



**Minutes of Meeting of Rippingale Parish Council,  
Held 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, 7.30p.m. at Rippingale Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs. M. Morgan, Mrs. A. Adams, B. Flatters, M. Exton.

**In Attendance:** Members of Public (4).

Cllr M. Morgan took the Chair and welcomed all present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllr D. Sankey.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST:**

2.1 As holder of Allotment, Cllrs A. Adams and Cllr B. Flatters.

2.2 As a Member of the Parochial Church Council, Cllr Morgan.

2.3 Other Declarations to Interest would be advised, if appropriate, during the course of the Meeting.

**3 CO-OPTION OF TWO PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

3.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr. M. Hallas and Dr. P. Moseley.

Councillors unanimously agreed to Co-opt Messrs Hallas and Moseley and welcomed them and the expertise they would bring.

3.2 Statutory papers were passed to Messrs Hallas and Moseley for completion and return, via the Clerk, to SKDC as required by the Local Government Act 2001.

3.3 The Clerk advised that Mr. Stanley Stewart (8 Pinfold Close) had been approached by the former Chairman regarding membership of the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the Clerk was not made aware of his interest. Having spoken with Mr. Stewart, the Clerk advises that he could be interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council in the future.

**4 POLICE MATTERS.**

4.1 Lincs. Police Authority - Deficit Survey. The Parish Council has been asked to complete a survey regarding funding deficit £11m. 2008 - 9.

Options offered are to increase Council Tax to maintain current level of service/improve services/neither of the above. The survey is geared to individual response, requiring age/sex/ethnic origin details. Clerk to write to Lincs. Police expressing Council view that no increase in Council is desirable.

4.2 Mobile Police Station Visit 24<sup>th</sup> January, 12.30 - 2.30p.m. - poster for display and Newsletter item.

4.3 Special Constabulary Recruitment Campaign - poster for display.

**5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.**

Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Flatters seconded the proposal that Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November and Notes of Informal Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman. This was agreed.

## 6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 RIPPINGALE SCHOOL: Nothing to report.

6.2 BUS SHELTER: Cllr Flatters advised that one supplier (Garrick) has offered to conduct a free site survey. It was agreed that the quotation (£1,300) appeared low and Cllr Flatters was requested to obtain details of similar shelters the company has installed for comparison. Cllr Flatters was also requested to contact Queensbury Shelters, for a second quotation.

6.3 STANDING ORDERS: Cllr Adams has perused and compared with other Councils' Standing Orders and sees nothing to amend. Cllr Hallas offered to review the document.

6.4 & 6.5 RISK ASSESSMENT & PARISH PLAN: Cllr Hallas offered to review the Council's Risk Assessment, in line with the Annual Audit. He further offered to draft a Parish Plan based on experience with creating the Village Hall's Plan.

6.6 REPLACEMENT PORTAKABIN: Cllr Moseley volunteered to continue liaison with the Football Club on behalf of the Parish Council. Planning Application forms have been received from SKDC, and Clerk and Football Club Secretary (Mrs. Jo Durrant) are advised that Building Regulations Approval will also be required. Cllr Exton volunteered to assist.  
*(Clerk's Note: Letter received from Football Club (09/01/08) advises that the Club is NOT pursuing planning proposal. Letter to be acknowledged by Clerk and passed to Cllr Moseley)*

### 6.7 PROPOSED CLOSURE RIPPINGALE POST OFFICE.

Cllr Hallas reported that no decision has been taken to date regarding the Closure. The group campaigning to keep the Post Office open are frustrated at the differing responses received. An "Outreach" scheme being pursued by the Post Office, favouring a mobile unit, sited on private land, is strongly objected to. Both the Village Hall and The Bull have declined to accommodate an outreach service. A letter to the Prime Minister's office has been routed to Defra and the Action Group will continue to press most strongly to retain the Post Office. A further meeting with the Head of the Post Office and Minister responsible has been requested. Any further information available will be passed on via the Newsletter/website as soon as possible.

### 6.8 DOG WASTE BINS/NUISANCE DOG.

The Clerk to discuss cost of Dog Waste Service with Heckington Parish Council who operate a scheme. SKDC have contacted residents with regard to nuisance dog.

## **7. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING**

**7.1 Report of Clerk's Meeting with Mr. Boyfield, having been previously circulated, was noted. Outstanding matters on RoSPA report will be discussed by Cllr Exton and Mr. Boyfield to agree what can be done in-house. Some safety matting may need to be purchased.**

**Clerk requested that keys to Portakabin be located as electricity meeting reading is required.**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - List previously circulated.**

**8.1 (National Allotment Gardeners) Annual Local Authority Allotment Competition has been read by Cllr Exton, not relevant to Rippingale.**

**8.2 (LALC) News November 2007 and details of Training Courses. Those of interest to newly co-opted Councillors to be forwarded and return - via Clerk - if of interest. Also enclosed LCC Questionnaire re Council Tax, received December, response required by end November, 2007.**

**8.3 (Lincs. Assembly) "Big Country Big Skies Big Future" - invitation to "engage".**

**8.4 (LCC) Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Integrated Management Plan 2008/9" Consultation Questionnaire. Previously circulated, no comment.**

**8.5 (T. Bladon) Long Term Development Plan - see Any Other Business.**

**8.6 (Phoenix Smoking Cessation) Free help for Communities.**

**8.7 (SKDC) Democracy Services Bulletin of Changes to Local Authority Electoral Arrangements, areas and names in England - not locally relevant.**

**8.8 (Mrs. P. Cotton) Adults and children bike riding on pavements - Newsletter item.**

**8.9 Clerks & Councils Direct November 2007.**

**8.10 (SKDC) Street Litter Bins, weekly collection.**

**8.11 (SKDC) Improving energy efficiency of local homes - offer of advice - Newsletter item.**

**8.12 (LCC) Capital Grant Aid 2008/9 - Details passed to V. Hall Cttee, Design Committee, Allotments Group, copy retained for possible use regarding Bus Shelter.**

**8.12 "Local Council Review" January, 2008.**

**8.13 (LCC) Salting Routes 2008.**

**8.14 (SKDC) Leisure Directory 2008, Clerk to complete re Football Club.**

**8.15 (Mr. A. Floyd) Repairs to Station Street verges/culvert have not been completed. Clerk to pursue with SKDC/LCC.**

**8.16 Clerk & Councils Direct January 2008 & Suppliers' Handbook.**

## **9. ALLOTMENTS GROUP & VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE**

### **9.1 Allotments Group:**

**9.1.1. Letter received advises changes in Allotment Holders and requests permission to site notice board and seat (a gift to the Group). Permission was granted.**

**9.1.2. Environment Agency permission for bonfire has been received. Cllr Exton to request C. Boyfield to carry out burning, with supervision. Cllr Flatters offered to assist.**

## 9.2 Village Design Committee:

9.2.1 Cllr M. Hallas, as a member of the VDC, Declared a Personal Interest. He hoped that he would improve liaison between the VDC and Parish Council, in particular regarding Planning matters.

9.2.2 Letter received (3<sup>rd</sup> December) regarding Long Term Development Plans carried forward to Any Other Business, see below.

## 10. FINANCE

### 10.1 Bills for Payment & Bank Accounts:

S.M. Scholes, salary & expenses	£614.12
Newsletter Printing	£267.68
Fovia	£ 29.90
S.M. Scholes (Commem. Bench)	£349.00
HCS: B. Osborne	£ 15.60
" D. Harris	£ 16.20
" D. Diess	£ 9.60
" J. Philips	£ 34.50
" J. Wiseman	£15.00
" F. Wyer	£ 9.60

An invoice from M. Redding (£52) for cutting back ivy from street light to be queried regarding authorisation, as this work was requested of SKDC.

Receipts: S. Charlton, Allotments 2007 £170.00

Funds, as at 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, Current Account £921, Deposit Account £11,494.

Transfer of £1,500 from deposit to current account was approved.

### 10.2 Budget 2008 - 9 & Annual Precept.

The Clerk has prepared draft budget to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009. In discussion it was noted that the Auditor desired an increase in Reserves. If the Precept were increased to £15,000 and savings in repairs/maintenance costs of £500 were achieved, Reserves would remain at £8,000. It was noted that £3,000 has been provided for the proposed Bus Shelter, and hoped that Grant Aid could reduce this cost. For information Band D Equivalents 2008 - 340.4 properties, compared with 332.8 properties in 2007 - 8. Cllr Exton proposed and Cllr Flatters seconded the proposal that the Precept 2008/9 be set at £15,000. This was agreed. A copy of the revised budget is attached to these Minutes.

## 11. PLANNING

11.1 (1311) Conversion of barns to form 2 dwellings: Cardyke Farmhouse, Long Drove, Ripplingale. - Nothing to report. Clerk to pursue with SKDC.

11.2 ( Appeal Dr. P. King) Residential Development, rear of 137 Station Street. Appeal Dismissed, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.

11.3 (1675) Erection Double Garage, 163 Station Street. Previously circulated to Councillors, no objection raised.

11.4 (1688) Change of Use Agricultural to Equine Paddock & Stables, Barn Farm, Station Street. Previously circulated to Councillors, no objection raised.

## 12. DISTRICT & COUNCIL BUSINESS.

No representatives in attendance, Clerk to refer matters raised in these Minutes.

## 13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

13.1 Retaining Wall, Station Street. Mr. Diess requested SKDC be contacted again to complete work to drainage. The pavement is extremely dangerous when wet/icy.

13.2 30mph sign Doctor's Lane needs replacing, Clerk to contact LCC.

13.3 Street Light 77/79 Station Street is permanently on. Cllr Flatters to report to SKDC.

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 ALLEGED BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT. Complaint to The Standards Board from Mr. T. Bladon regarding Cllr D. Sankey has been previously circulated. The Standards Board Decision 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 (Ref SBE20575.07) advises that it does not believe that a potential breach of the Code of Conduct is disclosed.

### 14.2 LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

14.2.1 Letter Mr. T. Bladon (21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007) received regarding lack of consultation on possible use of allotment land for housing development. Mr. Bladon subsequently reported a complaint to The Standards Board (Ref SBE20632.07). The Clerk and Parish Councillors were notified by Standards Board its decision, 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, viz it does not believe that a potential breach of the Code of Conduct is disclosed.

14.2.2. Letter from Village Design Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007) expresses its concern regarding the Long Term Development Plans. This letter has been acknowledged and previously circulated to Councillors.

14.2.3 In discussion, it was agreed that there has been misinformation and "second-hand" reporting which has greatly over-stated this matter. The possibility of Mr. Charlton's development was in the public domain and had been quoted with regard to saving the Post Office, the 'plans' referred to were not official. It was apparent that the detailed Minutes of the Parish Council's meeting October 2007 had not clarified the situation as hoped.

14.2.4 The Parish Council again confirmed that no decision relating to the long-term use of the allotment land would or could be taken without full consultation with residents.

14.2.5 As a means of reassuring residents and interested Groups, it was suggested that Mr. Charlton and his representatives be invited to address the Annual Parish Meeting (8<sup>th</sup> May, 2008). Clerk to contact Mr. Charlton.

14.2.6 It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting be publicised and made a more social event, after statutory business, and that all village organisations be invited to attend to promote their activities. This would

be of interest to new residents, and could be useful publicity for the organisations concerned. Those to be invited (any omissions to be notified to Clerk): Police, WI, VDC, Post Office, V. Hall, Football Club, Allotments Group, Friendship Club, Garden Club, HCS, Bowls, PCC, SKDC, LCC, Library.

14.2.7 Date of Parish Council AGM to be changed to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

14.2.8 Clerk to reply to VDC letter, Cllr Hallas to respond in person.

#### 14.3 FORMER CHAIRMAN, CLLR MELVYN PATRICK.

The Clerk read a letter from Melvyn Patrick thanking the Council – past and present – for its support and expressed his great appreciation for the commemorative bench. Cllr Morgan advised that she had agreed with Melvyn that the bench be sited on the Village Green and a tree, immune from honey fungus disease, would be planted in the churchyard.

#### 14.4 WAR MEMORIAL.

Cllr Morgan has been requested by English Heritage to prepare a Maintenance Agreement and will contact the contractors in this matter.

#### 14.5 STREET LIGHT 43 (Sands Court/Station Street).

Cllr Flatters advised that SKDC had been asked in September 2007 to attend to this faulty light, and requested D. Cllr Webster pursue this matter.

#### 14.6 POLICE VISITS, 3 Dovecote.

Cllr Flatters advised that the police had made four visits – including an armed visit at 2.00a.m. – to the property looking for someone who had given the address as his own. These visits have caused distress to the residents. A complaint has been made, Incident Ref 144, 8/1/08, Jane Gibbons, 13.35hrs.

#### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING **NB Change of Date**

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2008, 7.30p.m., The Village Hall.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.19p.m.

Sheila Scholes,  
Clerk to the Council,  
13<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

#### 2008 Meeting Dates:

March 13<sup>th</sup>

April 10<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

May 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council AGM

June 12<sup>th</sup>

July 10<sup>th</sup>

September 11<sup>th</sup> October 9<sup>th</sup> November 13<sup>th</sup>