



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Ripplingale Parish Council,
Held 10th May, 2007, at Ripplingale Village Hall.**

Present:

**Cllr M. Patrick, Chairman; Cllrs, M. Morgan, A. Adams, P. Read, M. Exton,
B. Flatters, D. Sankey, C. Cllr M. Hill.**

In Attendance: Members of Public (2), Members of Press (1).

The Clerk opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: D. Cllr Mrs. A. Webster.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

**2.1 The Clerk advised the Result of Uncontested Election, Parish Elections
3rd May, 2007. The following were elected as Parish Councillors:**

Adams, Angela, 27 High Street, Ripplingale, PE10 0SR

Exton, Mike, Thorn Cottage, 42 High Street, Ripplingale, PE10 0SR.

Flatters, Barry, 16 Dovecote, Ripplingale, PE10 0SY.

Morgan, Mary, 18 Pinfold Close, Ripplingale, PE10 0TB.

Patrick, Melvyn, The Old Barn, 3a High Street, Ripplingale, PE10 0SR.

Read, Philip, 5 Siskin Close, Ripplingale, PE10 0WD.

Sankey, Dave, 6 Millers Close, Ripplingale, PE10 0TH.

**2.1.2 The above elected Councillors signed Acceptance of Office
Declarations, to be retained by Clerk, by which they undertook to be
guided by the National Code of Local Government Conduct.**

**2.1.3 Declaration of election expenses had been received by Councillors.
There were no expenses to be claimed. Clerk to retain Declaration of
Expenses forms of behalf of Cllrs Exton, Morgan & Read.**

**2.1.4 Register of Interests. Forms are enclosed with these Minutes for
completion and return in the first instance to Clerk. It is noted that
Register of Interest forms must be returned to SKDC Electoral
Services within 28days of date of election.**

**2.2.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL. In the
absence of any other nominations, Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr
Flatters seconded the proposal that Cllr M. Patrick be re-elected as
Chairman of the Council. This was agreed unanimously.**

**2.2.2 Cllr M. Patrick signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, to be
retained by Clerk.**

2.2.3 Cllr M. Patrick took the Chair.

2.3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

2.3.1 Cllr Mrs. M. Morgan wished to stand down as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council . She was thanked by the Chairman and Council Members for her work as Vice-Chairman, in particular the successful application for funding of the War Memorial Restoration.

2.3.2 Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Exton seconded the proposal that Cllr D. Sankey be nominated as Vice-Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: - none to record.

4. POLICE MATTERS.

4.1 Cllr Sankey advised that the Speed Indicating Device exercise had been completed. Details of proposed future action as a result of the survey to be discussed at next Parish Council Meeting.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Minutes of Meeting 12th April, 2007 were approved and signed, proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Flatters.

5.2 Minutes of the Meeting 8th March, 2007, previously agreed, were signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF RIPPINGALE SCHOOL.

6.1.1. The Clerk read letter 24th April, 2007 from LCC Head of Provision Planning to parents of children attending the school. This advised notice of a consultation meeting on 1st May and advised time-table for consultation before a final decision is taken. Comments for consideration to be received by LCC by 21st May, 2007.

6.1.2. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write objecting to the closure of the school, which it believes has been allowed to run down, thereby undermining its feasibility.

6.1.3. It was further agreed that application should be made to have the building listed, irrespective of decision on closure. Clerk to contact SKDC.

6.1.4. C. Cllr M. Hill confirmed that the school building belongs to the Church, and the playing field to the County Council. He advised that there have been problems over several years, that though there are potentially 100 children who could attend the school, parental choice to use other schools has to be respected. The school's budget relates to pupil numbers and present numbers mean that the school is not financially viable. There have been past difficulties in recruiting a Head Teacher, and the current arrangement of a shared Head is facing difficulty as the present Head is

leaving the post. C. Cllr Hill believes that the Governors have worked very hard to keep the school open, and had no option other than to recommend that the school be closed.

6.1.5. Rippingale P.T.F.A. has cancelled proposed fund-raising Car Boot Sale, and thank the Parish Council for its support.

6.2. ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

C. Cllr Hill advised that the B1177 Dowsby bridge work is now complete. Temporary reinstatement of verges in Doctors' Lane will be redone by bridge contractors. At the same time the County Council will carry out repairs reported outside The Willows Retirement Home. It was noted that all roads through the village should be inspected and repaired.

7. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING

7.1 Bus Shelter. Cllr Read reported request from residents for provision of two bus shelters in the village: at bottom of Dovecote and near to shop. Funding of bus shelters, a minimum of £3,500 each, is beyond the Parish Council's resources. In the first instance Clerk to investigate Grant Aid availability and report back.

7.2 Improved Car Parking, Dovecote Estate. Cllr Read suggested that the grassed area, belonging to SKDC, be used for additional car parking space. Cllr Flatters, a Dovecote resident, confirmed that parking is a problem, and that there is very limited parking adjacent houses on the Estate. It was agreed that, in the first instance, Clerk would write, with reply slip, to all Dovecote Residents, requesting their views.

7.3 Long Term Development Plan, Allotment Land area.

7.3.1 Cllr Read's report is summarised:

- * The allotment land comprises approximately 11 acres, situated on Station Street at the northern exit of the village. Most would agree that there is bound to be further building development in the village. Would it be feasible for the Parish Council to influence future building development, rather than have it thrust upon it? Suggestions for consideration:
- * Seek advice on possible change of use for part of Allotment land.
- * Explore possibility of erection of a number of low cost homes for purchase or rental of young Rippingale families.
- * Move the sports field from the centre of the village and build a new sports complex with club and parking area.
- * Retain the Jubilee Playing Field as a children's play area, develop a seating park area, re-establish use of tennis court facility.
- * Build a new school for an increased young population, which could delay plans for closure of current school.
- * It is appreciated that more than a few ideas are needed and expert advice is required.
- * Access to A15 would be an important factor.
- * Funding is a major factor.

“I accept that this idea may seem rather extreme, but feel that we should take some responsibility for our village’s future. I therefore propose that we actively explore these ideas”

7.3.2 It was agreed that these are major issues which can only be developed with full consultation and support of residents. It was acknowledged that present site of sports field causes problems, and its relocation could be a part of any long term planning. It is also noted that any building development would have to be in conjunction with SKDC Planning Policy.

7.3.3 It was agreed that in the first instance, advice should be taken as to the possibility of re-use of the Allotment Land. Clerk to investigate.

7.4 OTHER MAINTENANCE MATTERS.

7.4.1. Mr. Boyfield is on holiday, and grass cutting will resume shortly. Having retired from the Parochial Church Council, Cllr Read is no longer able to cut the churchyard and village green grass. At present he uses PCC equipment and the Parish Council pays the PCC an annual sum for the work, which is acknowledged as a Parish Council responsibility. The PCC will sell its grass cutting equipment and hedge trimmer. It was agreed, proposed by Cllr Exton and seconded by Cllr Sankey, that the churchyard and village green areas be added to Mr. Boyfield’s schedule and that payment to P.C.C. will terminate. Cllr Read to advise details of equipment for sale, which may be purchased by the Parish Council. Clerk to check as to whether SKDC will adopt churchyard grass cutting responsibility, in which case cost would be added to their contribution to Parish Council’s expenses.

7.4.2. Litter Bins & Waste Collection (Non Domestic). Cllr Read has again reported non-collection to SKDC who will supply orange waste sacks for use at Village Hall, Church and Cemetery. These, and emptying of fixed litter bins will be dealt with by SKDC.

C. Cllr Hill left the meeting (8.20p.m.)

8.CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

8.1 (SKDC Democracy Services) “Education for Parish Councillors in the Code of Conduct” – Training Date June & July, 2007. Cllr Sankey and Clerk to attend 12th July, 2007, 6.30p.m.

8.2 (SKDC Communications Unit) Contact Details March, 2007 – Clerk to retain.

8.3 (SHDC) Statement of Community Involvement, now adopted.

8.4 (LCC) Statement of Community Involvement, invitation to comment on Submission version.

8.5 Clerks & Councils Direct, May 2007.

8.6 Local Council Review, May 2007 – passed to Cllr Read.

8.7 Allotment & Leisure Gardener, 2/07 – passed to Cllr Flatters.

8.8 (Charity Commission) Newsletter May 2007.

8.9 (SKDC Planning Policy) “Public Consultation on Local Development Framework Policy Documents” – to be circulated to Councillors, reply by 15th June.

8.10 (Society of Local Clerks) Membership invitation.

8.11 (SKDC Community Leisure) Play Strategy, Notice of Meeting 8th May.

8.12 (Standards Board for England) New Code of Conduct for Members, 3rd May, 2007.

8.13 (LCC) “Extinguishment of Public Footpath Nos 4 & 7 & Part Public Footpath No. 9” LCC advise that the above footpaths were not diverted as intended in 1970’s and now affect properties on Brambling Walk, Siskin Close, Dovecote and Station Street. The present situation affects properties when a Local Search is carried out. Reason for extinguishment is that they are not required and not available for public use: two are obstructed by houses (Nos 4 & 7) and No 9 is a dead end route terminating in private parking area. The Parish Council raised no objection to the proposed extinguishment.

9.ALLOTMENTS GROUP & VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE

9.1 ALLOTMENTS GROUP. Cllrs Adams, Flatters and Read – being allotment holders, declared a possible interest in this Agenda Item.

9.1.1. Letter received from J. Warman, Row Gardens Allotment Group, 30th April, 2007 has been previously circulated. The Parish Council confirmed its objective to reinstate allotment land, its position as detailed in letter to all Allotment Holders April, 2007 and its decision to liaise with allotment holders direct. Clerk to reply to Mr. Warman’s letter.

9.1.2. Letter received from Mrs. C. Williams, Allotment Holder was distributed to Councillors. It was agreed that Clerk reply that she should ‘reserve’ a new plot, and when this is available, continue in present plot rent free for 6months.

9.1.3 Row Gardens Allotment Group Consitution – to be circulated by Councillors and discussed at next meeting.

9.2 VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE – nothing to report.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Audit 2006 – 7. It was agreed that M. Hallas be asked to conduct Internal Audit. Notice of Audit has been published. Statement of Accounts 31st March, 2007 as presented at Annual Public Meeting, total funds £6,135.

10.2 Bills for Payment:

S.M. Scholes £253.33

Fovia £ 27.97

Receipts:

50% Precept £7,000

S. Charlton, Allotments £ 175

VAT Refund has been requested (£368.19).

Transfer of funds £1,000 from deposit to current account made 4th May, 2007.

Total funds, as at 10th May, 2007 £12,021.88.

10.3 Insurance Renewal, June 2007. Cllr Read to review itemised items and liaise with Clerk before renewal. Alternative quotation to be investigated.

11. PLANNING

11.1 (0280) Single storey rear extension, 3 Charlton Court – Planning

Permission received 11th April, 2007.

11.2 (LD/0285) Certificate of Lawful Use or Development (Existing) Change of Use of land from agricultural to garden, 137 Station Street, 28th February, 2007.

11.3 SKDC Development Control

1. Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as amended.

2. Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

3. Consultation with Parish Councils and Civic Bodies.

4. Scheme of delegation for officers to determine planning applications.

The above to be circulated to Councillors for information.

11.4 (0377) Conservatory to rear Glebe Cottage, 29 High Street – nothing to report.

12. DISTRICT & COUNCIL BUSINESS

12.1 The Clerk advised that D. Cllr Andrea Webster has been elected following retirement of D. Cllr Taylor. Contact details to be advised all Councillors.

12.2 Rural South Local Forum – next meeting reminder 28th June, 7.00p.m., Rippingale Village Hall.

12.3 D. Cllr Taylor retirement reception, 15th May, 2007 7.00p.m. – reminder to r.s.v.p. Cllr Taylor direct. It was agreed to purchase a retirement gift for Cllr Taylor – Clerk to action.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Dyke, rear of 13 Dovecote. In answer to query from Cllr Adams, it was confirmed that responsibility for maintaining this section of dyke is the responsibility of the Riparian owner, i.e Mr. Barker-McGowan. Clerk to advise.

13.2 Cllr Sankey requested that Rippingale Website development be put on Agenda for next meeting.

13.3 A15 speeding traffic at Station Street exits – Clerk to contact LCC again.

13.4 Church Clock Cllrs Morgan and Exton reported that it is receiving attention!

13.5 Lamp post, High Street – Mr. Boyfield to be asked to cut back ivy.

14. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

15. DATE IF NEXT MEETINGS**Thursday, 14th June, 2007, 7.30p.m., The Village Hall.****** Change of Date, July meeting from 12th to 19th – Clerk & Cllr Sankey attending Code of Conduct meeting on 12th July ******There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55p.m.****Sheila Scholes,
Clerk to the Council,
16th May, 2007.**