



**Minutes of Meeting of Rippingale Parish Council,
Held 11th October, 2007, 7.30p.m. at Rippingale Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs M. Patrick, Mrs. M. Morgan, Mrs. A. Adams, B. Flatters, P. Read, D. Sankey, M. Exton, D. Cllr Mrs. A. Webster.

In Attendance: Members of Public (6), Members of the Press (2).

- 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and advised change in order of Agenda to discuss the Proposed Closure of Rippingale Post Office. Mr. Simon Deane, Post Office Proprietor and Mr. Jim Latham, representing The Friends of Rippingale Post Office were invited to speak.
- 1.2 Mr. Dean reported that the Post Office is describing a "Consultation" as to whether the Post Office will close or not, in reality the decision to close has already been taken and he has been visited by two potential "partners" who could take over the service after closure. The Parish Council confirmed that it had received no notification of a decision to close Rippingale Post Office.
- 1.3 Mr. Deane advised that the viability of the village Store is inter-related with its post office - losing the Post Office will mean that the shop is not commercially viable. A very impressive response from residents in support of the Post Office has been received, which is much appreciated. The newly-formed "Friends of Rippingale Post Office" have organised a very professional publicity campaign to retain the Post Office: petitions, signs, visits by M.P.s, press and web-site publicity and a "March to Morton" are in hand.
- 1.4 The Parish Council confirmed its support of this vital village amenity and in addition to personal letters of support, the Parish Council will write to Network Development Manager, Post Office Ltd. (Mr. M. Partington) with reference to the Friends Press Release 10.10.07.

Mr. Deane and Mr. Latham left the meeting at 7.50p.m.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - none received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

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

4 POLICE MATTERS. - Nothing to report.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of Meeting 13th September, 2007 were approved, proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Flatters and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 RIPPINGALE SCHOOL: Cllr Morgan continues to liaise with English Heritage, no developments to report.

6.2 BUS SHELTER: Cllr Flatters has received one quotation (£1,300), two further estimates are awaited. Carry forward to next meeting.

6.3 STANDING ORDERS: Cllr Adams is perusing, carry forward.

6.4 RISK ASSESSMENT: Cllr Read is perusing, carry forward.

6.5 PARISH PLAN: Still outstanding.

6.6 MATTERS REPORTED TO D. CLLR WEBSTER:

6.6.1 Hedge by Village Hall: C. Cllr Hill believes has been cut, further action to be taken.

6.6.2 Drainage from Station Street Wall: SKDC are arranging for moss to be cleaned from pathway, after site visit further action to be requested.

6.7 REPLACEMENT PORTAKABIN: Clerk confirmed this is the unit previously used by School, measurements are awaited to discuss Planning Permission with SKDC. Clerk requested to confirm with Football Club that this is a replacement, not additional, unit.

6.8 TRAINING: Cllr A. Adams attended a useful "New Councillors" Training Course, organised by L.A.L.C.

7. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING

Cllr Read reported that village grass cutting is up to date, some hedge work and village green tree trimming has been done. RoSPA Safety Inspection report was passed to Cllr Read for perusal and report back to Council.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

8.1 Rural Links & Village Hall News, Autumn 2007 - article on Parish Plans to be retained.

8.2 (SKDC) Standards Committee Agenda 5/10/07 & Minutes, 06/07/07.

8.3 (Standards Board) Newsletter September, 2007, possible amendments to Standing Orders passed to Cllr Adams for information.

8.4 (defra) "Ways to Tackle Climate Change" publication.

8.5 (Mrs. C. Dallimore) Dog Barking Complaint. Mrs. Dallimore, in attendance, was invited to speak. She has received an anonymous letter complaining, incorrectly, about her dog(s). She is keeping a record of dates/times when the dog in Dovecote is barking for prolonged periods. The Parish Council agreed to write to SKDC Environmental Health and RSPCA., referring authorities to Mrs. Dallimore for full details.

8.6 (Mrs. C. Dallimore) Traffic on Public Footpath. It was agreed that further information i.e. registration of vehicle, driving on footpath (Linnet Drive/Dovecote) is needed. Appropriate signing could then be requested from LCC or SKDC.

8.7 (Mr. Freeman, telephone call) Complaint of dog fouling rear of Brambling Walk. Parish Council confirmed that sign in place, further item in Newsletter. Owners to be requested to keep dogs on lead until in open country. Clerk to investigate cost of emptying Dog Litter Bins.

8.8 (LCC) New bus timetables, supply in Post Office.

8.9 (SKDC) Sandbag supply questionnaire, Cllr Flatters to complete.

8.10 (LCC) Confirmation of Public Path Order, part Public Footpath No. 4, Rippingale: Notices to be retained on file.

9. ALLOTMENTS GROUP & VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE

9.1 VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE - request to be kept informed on developments regarding the School building.

9.2 ALLOTMENTS GROUP.

9.2.1 30mph signs: LCC have inspected and cannot move the signs on Station Street. Clerk to inform Allotments Group Secretary.

9.2.2 Publicity contact details for Awards for All passed to Cllr Exton for liaison with Allotments Group.

9.2.3 Cllr Exton proposed that debris from tree cutting be burnt on site. Environment Agency permit to be completed by Cllr Flatters.

9.2.4 Cllr Read advised that Mr. Boyfield will submit quotation for removing rubbish and cutting hedges to Allotment area.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Purchase of Strimmer and accessories from P.C.C. - letter has been circulated to Councillors. It was agreed to purchase the equipment for £500.

10.2 Bills for Payment, Bank Accounts, Budget.

Moore Stephens	£182.13
SKDC Election Cost	£ 31.00
D. Harris, HCS	£ 16.20
J. Phillips, HCS	£ 3.60
D. Diess, HCS	£ 12.70
J. Wiseman, HCS	£ 12.00
F. Wyer, HCS	£ 33.60

Anglian Water	£ 24.29
British Legion	£ 35.00
S. Scholes	£253.33
Fovia	£ 36.38
St Andrews PCC	£500.00
Playsafe/RosPA	£189.18
C. Boyfield	£295.88
B. Flatters (Radios)	£ 59.95

Transfer of £5,000 from current to deposit account was approved. Budgets as at 6th October, 2007 were circulated, total funds £15,270.

10.3 Audit 31st March, 2007 has been completed, Notice displayed. The Auditor comments (1) requirement to review Risk Assessment and (2) low reserves.

11. PLANNING

11.1 (1311) Conversion of barns to form 2 dwellings: Cardyke Farmhouse, Long Drove, Rippingale. Details previously circulated. No objections to the application. Site visit to be made by Chairman, Cllrs Read and Sankey who will inform Clerk if any representation should be made to SKDC.

11.2 LCC Local Development Scheme of Community Involvement available to view at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

12. DISTRICT & COUNCIL BUSINESS

12.1 Annual Town & Parishes Conference 8th November - no councillors attending.

12.2 Local Area Forum, 16th October, Billingborough: The Council confirmed to D. Cllr Webster that no notice of the meeting had been received. D. Cllr Webster to obtain details and advise Clerk. Cllrs Patrick and Read expressed interest in attending.

13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

13.1 (Mrs. C. Dallimore) The Council confirmed that grass cutting to Grinders Lane is responsibility of LCC, Mr. C. Abram, should be contacted.

13.2 (Mr. D. Diess) requested that the Parish Council again remind LCC about repairs to Finger Post, Station Street and damaged railings by White Rose farm.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS & MR. S. CHARLTON, 27th September, 2007.

14.1.1. The Meeting was attended by D. Sankey, M. Morgan, M. Exton, P. Read, B. Flatters with Mr. S. Charlton and Mr. J. Foster (Developers), relating to land owned by Mr. Charlton north of Station Street. Notes taken

by Cllr P. Read: "... Cllr D. Sankey chaired the meeting, called at the request of Mr. Charlton and Mr. Foster to inform the Council of their intention to submit a site for perusal of SKDC for consideration in the Local Development and Framework plan. Mr. Charlton stated that they would be submitting a site plan and that it was his wish to keep the Parish Council informed of any future developments.

The Parish Council land, known as Row Gardens was also discussed. Mr. Foster asked whether the Council would like this site included in their submission; this would mean that the whole of the 11acre site would be outlined for future consideration in the Local Development Framework Plan. Councillors present agreed to this suggestion on the understanding that this was not binding and that it would be fully discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting. Maps of the proposed site were left with the Parish Council and it was agreed that Cllrs Sankey and Exton would receive a typed copy of the plans...."

14.1.2 PLAN "OPTION 1" - a copy of a provisional plan/scheme for Mr. Charlton's land and Row Gardens land for development has been made available to the Parish Council (to be retained on file).

14.1.3 BRIEFING NOTE: made available to Parish Councillors prepared by Mr. J. Jackson relating to the current planning position in respect of SKDC Local Development Framework (LDF) with reference to the Land North of Station Street, Rippingale: (copy retained on file). On the assumption of the 2461 new dwellings to be allocated in SKDC, approximately 112 dwellings could be allocated to Rippingale. The Briefing Note refers to the discussion with Parish Council members and their possible interest and provisional approval.

"... it is hoped that this opportunity for the village to plan together for the future growth and survival of Rippingale will be welcomed. ... The Parish Council has publicly recognised some months' ago the need for growth in the village and advocated a proactive stance in the control, design and format that it would take.

The offer is being presented to the Parish Council to be part of the future discussions between the local authority and any relevant interested parties. The submission of the land known as Row Gardens to be considered as part of the current suggestions would enable the Parish Council to have significant input in the future growth and design of the village and to have a hand in the constructive solutions of many of the village's problems and needs should the proposals be taken up."

14.1.3 Cllr D. Sankey (DS) subsequently telephoned SKDC (Mark Harrison (MH)), 1st October, 2007 to gain further understanding of the ramifications of "red lining" or otherwise of the land owned by the Parish Council for consideration under the Local Development Plan.

".. DS was trying to establish the ramifications of submitting or not in terms of the benefit to the village in that RPC did not want to miss an opportunity for the village by not submitting, but did not want to do a

disservice by doing so. MH explained that a submission could be withdrawn, if required later.

DS asked about time constraints and was informed that as long as the submission was received in November (07) this would be OK, adding that a submission would still be considered later.

MH said that the PC should take the time to consider the issue and elicit public opinion. MH confirmed that Rippingale is one of 16 potential service centres (sustainable villages) considered by SKDC and also informed DS that government guidelines allowed 30 dwellings to the hectare, which gave an indication of the land referred to. The inclusion or not of a village could have ramification such as postoffice/schools etc. DS asked if the PC should make its own submission rather than "going in" with the developer? MH suggested that a 'Plan', together with a letter could be sent direct to him..."

14.1.4 The Parish Council reviewed the above reports. It was confirmed that representation has already been made to SKDC regarding development of the Allotment Land though no response has been received.

14.1.5 It was agreed that the decision as to development of the allotment land – whether part of the above scheme, or alone – was not for the Parish Council to take. Full consultation with residents is required and it was suggested that the Developers could call a Public Meeting to outline the advantages of their proposal to residents.

14.1.6 It was suggested that the SKDC Local Forum meeting 16th October would be a useful opportunity for Councillors to discuss this further with the local authority. The Chairman and Cllr Read expressed interest in attending.

14.2 STREET LIGHTING:

14.2.1 Cllr Flatters presented his report, requests have been passed to SKDC for action:-

- * Lamp No 43, Sands Court has not worked for over 1 year and has been reported on several occasions... this is a safety concern as the uneven footpath is used by people walking to the Doctors surgery and village hall.
 - * Lamp opposite 28 High Street covered in ivy and light obliterated.
 - * Lamp opposite Old Rectory on High Street is coming on 3.30p.m. daily.
- Mr. Flatters has a map of all lights in the village for future monitoring.

14.2.2 Cllr Flatters reported that damaged lamp post East Street (bend towards Station Street) has been removed. Necessary to monitor this to ensure it is replaced.

14.2.3 Cllr Morgan requested that light on Village Green, permanently lit, be reported.

14.3 HORSES: Cllr Adams requested that riders be again requested not to ride on pavements: complaint regarding horse droppings have been received.

D. Cllr A. Webster and Cllr. B. Flatters left the meeting at 9.15p.m.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 8th November, 2007, 7.30p.m., The Village Hall.

Provisional dates Meetings 2008 - Cllr Read to confirm Village Hall availability:

January 10th

February 14th

March 13th

April 10th

May 8th

June 12th

July 10th

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

**Sheila Scholes,
Clerk to the Council,
18th October, 2007.**

Meeting Dates, 2007.

December No Meeting.