



**Minutes of Meeting of Rippingale Parish Council,
Held 19th July, 2007, at Rippingale Village Hall.**

Present:

**Cllrs D. Sankey, M. Morgan, A. Adams, B. Flatters, P. Read,
D. Cllr A. Webster.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr M. Patrick, Chairman.

In the absence of Cllr Patrick, Cllr D. Sankey took the Chair and advised change in Agenda Order to accommodate discussion with (a) Mr. P. Holmes, LCC Head of Provision Planning and (b) Messrs I. Middleton and S. Goode, Row Gardens Allotments Group.

2. Agenda Item 1: Closure of Rippingale Primary School.

2.1 Mr. Holmes advised that the process of Closure of the school began on 5th April at the request of the School Governors. Only sixteen pupils, from a potential number of 132, attend Rippingale School and the decision to close has been taken in the best interests of the remaining children. It is not the case that the closure is in respect of failing standards. Parents have exercised their right to select a school, and have chosen elsewhere; there does not seem to be any real reason as to why the village school has not received parental support.

2.2 Rippingale School is not unique in the county having surplus places and the lack of a local school for new, in-coming families to the village is regrettable.

2.3 Mr. Holmes confirmed that the buildings are owned by Lincoln Diocese, the playing field by L.C.C. The site would not be exempt from development.

2.4 The Parish Council strongly wishes any development to be made with regard to the original Victorian building and has approached English Heritage with a view to having the school building Listed. Cllr Morgan, as a member of the Parochial Church Council volunteered to pursue discussion with English Heritage and Lincoln Diocese and advise LCC of the Parish Council's intentions. Cllr Morgan will report back to the Parish Council.

2.5 With regard to the remaining 16 pupils, Mr. Holmes advised that 7 will attend Horbling School; the remainder will attend Pointon, Bourne Abbey and Bourne Westfield Schools. The County Council and Governing Body have agreed to support transport costs, where applicable, for these children and their siblings.

2.6 Rippingale School will close on Friday, 20th July, 2007.

2.7 Mr. Holmes was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.50p.m.

3. Agenda Item 2: Allotments.

3.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr. I. Middleton, Chairman and Mr. S. Goode, Secretary of Row Gardens Allotments Group.

3.2 Mr. Middleton welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Parish Council to clear up misunderstandings and confirm future plans.

3.3 It was agreed that there have been communication difficulties and the Chairman confirmed that the pending Grant Application is to cover cost of clearing wooded area and making this and extra land, as agreed with Mr. Charlton, available as additional allotments by October 2007. No application or provision of funds has been made to date for a parking area.

3.4 Cllr Sankey and the Clerk contacted Awards for All, prior to this meeting, regarding progress of the grant application, and have been advised that a decision letter would be received "soon".

3.5 Cllr Read advised that a contractor was able to begin the clearing work, pending news of the grant application. The contractor could begin work at the end of July and estimated that it would be completed by end of August. The contractor would: remove tree stumps, attend to the hedgerow and turn over the top soil.

3.6 Cllr Sankey proposed, and Cllr Adams seconded the proposal that the contractor be asked to carry out this work as described above. This was agreed and Cllr Read asked to contact the contractor.

3.7 It was agreed that a Parish Councillor, with no personal interest as an Allotment Holder, be appointed a Liaison contact between the Allotments Group and Parish Council. Clerk to ask Cllr M. Exton to take on this role, and to advise Mr. S. Goode when agreed. It was further agreed that there was a need for formal communication between the two bodies, when necessary – i.e. Clerk and Mr. Goode to avoid future misunderstandings.

3.8 Allotment Agreement: The Internal Auditor has pointed out inaccuracies in the signed Agreements. Corrections will be made and individual Allotment Holders given amended agreements.

3.9 The Allotment Group would still like to have more land on the north-east side of the site. It was noted that this would be the subject of future negotiations with Mr. Charlton, The Allotments Group was asked to appreciate that the Parish Council was obliged to Mr. Charlton who has kept this land fertile and in use since 1993 while there was no interest in residents taking allotments.

3.10 Provision of water to the allotments site will be considered as a long-term project.

3.11 Concern was expressed that speeding traffic on Station Street is a hazard as the allotment site entrance is concealed. The Parish Council will discuss this, together with moving the 30mph signs, with LCC Highways.

3.12 The Chairman and Parish Councillors congratulated the Allotment Group on the way that the site has been developed so far and confirmed its support of its work.

3.13 Messrs Middleton and Goode left the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

4.1 As holders of Allotments, Cllrs Adams, Read & Flatters declared a Personal Interest.

4.2 As a Member of the Parochial Church Council, Cllr Morgan declared a Personal Interest.

4.3 As a Member of the Ripping-Ale Association, Cllr Adams declared a Personal Interest.

5. POLICE MATTERS.

5.1 Dovecote Residents' letter 16th April. The Clerk advised that a resident has now come forward as writer of the letter regarding noise caused by barking dog. Clerk to pursue this again with PCSO Parrot.

5.2 Mobile Police Station Visit 5th July, 2007 – poster has been displayed.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1 Minutes of Meeting 10th May, 2007, previously approved were signed.

6.2 Minutes of Meeting 14th June, 2007 were approved, proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Flatters and signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 VILLAGE WEBSITE.

Cllr Sankey has considered details of LCC offer to “host” the village website, at no charge. At present the website is hosted by Easyspace. Cllr Sankey wished to congratulate Mr. Warman who set up and maintains Rippingale’s website. The website is very successful and, in Cllr Sankey’s opinion, superior to those hosted by LCC and others. He proposed that the arrangements regarding the website be left as is. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Morgan who expressed appreciation of the management of the village website, and was agreed.

8. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING

8.1 DOVECOTE PARKING. 52 letters were sent to residents, requesting views on replacing grassed area with additional parking. 11 replies were received, 7 in favour and 4 objecting. It was agreed that this was insufficient response to proceed and no further action would be taken.

8.2 RoSPA ANNUAL INSPECTION – August, 2007.

Cllr Read confirmed that most of work in 2006 inspection will have been completed before August visit. Cllr Read will meet with Inspector.

8.3 BUS SHELTER PROPOSAL.

Clerk has gathered information on styles and suppliers. Cllr Flatters volunteered to look into this further and report back to Council.

8.4 GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE MATTERS – Cllr P. Read.

8.4.1 The wet weather has caused delays in maintaining grass and it will be necessary to “catch up” when conditions permit. Both entrances to the village from A15 require attention. LCC have been requested to make a one-off cut on the Station Street exit to assist Mr. Boyfield to bring up to standard.

8.4.2 The Portakabin doors have been repaired. The Parish Council were informed that the overall condition of the portakabin is poor and consideration should be given to replacing it.

8.4.3 The Parish Council has the opportunity to purchase a strimmer no longer required by the Parochial Church Council. Cllr Read was authorised to offer £300 for the equipment and report back to the Parish Council.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – list previously circulated.

9.1 (LALC) Training Events & Dates: It was provisionally agreed:

- a) Clerk to attend Finance & Risk Assessment Seminar,**
- b) Cllr Adams to attend New Councillors Training evening,**
- c) Cllr Sankey to attend Chairmanship Training evening.**

Clerk to pass details to relevant Councillors who will confirm with the Clerk if they wish to attend.

9.2 (LALC) LALC News June, 2007, Notice of AGM 27/10/07, Village Ventures Competition and Computer availability (Passed to Cllr Read).

9.3 (LCC) Free Trees for Parishes – passed to Cllr Read.

9.4 (Community Lincs) Workshop – Community Plan, 2nd July. Clerk will obtain further details if available.

9.5 (LCC) Public Footpath Extinguishment Orders 2007, Public Footpath Nos 4 & 5 and Part Public Footpath No 9 – copy of Orders and Notices to appear in press. Copy displayed on Notice Board.

9.6 (Various) Suppliers details on Safety Surfacing etc – passed to Cllr Read.

9.7 (NALC) Local Council Review, July 2007 – passed to Cllr Flatters.

9.8 (LCC) Publication of Countryside Access & Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2012.

9.9 (St Andrew’s Church, Rippingale) Thanks for Parish Council taking over cutting of churchyard, clock maintenance etc.

9.10 (Anglian Water) Quality Summary Report 2006.

9.11 (Mrs. C. Norman) Request to hold Dog Show during Beer Festival 8th September, 2007. Cllr Adams, an Organiser of the Beer Festival, declared an interest. It was agreed that Mrs. Norman be given permission to arrange the Dog Show on the Playing Field. Conditions of permission that dog fouling notices be prominently displayed, all dog mess to be cleared up.

Residents to be made aware that allowing dogs on the Playing Field is for this event only. Clerk to reply to Mrs. Norman.

9.12 (Mr. Mrs. I. Misselbrook) Request for liaison with SKDC regarding hedge/public footpath between their property and Village Hall.

Correspondence passed to D. Cllr Webster for attention.

10. ALLOTMENTS GROUP & VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE

10.1 VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE

Letter received from VDC (12th July, 2007) in response to Parish Council's request to comments on future development of Allotment Land was read.

Clerk to acknowledge and confirm that this is a long-term development project.

10.2 ALLOTMENTS GROUP.

10.2.1 Response has been received from Allotment Society regarding holding of allotment land by farmer. It was agreed that the Parish Council take further advice. Cllr Sankey volunteered to look into this and report back to the Parish Council.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Bills for Payment, Bank Accounts, Budget.

Pilgrim Mowers	£113.03
Viking Signs	£ 32.90
C. Boyfield	£709.11
Nat. Society Allotments	£ 58.75
Ripping- Ale Association	£100.00
F. Wyer	£ 15.00
J. Wiseman	£ 12.00
D. Diess	£ 10.00
M. Hallas	£ 50.00
Fovia	£ 30.24
D. Sankey (sandbags)	£191.37.

11.1.2 Standing Order to Powergen amendment from £15.00 per month to £10.00 per month was approved.

11.1.3 Transfer of £2,000 from deposit to current account was approved.

11.1.4 It was agreed that Cllr A. Adams become a signatory to bank accounts. Clerk to obtain paperwork.

11.1.5 Budget as at 7th July, 2007 previously circulated. Total funds £8,884.

11.2 AUDIT 31st March, 2007.

11.2.1 Copies of the Internal Auditor's report were circulated. Councillors are requested to read the report and raise any outstanding issues at the next meeting. Clerk has previously advised (Memo 8th July) particular areas requiring attention:

- a) Need for Parish Council to review and revise Standing Orders and Risk Assessment on an regular basis. Carry forward to next meeting.**
- b) Importance of Councillor's making payments on behalf of Parish Council for which they are reimbursed, to have invoices clearly marked "On behalf of R.P.C."**
- c) Requirement to prepare a Parish Plan. Carry forward to next meeting.**
- d) Confirm insurance cover is "New for Old" – Cllr Sankey volunteered to look into this matter and report back to Parish Council.**

11.2.2 Annual Return was signed by the Chairman for return to Auditor by Clerk by due date.

12. PLANNING

12.1 (SKDC) Allocation of Site for the Local Development Framework & Plan. D. Cllr Webster was unaware of this letter, sent 2nd July and requesting response by 20th July. SKDC wish to identify sites for inclusion in the "Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document". A plan of the village was enclosed for the Parish Council to indicate areas suitable for development, supply knowledge of specific needs, give information on viability and capacity of local services. Clerk to reply to SKDC regretting short time available to reply to detailed request for this information, also make reference to long-term suggestion of use of Allotment Land for community /sport benefit, affordable housing and allotments.

12.2 Residential Development (4 Dwellings & New Access) rear of 137 Station Street: Notice of Appeal to Secretary of State. The Parish Council has nothing to add to its original objections to the application.

12.3 (0685) Two single storey extensions 9 Middle Street – Planning Permission granted 19th June, 2007.

13. DISTRICT & COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1. Rural South Local Assembly. D. Cllr Webster advised that the recent meeting was poorly attended by the public. SKDC were to look at how the Assemblies could be better publicised.

13.2 Town & Parishes Conference, 8th November, 2007 – for information. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be represented at the Conference.

13.3 SKDC Standards Committee Agenda 06/07/'07 and Minutes 14/03/07, Clerk advised that there are vacancies on the committee should any Councillor be interested.

13.4 Education for Parish Councillors on the Code of Conduct, 12th July. Clerk had attended a useful meeting.

D. Cllr Webstew left the meeting at 9.45p.m.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 FLOOD RISK: Cllrs Flatters and Sankey have organised the sand bunker and supply of sandbags as previously agreed. Bunker is sited at Cllr Flatters' house (16 Dovecote). Clerk has written Newsletter item reminding residents of danger of dumping rubbish in dykes.

14.2 ALLOCATION OF COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

Cllr Sankey suggested that allocating individual Councillors particular projects, or long-term responsibilities – as demonstrated in this meeting would enable the Parish Council to progress business more quickly. Parish Councillors are requested to report back at the subsequent Parish Council Meeting, or in case of their absence, send a written report via the Clerk, for discussion and approval as required by the Parish Council.

Concern was expressed that papers sent from the Clerk for circulation to give Councillors an opportunity to consider items in advance of the meeting were not being passed on quickly enough. Councillors cooperation is needed, and items such as Planning, requiring a quick response should be discussed if necessary by a group of Councillors.

14.3 PRESS REPORTS.

It was agreed that inaccuracies in press reporting could be mitigated by the Clerk sending a Press Release to local papers. Clerk confirmed that a copy of the Council Report submitted to editor of Village Newsletter will be adapted as a Press Release.

14.4 DAMAGE TO VERGE, STATION STREET – B1177. Cllr Flatters noted that LCC have coned off this area, but cones had been removed (subsequently replaced). The eroded verge is dangerously narrow and requires urgent repair. Clerk to contact LCC Highways again.

15. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – No Public in Attendance.

14. DATE IF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13th September, 2007, 7.30p.m., The Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

Sheila Scholes,
Clerk to the Council,
25th July, 2007.

Meeting Dates, 2007.

October 11th

November 8th

December No Meeting.