque No. 324 was made payable to Mrs J Walker, Clerk, for remuneration (£650.00) and expenses (£195.83) totalling £845.83 for the financial year 2007/8.

**(c) Statement of Accounts for 2007/8 and Draft Precept for 2008/9**

The Clerk tabled the accounts and the draft precept of £4,780.00 that it was recommended would stay the same as last year. She then explained some changes in the estimated figures for next year indicating that as we are now involved in a Big Lottery Fund Bid and would receive a lump sum for expenses, professional fees and start up costs it had been decided not to grant the Village Hall a sum of money (refurbishment grant) this year as these expenses would be covered by Lottery funding. The normal Village Hall grant had been slightly increased and the rest of the monies would be used to pay the Village Hall Insurance that is now included on the Parish Council's policy, to slightly increase the grant to the Church for graveyard maintenance and to increase the Clerk's remuneration. It was proposed by Cllr R Beeby and seconded by Cllr P Atkin and agreed unanimously that the accounts be accepted and that the Clerk would make the necessary application to RBC.

**10. Planning Issues** (reporting only)

- (a) East Leake Quarry : Nottinghamshire County Council, Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 Article 13 Notification to Parish Council. Cemex Aggregates Eastern. Land to the east of East Leake Quarry fronting Ashby Road, Rempstone. **Permission granted with conditions.** The Chairman reported that the Conditions were somewhat vague and that he intended to contact RBC for more clarification.
- (b) 07/02035/FUL Mr N Henfrey, Foxhills, 18 Main Street, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RH. Two storey side extension. **Permission granted.**
- (c) 07/00775/LBC Mrs H Whyte, Stanford Hall, Melton Road, Stanford. Change of use of Hall. **Application withdrawn.** The Chairman explained that he understood that Mr & Mrs Whyte were no longer to leave Bunny Hall and that Stanford Hall would be on sale again.
- (d) 07/01395/FUL Chek Whyte Industries T/a TFD Midlands, Oak Court Offices, Stanford Hall, Melton Road, Stanford. Change of use of buildings to business use. **Permission granted.**
- (e) 03/311/REM Mr D Hunt, 14 Wymeswold Road, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RN. Retain extended domestic curtilage and barn. **Appeal to be heard 26.02.08.**
- (f) 07/02254/FUL Mr Machin, 10 Wysall Lane, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RW. Develop rear conservatory. **Permission granted.**
- (g) 07/02240/FUL A Wray, 8 Wysall Lane, Rempstone, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6RW. Develop rear conservatory. **Permission granted.**

**11. Correspondence**

- (a) The Clerk had received a letter from Royal British Legion informing us that £196.65 had been raised by the Village for the 2007/8 Poppy Appeal. This was a better result than in previous years.

(b) The Chairman reported that he had received a request from County Councillor Mrs L Sykes regarding the plans to build an Eco-Town on the Kingston Estate. She was asking for our support that RBC should object in the strongest possible terms. The Chairman then tabled a flyer in connection with this but informed the meeting that as a Parish Council we had not been approached. Various points were raised in discussion:

- Government forecast that between 47 and 57 sites must be found of which 10 sites would be approved for Eco status.
- This is not driven by the Nottinghamshire Structure Plan. It is simply a Central Government initiative.
- It seems illogical to build a new community adjacent to an expanding international airport.
- It was understood that brownfield sites were the first option and not to depend on greenfield sites.
- We had first-hand experience of an application for one home to be built on Greenfield land that had been refused.
- It was strongly felt that someone was doing a 'U' turn in the predicted building plans.
- We as a Parish Council try to observe what the Government tells us and we were not even consulted on this issue.
- We felt we needed to know more about the scheme.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NCC Planning Department strongly supporting the objection by the County Councillor and including our reasons quoted above.

(c) The Clerk had received a letter from the Chief Executive of RBC explaining that they are promoting commitment in respect of strengthening the links with Parish and Town Councils. They gave notice of intention to hold a parish forum during March or April 2008.

**12. Any Other Business**

Cllr. J Santoro reported that we must all continue to be vigilant in respect of stolen lead that was now worth £3,000 per ton. The thieves were nasty and ruthless and they had had trouble in Wymeswold.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 10th March 2008 at 7.30 pm (Annual Parish Meeting).

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the proceedings and the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_