



**Minutes of Meeting of Rippingale Parish Council,
Held 21st February, 2008, 7.30p.m. at Rippingale Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs D. Sankey (Chairman) Mrs. M. Morgan, Mrs. A. Adams, M. Exton, P. Moseley, M. Hallas, D. Cllr Mrs. A. Webster, C. Cllr M. Hill (from 7.45p.m.)

Cllr D. Sankey took the Chair and welcomed all present, in particular the newly co-opted Council Members.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Received from Cllr B. Flatters.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST:

2.1 As holder of Allotment, Cllr A. Adams.

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

2.3 As a Member of the Village Design Committee, Cllr M. Hallas.

2.4 As a Member of the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr A. Adams.

3 POLICE MATTERS.

3.1 "Local Crime, Community Sentence" – offer of presentation by Magistrate & Probation Officer, Lincs. Criminal Justice Board. Of possible interest to Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, pass to Cllr Flatters.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Adams seconded the proposal that Minutes of Meeting 10th January, 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman. This was agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 RIPPINGALE SCHOOL: Cllr Morgan is advised that Lincoln Diocese is in discussion with LCC and SKDC as to the future use of the buildings and land. English Heritage has agreed to bring consideration of the listing of the building forward.

5.2 WAR MEMORIAL AND CHURCHYARD:

5.2.1 Cllr Morgan has contacted Hirst Conservation with regard to supplying the Maintenance Schedule required by English Heritage and is awaiting their reply.

5.2.2. Cllr Morgan has contacted the Woodland Trust for advice on obtaining a commemorative tree for the churchyard that will be immune to honey fungus.

5.2.3 It was confirmed that the commemorative bench, purchased to acknowledge the work of former Chairman Cllr M. Patrick would be sited on the Village Green.

5.3 STANDING ORDERS/RISK ASSESSMENT/PARISH PLAN:

5.3.1. STANDING ORDERS: Cllr Hallas advises that these are correct but unnecessarily complex for the Council's needs. He will review further and draft a simplified version for consideration by the Parish Council.

5.3.2.RISK ASSESSMENT: Cllr Hallas confirmed that the Risk Assessment relates to the "Risks to the Parish Council's objectives not being achieved". He has prepared an initial review and noted two areas of concern viz: regulations regarding contractors employed by the Council and statement that the Council consults and acts in the best interests of the residents of the village. Copies of the draft Risk Assessment to be circulated to councillors.

5.3.2 PARISH PLAN: Cllr Hallas advised that this follows the Risk Assessment, sets out the Council's "Mission Statement" and analyses how the Council's aims are achieved or otherwise on a yearly basis. Copies of the draft Plan to be circulated to Councillors.

5.4 REPLACEMENT PORTAKABIN: Cllr Moseley advised that the Football Club is not proceeding with the proposed replacement portakabin. He will continue to liaise with the Football Club Secretary.

5.5 PROPOSED CLOSURE RIPPINGALE POST OFFICE.

5.5.1 The Clerk has received (20.02.08) Post Office "Supplementary Decision Booklet" which advises that Rippingale Post Office will close and be replaced with a mobile unit, sited Scarborough Close layby, opening for four half-days per week.

5.5.2 Cllr Hallas reported that the opposition to the closure is on-going and is now part of a national campaign. No licence appears to have been sought to use the layby, the location is unacceptable, and proposed service to wheelchair users is inadequate. A further meeting has been arranged with M. Partington (Post Office) to discuss alternatives to the mobile facility. It is believed that closure of the Post Office facility will result in closure of the shop. Full particulars will be published in the Newsletter.

5.5.3 C. Cllr Hill confirmed his understanding that the layby is owned by the County Council and that no approach has been made to the County or District Council regarding its use. He further advised that the recent national government Select Committee has recommended that closure of post offices should not threaten the only shop in a village community.

5.6 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 8th MAY, 2008.

Cllr Sankey confirmed that Mr. Charlton is pleased to speak in connection with his long term development plans of the land adjoining the allotments. It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising Cllrs Sankey, Moseley and

Adams meet to plan the evening. It was agreed that in addition to the formal business (Chairman's Report, Annual Accounts et al) the intention is to have an informal event, encouraging a sense of community and providing an opportunity for village organisations to promote themselves.

5.7 DOG WASTE BINS:

Clerk has looked into emptying service: SKDC have no facility, NKDC charge parishes £80 p.a. for a service, but cannot operate out of area. A contractor recommended by SKDC has not returned calls. It was agreed that supply of dog waste bins would not necessarily improve behaviour of dog owners who will not pick up dog waste for disposal and that no further action would be taken in this matter. Clerk to report in Newsletter.

6. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE & GRASS CUTTING

6.1 Cllr Exton advised that Mr. Boyfield is working on playing field matters as highlighted by RoSPA Safety Report.

6.2 Condition of tennis court is causing concern: poor state of repair and littered with bottles and cans. Clerk to look into having the area designated Alcohol Free, with reference to SKDC. Monitoring of anti-social behaviour on Playing Field to be monitored and assistance sought from Community Police Officers.

6.3 Newsletter item to be used to rekindle interest in formation of a Tennis Club. Cllr Moseley advised that grant aid for refurbishment could be available via Lawn Tennis Association or Lottery fund for fencing and surfacing.

6.4 Allotment hedges have been cut, Mr. Boyfield will commence burning in near future. It was agreed that additional trees be purchased to fill gaps in hedges, cost £217 including planting, from allotment grant funds.

6.5 Work is to be done on verges Station Street to A15 but problem with branches left by contractors who felled trees for Messrs Burt and Jessop. Clerk to request details of contractor and refer to LCC Highways for removal request.

6.6 Skateboard ramp sections: It was agreed that these were surplus to requirements and Mr. Scholes, who is storing the sections, be advised that they may be disposed of.

6.7 Damaged fence rear of 15 East Street reported to Clerk to be inspected by Cllr Exton and appropriate action taken.

6.8 Keys to portakabin to be located. Clerk to contact P. Read.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - List previously circulated.

7.1 (LCC) Public Consultation – Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire. Consultation period until 7th March, 2008 full details on website www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/wastestrategy

7.2 (SKDC) Standards Committee Agenda, Orders & Regulations Consultation & Appendix meeting 1st February 2008 and Minutes of meeting 5th October, 2007.

7.3 “Allotment & Leisure Gardener” – passed to Cllr Adams.

7.4 Charity Commission Newsletter, 01/08 passed to Cllr Hallas.

7.5 (Mr. T. Bladon 22.01.08) Long Term Development Plans, previously circulated to councillors. It is hoped that Mr. Charlton's agreement to speak at the Annual Parish meeting will reassure Mr. Bladon.

7.6 (SKDC) Hierarchy Update January 2008 – Clerk has returned questionnaire listing amenities and services in the village.

7.7 (SKDC) “Establish Develop Succeed” Business Events – passed to Cllr Moseley.

7.8 (SKDC) Polling District & Station Review, poster displayed and Polling Place Review Questionnaire returned by Clerk.

7.9 (LCC) Community Car Schemes information leaflet, pass to Mr. Diess.

7.10 (LALC) Notice of Forum Meetings which replace area Committee meetings.

7.11 Calor Gas Best Kept Village competition details and information seminar – passed to Cllr Exton.

8. VILLAGE DESIGN COMMITTEE & ALLOTMENTS GROUP.

8.1 Village Design Committee: Cllr Hallas advised that VDC welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Parish Meeting 8th May.

8.2 Allotments Group:

8.2.1 Lottery Fund correspondence received reminding the Parish Council that a report of award expenditure will be required.

8.2.2 Cllr Exton continues to liaise with Mr. Simon Goode on progress of the allotment refurbishments.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Bills for Payment & Bank Accounts:

C. Boyfield (January)	£389.00
S.M. Scholes	£253.33
D. Sankey, contra Branch Bros receipt	£ 60.00
LALC	£ 10.00
Fovia	£ 29.02
C. Boyfield, agreed additional work	£783.24
Pilgrim Mowers	£524.71.

Receipts: LCC Grass Cutting and Allotment Rentals.

Funds, as at 4th February 2008 £12,499.

9.2 REQUEST FOR PAYMENT UNDER SECTION 137. Cllr M. Hallas declared and Personal and Prejudicial Interest.

9.2.1 Cllr Hallas requested the Parish Council reimburse travel expenses, total £138.00 of three of the four residents who attended a meeting in London with the Post Office. All other expenses incurred in the campaign to retain the Post Office have been met by donations in kind, or by individuals. Cllr Hallas then withdrew from the meeting.

9.2.2 It was agreed that reimbursement of the above expense be made as an extraordinary item. Any future requests should be notified to the Parish

Council before expenses were incurred. Proposed by Cllr Exton, Seconded by Cllr Moseley.

9.2.3 Cllr Hallas rejoined the meeting and was requested to submit claim for expenses to the Clerk.

10. PLANNING

10.1 (1311) Conversion of barns to form 2 dwellings: Cardyke Farmhouse, Long Drove, Ripplingale. – Planning Permission granted 13th December, 2007.

10.2 (1675) Erection Double Garage, 163 Station Street. – Planning Permission granted 22nd January, 2008.

10.4 (1688) Change of Use Agricultural to Equine Paddock & Stables, Barn Farm, Station Street. Nothing to report.

10.5 (0134) 2-Storey Side Extension, 48 Dovecote Estate.

It was agreed that a site visit would be made by Cllrs Sankey, Hallas, Moseley and Exton. Should any objections be raised as a result of the visit, other councillors will be notified for a full discussion on the application. In the absence of any objections raised, Clerk will notify SKDC accordingly.

10.6 Planning Application Policy: It was agreed, to be formalised at Annual General Meeting, that a sub-committee would be formed to visit every planning application received. Membership of the sub-committee to be flexible to avoid potential conflict of interests. The sub-committee would be authorised to recommend approval of straightforward/uncontroversial applications, but would refer to the Parish Council where full discussion is required.

11. DISTRICT & COUNCIL BUSINESS.

11.1 D. Cllr Webster advised that the District Council will set its annual budget (4.95%) on 3rd March.

11.2 D. Cllr Webster was requested to again ask SKDC to attend to the new wall in front of 101 – 107 Station Street. Water run-off is a continuing and dangerous problem.

11.3 C. Cllr Hill advised that the County Council will set its annual budget at 3.5%. Police funding is a major issue. Extra funding is being made available for repairs to Unclassified and “C” roads in rural areas, with emphasis on effective repair rather than temporary solutions.

11.4 C. Cllr Hill advised that Delaine’s buses are withdrawing some services. To compensate for this, the County Council is setting up “Call Connect” which will operate from Sleaford and Bourne.

11.5 Hedge between Village Hall & 96 Station Street. The County Council has trimmed the hedge, but will not maintain it. Its overgrown condition is causing obstruction and potential damage to Village Hall Roof. Residents of 96 Station Street advise that the hedge is not their responsibility. Clerk to write to residents and to Village Hall Committee advising above situation and referring, in the absence of a claim of ownership, the Village Hall Management Committee to carry out trimming or removal of the hedge.

D. Cllr Webster left the meeting at 9.30a.m.

12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – No public present.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Cllr Hallas advised that the Charity Commission Village Hall Annual Return is to be completed on-line before May 2008 by Parish Council as Trustees. Mr. Hallas to liaise with Clerk.

13.2 Cllr Moseley has received report of camping on field off Doctor's Lane. It was agreed that this was not a Parish Council matter.

13.3 Cllr Morgan queried if marking of potholes in Middle Street indicates that repairs are to be carried out. This was confirmed. Cllr Morgan requested that repairs to road East Street (by bend) and Cemetery layby be reported to LCC Highways.

13.4 Cllrs Sankey, Moseley, Hallas and Exton agreed to meet and set up the computer equipment donated for use in the Village Hall.

13.5 Cllr Sankey suggested that internet circulating of information among councillors could be beneficial. He further suggested that Agenda items be set a time limit for discussion.

13.6 C. Cllr Hill requested that "County and District Council Business" be moved to beginning of agenda, which would enable him to attend meetings more frequently. It was further proposed that "Questions from the Public" be held at the beginning of the meeting. These proposals were agreed.

13.7 "Joint Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – SKDC, SHDC & Rutland County Council" – previously circulated to Councillors. No further comment.

13.7 STREET LIGHT by 71 Station Street still requires attention. C. Cllr Hill advised that Street Light Repairs should be referred to the County Council – 01522 782070. ACTION: Cllr Flatters.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13th March, 2008, 7.30p.m., The Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45p.m.

**Sheila Scholes,
Clerk to the Council,
22nd February, 2007.**

2008 Meeting Dates:

April 10th

May 8th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

May 15th Parish Council AGM

June 12th

July 10th

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

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