

REMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of **REMPSTONE** held in the Church at 7.30 pm on Monday 15th March 2010

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 9 members of the Public, County Councillor Mrs L Sykes and Borough Councillor R Adair

Apologies for absence were recorded from Councillors P Barker and R Beeby

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 resident Mr Nigel Dalton whom we had lost during the year.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th March 2009 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 concern is that there is still no progress to report on improvements to the footpaths on the A60 especially from the crossroads south where they are particularly bad and we need to ask for support to have this work implemented.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Administration

The Chairman said he was pleased to report that for the last business year we have run with a full complement of Councillors that has helped us to deal with seven full Council meetings, four planning meetings, one SLCC meeting, two Borough seminars and one Notts County Council meeting. We were also represented by Cllr R Beeby at the Sherwood Foresters Memorial Dedication in Belgium in October. Much of the Council's work revolves around Planning applications: fifteen have been considered this year. The village website has been changed and updated and kept current thanks to the efforts of Cllr P Barker.

Working Relationships

Relationships with both Borough and County remain good and productive although more practical support is required from Notts County Council Environment Department for maintenance to the rear of the Old Wall.

Public Transport

We are benefiting from a much improved service provided by Premier Travel between Nottingham and Loughborough that is now half hourly each way with a new Sunday service. There is less good news on the Tuesday Soar Valley Bus to East Leake. The village uptake is virtually non existent and it would be impossible to justify continuation if NCC continue to look for cuts in their transport budget.

Allotments

All the allotments are under keen cultivation with a waiting list.

Village Hall Replacement Project

This year has provided us with a rollercoaster ride in respect of fundraising. Ten applications have been made to eight different recognised funders but with the country in recession these main funders have been inundated with requests chasing a fast diminishing pot of money. However thanks to top-up funding from the Big Lottery Fund, Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Village Appeal we are now able to proceed. The Electricity Company are now required to make the necessary disconnections and provide a temporary supply for the contract. This work has been agreed on site and paid for in advance. We hope for a speedy implementation to enable us to finish at the end of October,

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Notts County Councillor Mrs Lynn Sykes and Borough Councillor Mr Reg Adair for their help and support; to the Rempstone Parochial Church Council for stepping into the breach and allowing us to use the Church for our meetings; to Richard Wadkin for the bus shelter maintenance; to my fellow Councillors for their support and finally to Jennifer Walker for the vast amount of work needed to get us through the year.

4. Report for 2009/10 from County Councillor Mrs L Sykes

- **Budget**
In 2010/11 Notts County Council are spending more than last year.
- **Youth Service**
More is going into this with the building up of fantastic youth services all over the county.
- **Highways and Bad Potholes**
Although there was enough grit during the winter the problem was that when it was reordered everyone wanted more at the same time.
- **CDF (Councillors Divisional Fund)**
Hopefully there will be more money available than last year, possibly £1,000, for us to start a further campaign for the next financial year.

5. Report for 2009/10 from Borough Councillor Mr R Adair

- **Planning Applications**
Despite a long satisfactory record of dealing with Planning applications it was recognised that we had recently had some difficulty over one particular application and assurance was given that this does happen everywhere from time to time.
- **RBC**
Rushcliffe Borough has itself had a good year and has received an excellence report from Audit.
- **Finance and Property**
Borough has managed to get a zero tax increase having changed the culture with a £2 per year increase on its Band D properties resulting in over £1,000,000 in savings. They are trying to get more value for money.
- **Housing**
This is another big issue and is being dealt with by the LDF process. By 2020-2026 Borough must build 16,500 houses. This is worth taking an interest in especially over the brown field sites that although opposed to this way forward, the Council cannot go against Government. A change in Government would, of course, allow for everything to be reviewed.
- **Charnwood Borough Council**
Be interested as to what they are doing both at Cotes and on the Wymeswold Airfield.

6. Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

In the absence of Mrs J Schober, Chair, her report was presented by Mrs Barbara Mee. She said that it had been a very eventful year marked by the final closure of the old Village Hall and thanks were to be given to the Parish Council for their financial and strategic support; to the Members of the Village Hall Committee for all their help; to Cllr Mrs A Lovett who is now supporting the Project group and to all residents who continue to be supportive.

(a) The Big Lottery Fund

Despite a final event being held in May 2009 in anticipation of the demolition of the old hall in that summer the financial shortfall on the project resulted in a delay but the contents of the hall have now all been packed up and put into store with a full inventory taken of retained items. The Village Hall Committee under their new title the Rempstone Village Hall Project Committee and in liaison with Rempstone Parish Council is now co-ordinating the decisions required to support the successful completion of the new village hall. This Committee is also charged with the responsibility for completing the application for Charitable status and for establishing Management Trustees for the new Village Hall.

(b) Fundraising

Due to the temporary unavailability of a suitable venue few events have been held this year though thanks go to the staff of the White Lion for supporting the Christmas Raffle and Peter and Sally Saunders for organising another fundraising event and donating some of the proceeds to the Village Hall. A further Easter Raffle is to be held with the support of the White Lion as well as a number of local residents selling tickets and Lesley Jebson and the Rempstone Gardening Group together with the joint co-operation of the Church Social Committee and the Village Hall Committee are holding a Plant Sale on Saturday 8th May with all proceeds to be donated to the new hall.

(d) Grants

A grant for £1,000 has been received from Notts County Council for kitchen appliances and thanks go to County Councillor Mrs L Sykes for processing this application.

(e) 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 £7,745.49. Account No. 2, the Refurbishment Account, had a closing balance of £1,936.66 that had not changed since last year.

7. Report from the Parochial Church Council

Mr A Wilson, Churchwarden, reported on the following and gave the grateful thanks of the PCC for the continued financial support given by the Parish Council towards the Churchyard maintenance.

- **Fabric of Church, period 2009/10**

Some damp damage has occurred due to blocked gutters above the south facing wall that were cleared out twice in 2009 at a cost of £120. Unfortunately the Millennium Scroll was also damaged and has to be re-framed. It now remains to leave this area for some months for it to dry out before repair. At this point Mr Poxton, resident on Wysall Lane, offered to deal with the repair at the appropriate time and was thanked for his offer.

- **Quinquennial Inspection**

This will be held this next year along with the electrical testing.

- **Churchyard Maintenance**

A successful but expensive year in 2009 due to the grass mowing with particular thanks to everyone who helped with the big churchyard clear-up in September. Thanks also go to Ms Helen Burton for help with the external hedge cutting.

- **Bells**

(a) The bell ringers have installed a new bell rope carousel in the vestry sponsored by Ellis Ropes. This is to be dedicated to the memory of Arthur Ellis during a service on 11th April.

(b) The Diocesan inspection of church bells has disclosed some modifications that require to be carried out at a cost of £600. The PCC has agreed to pay half the cost and the rest will be met from the Bell Ringers fund.

- **Finances**

The Church finances remain satisfactory. The largest outlay this year is the quota to be paid to the Diocesan at Southwell amounting to approximately £9,000.

8. Report from the Neighbourhood Watch and Policing Matters

- **Crime**

Cllr J Santoro told the meeting that we had had an interesting year and that in 2009 the crime levels for Rempstone had been low. We are serviced by East Leake Police Station that covers fourteen villages and in 2009 there were twenty-three crimes in all. In Rempstone there were three incidents of concern all on the Wysall Lane. ASBO type incidents were a concern in the East Leake area where crime was the worst.

- **Policing 2010**

There is to be a new police presence as 'Bobbies on the Beat' are to be prioritised again.

- **Ringmaster Scheme**

One of the cuts will be the discontinuation of the Ringmaster scheme. In future when an incident arises the Bobby will put this on a machine that rings it around the neighbourhood area.

- **Cemex**

At the Cemex Gravel site there is an impressive CCTV camera system in place.

- **Speeding Traffic**

A system is being tried out whereby the Police are targeting three villages over three months that is proving successful. PC Kelly Warwick has been involved with this and has therefore been unable to respond to our requests for help with speeding but our turn will come.

- Cllr Santoro extended thanks to his neighbourhood helpers that were reiterated by the Chairman who emphasised that we have an active neighbourhood watch team.

9. Accounts for 2008/2009 and the Budget and Precept for 2009/2010

The Clerk tabled the accounts to 15th March and said that there would only be minor charges and interest changes at 31st March apart from the possibility of a VAT refund amounting to £2,803.36 on the new Village Hall building project. She confirmed that this year there had been no increase made to the Precept and that she would therefore be presenting the accounts to Audit as tabled and approved by Councillors at their meeting on 12th January.

10. Open Discussion Time

- (a) Concern was expressed about the difficulties posed to the dustbin lorry, particularly for the collection of grey bins, in the summer months due to overgrown hedges up School Lane with a request for possibly a heavier cut to be made in the autumn. Borough Cllr. Reg Adair asked to be contacted should this arise again this year.
- (b) Concern was expressed about one very large pothole and other smaller ones up the Wysall Lane that had been temporarily patched but now seemed to be worse. County Cllr Mrs Sykes said she would look into what could be done.
- (c) Mention was made of the wooden/plastic posts on the bend where lorries come up on to the kerb and that although repaired twice nothing further is happening. County Cllr Mrs Sykes agreed to take this up.
- (d) Borough Cllr Reg Adair was asked about disposal of waste and land filling. He confirmed that Rushcliffe have the best record in the Country for recycling but that there now needs to be new technology and that the way forward has got to be incineration as all the holes in the ground are filling up. Another incineration plant for the north is presently going through the process. Veolia manage Eastcroft.
- (e) It was suggested that it may be helpful to residents if some form of newsletter were published covering all aspects of the new Village Hall replacement and explaining about the grant from the Big Lottery Fund and the monies involved. It should also include details of the accounts that will be managed by the new Committee and details of the conversion to Charitable Status. The Chairman agreed to give this consideration but it was felt that if people were interested enough they would have attended the Parish Council meetings or followed the publication of the Minutes that were always put on public display and on the website.
- (f) We were informed that if residents were represented by an active Neighbourhood Watch team as we are that some Insurance Companies will make a reduction in your premium.

11. A.O.B.

The question of the abandoned purple mini on the Wysall Lane was raised as it was a problem and had been there for several months.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 10th May 2010

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 _____

