



**Approved DRAFT Minutes of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting,
held on 8 May 2019 at 7.00pm in the Rippingale Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs C. Charlton (Chairman), S. Charlton, E. Field-Lucas, S. Warcup, A. Vaughan

Apologies: C.Cllr Hill, Cllr Goode, HCS Co-ordinator, VHMC & RGAG.

In Attendance: Michelle Free (Clerk/RFO), D.Cllr Moseley and 4 members of public, including Community Representatives from the ANP, PCC, & R&DWI.

1. Welcome.

001. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting, gave an overview of the format and invited everyone to remain for the AGM which follows.

2. Chairman's Annual Report.

002. The Chairman delivered his Annual Report:

"I am pleased to deliver the Parish Council Annual Report. It has definitely been a busy year as usual and I would like to record my gratitude for the admirable efforts of the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our casual workman and the many Villagers who undertook services, met issues and pushed initiatives forward. Particular mention is made of Julie Parry, who retired from the Parish Council in February this year. She was a keen and diligent Member who achieved much.

Turning to Finance. The Parish Council's finances remain on a sure footing and we undertake to see that a viable contingency is maintained to counter unanticipated circumstances. Control of the accounts is correctly undertaken by the Council and through internal and external Auditors. We have succeeded in keeping the Precept at last year's level. We have worked, with donations from others, in progressing a number of projects, which I will talk about.

We continue, albeit at a measured pace, with our project to improve the provision of play equipment on the Jubilee Playing Field. We have received some promises of funding, for example from SKDC, but these are conditional on other sources of income being found; I am hopeful that these will materialise in the coming months. Some other additional funding will be through the Parish Council's budget, Tesco and the Beerfest, who have generously donated a further £1,000. In the meantime, we will refurbish the present equipment to ensure it can be used safely; this commenced with the necessary cutting back of the southern boundary hedge line.

Another project, which should be completed in May, is the erection of a set of 4 new lampposts in the Churchyard, which will replace a single unserviceable one. This has been funded through sponsorship and project managed by the Parish Council. I thank the sponsors; the appearance of the Churchyard will be enhanced by this initiative.

The Parish Council is now responsible for the majority of grass cutting of the public areas in the village, which we have to meet though our budget. We have striven to do this cost effectively by competitively tendering to engage an outside contractor. We will do the same for hedge cutting later in the year. As we endeavour to keep our village as presentable as possible, I must thank the many residents who are cutting grassed areas outside their properties. Other villagers I know make additional contributions to Village life but particular mention must also be made of John Tyler who has refurbished road signs throughout the Parish, assisted in cutting back trees in the Churchyard, helped erect swift boxes and varnished the Parish Council noticeboard.

Effective Communication is essential to the life of the Village and we have been well served through our Newsletter and the Village Website. Mike Bronze was principal editor for part of the year and Jamie Petch has now taken over as the sole editor. Many thanks for the splendid job they carried out, along with their delivery agents, to make sure this important media aspect continues to inform the Village. Similarly, no organisation, community or body can function positively without a website and this year has seen Helen Martin administering the Village Website with skill and much commitment. Great thanks to her. I must also recognise Derek Diess for capably running the Hospital Car Service which assists many villagers. Credit is also due to the RGAG for aiding us in conscientiously administering the allotments, which are so well-used. The Parish Council is also glad to contribute towards the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, as we are towards the Feast Committee work; this is a somewhat unique organisation which gives our village many positive events.

All these Villagers' actions display a beneficial community outlook. Finally, we look ahead to another interesting and rewarding year to support the Village continuing as an active, contented community."

3. Approve Minutes of the last Annual Meeting

003. It was unanimously resolved to ratify the approved Minutes of the APM held on 10 May 2018 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the file copy. **Clerk to publish.**

4. Receive Reports from Police, County & District Councils

004. There was no representative or report from the Police or County Council.

South Kesteven District Council

005. D.Cllr Moseley stated that it had been a busy 2 years since the change of leadership at SKDC, with more emphasis being placed on increasing services and assets, e.g. leisure centre, cinema, rural business hub network and an additional £500,000 on street cleaning; SKDC is the first to set a higher standard and had achieved the best levels in the country. Additional Enforcement Officers have resulted in more fines and less litter. The Food Waste trial was going well with 85% uptake, the highest in the county, resulting in a 12% increase in recycled rubbish and an 18% reduction in landfill; D.Cllr hoped to see the scheme rolled out district wide. The Planning Inspector is currently at SKDC reviewing the Local Plan. SKDC remained committed to its aim to be the best District in the Country. D.Cllr then invited questions.

006. The Chairman enquired about the issue of verge litter. D.Cllr Moseley stated that major roads were the responsibility of LCC Highways, with other roads the responsibility of SKDC. The issue facing SKDC was that the roads were busy and dangerous to work on, requiring a rolling roadblock or being completely closed to safely remove the litter. It was a District issue, but the District was not the cause. D.Cllr Moseley stated that he supported any safe initiative but was preferable that litter was not thrown from vehicles. Designated litter bags could be made available for community clean-ups; full bags could be collected by SKDC.

5. Receive Reports from Community Group & Organisations

a. Aveland Neighbourhood Plan

007. The ANP Chairman read out the following report:

“Progress on the development of the Aveland Neighbourhood Plan has been challenging in the past year. Initial progress was muted. Due to the absence of involvement in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan by Aslackby and Dunsby Parish Council the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area has been altered to now encompass Rippingale and Dowsby. The composition of Planning Group has also been refined accordingly, with Rippingale Parish Council taking a lead.

There has been strong support from the Dowsby members of the Planning Group, and this allied with the renewed Rippingale commitment has seen a stronger progress on the development of the Plan. The Project Manager, Mike Hallas, has been a catalyst for this and the Dowsby members are also especially keen to see timely progression. The engagement of a planning consultancy has aided progress and added expertise. The Village website has been used to post relevant documents to chart progress, with the Newsletter containing articles in the same vein.

This progress has resulted in the production of foundation papers to inform the drafting of the plan and the undertaking of a public consultation to assist in the creation of a Neighbourhood profile for both Dowsby and Rippingale. Recent developments have seen a training seminar undertaken to assist in formulating the Plan proper and both Dowsby and Rippingale members are currently working to produce the Plan’s Vision and Objectives, which will allow the commencement of the drafting of the Plan proper. Future planning consultancy to aid this is also under consideration.

It is hoped that the draft Aveland Neighbourhood Plan will be produced by year end, to be ready for SKDC and public scrutiny in the new year.

008. The Project Manager stated that a lot of assistance was expected from the Consultants. The Neighbourhood profile would detail what aspects of the villages should be protected (e.g. views & landscape) and was due to be published on the Village website shortly. This work would be used to help create the Plan’s policies.

b. Feast Organising Committee

009. There was no report from the Feast Organising Committee.

c. Hospital Car Service

010. The HCS Coordinator was unavailable and had sent his apologies and report, which was read out by the Chairman; *“The Hospital Car Scheme continues to help some of our more vulnerable residents; long may it continue. Please place on record my thanks to the councillors and Clerk for the efforts made on behalf of the Rippingale residents. In the last year, the volunteer drivers have driven a total of*

1785 miles with 10 drivers undertaking 70 trips; an additional 150 miles and 6 journeys on the previous year.

d. Parochial Church Council

011. The Churchwarden had sent his apologies and report. The PCC Treasurer gave an overview of the Report: *“Coffee Mornings: I reported last year we were going from strength to strength and it gives me great pleasure to say this has continued. You are only as good as the team behind you and we at Rippingale are very fortunate to have such a great team of helpers who put so much Time, Money and effort to make these mornings successful come rain or shine. The special mornings which were particular fun being Strawberries and Cream, Harvest, Christmas and recently Pancakes. Having all these different themes keeps people interested especially with all the other goodies available to buy depending on the time of year. So a very big thank you to all our helpers.*

Churchyards: We have had our Annual tidy up this year and also lowered the Yew Trees by the War memorial and the main porch. This has made a real beneficial difference to the immediate areas around the said trees. We also trimmed up the trees in the cemetery. It is our intention to paint the railings at the cemetery when the weather improves. I must convey my thanks to a very hard-working gang of volunteers also to Eric Jessop giving us a place to tip the rubbish, and Shaun Charlton for supplying a Tractor and Trailer. As we know at this present moment in time, we are having 4 Victorian Style Street Lamps installed along the Church path running East To West. Hopefully this will be completed by the middle of May. This is all being paid for by generous members of the parish which has been implemented by the Parish Council. The Churchyard plan is ongoing with a special thank you to Christine Newell in bringing this more up to speed. It is Christine's intention to get or make some special markers for Grave Reservations in the near future.

Church Roof: Just to recap briefly, what was a £40,000 job has developed into £114,000. This has been split into 2 Phases. Phase 1 completed leaving us with a temporary roof and Phase 2 being another £56,000 to find to complete the job. Grant funding is in the process of being found with help from Lincoln Dioceses. To succeed with the grant, we have to be seen in making the Church much more available to the Community. This can be done by possibly having information boards within the Church giving a history of the parish through the centuries. The idea being we are encouraging people near and far to visit. We must also try to have functions so our Coffee Mornings is a good box to be ticked but other activities must be encouraged. Making the Church available for meetings and village organisations to use.”

e. Row Garden Allotment Group

012. The RGAG Chairman had sent his apologies and the following report, which was read out by the Chairman: *“On behalf of allotment holders - thank you to the Parish Council for cutting the hedge. Much appreciated. All running smoothly at the moment. Open Allotment Gardens scheduled for Sunday 14th July 2019.”*

f. Village Hall Management Committee

013. The VHMC Chairman had sent her apologies and the following report, which was read out by the Chairman: *“The Village Hall continues to thrive with no major issues at this time.”*

The Council acknowledged the ongoing improvements of the Village Hall. The attending public raised comments of the loss of the Conference/Meeting Room and the steepness of the entrance steps. The Chairman agreed to pass on the comments to the VHMC.

g. Rippingale Jubilee Playing Field Trust

014. The RPC Chairman briefed the attending public on establishing the RJPFT Bank Account to assist in obtaining grant funding towards the new play equipment project.

h. Rippingale & District WI

015. The R&DWI Rep read out the following report:

“The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then our aims have broadened and we are now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. We celebrated our centenary in 2015 and currently have almost 220,000 members in approximately 6,300 WIs. We play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. We are a charity and must conform to the Charity Commission rules, we are non-political and non-sectarian although we can show an interest and receive education in political and religious issues. The main purposes of the Women's Institute organisation are:

1. To advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas, including:
 - political and social issues – on a local, national and international scale
 - cultural subjects – such as music and drama
 - interest areas – including agriculture, crafts, home economics, science and health
2. To promote sustainable development which meets the needs of future generations without compromising those of the present by:
 - educating people in the conservation of the environment and the responsible use of natural resources
 - promoting sustainable economic growth
3. To advance public health.
4. To advance public citizenship by promoting civic responsibility and volunteering.

Last year Rippingale and District had forty-eight members who enjoyed guest speakers from gardeners to an ice-cream parlour business owner, a local pop singer, a Royal Protection Officer and a humorous removal van man with tales that made us cry with laughter. We donated items for our local Food Bank and Boston Refuge, collected milk bottle tops for Lincolnshire Air Ambulance and stamps for the Leprosy Mission. We also donated to Associated Country Women of the World who raise the standard of living of rural women and families through education, training and community development programs in all corners of the world.

We enjoyed a trip to the Hindu temple in Peterborough, a Synagogue in Leeds, to Harrogate Spring Flower Show, attended our National Annual Meeting in Cardiff, a theatre trip in London to see 42nd Street, Lincolnshire Ladies Luncheons, Rockingham Castle with High Tea, Fizz and Fromage in Kirkby Underwood, Knowledge quizzes in Hale Magna, craft workshops, a Make, Bake and Show event, Driver Awareness courses, Archery and Walking Netball to name but a few activities!

Our campaign for the year was called 'Mental Health Matters' which asked us to recognise the importance of parity between mental health and physical health, to take action to make it as acceptable to talk about mental health issues as much as physical health issues and to lobby the government for better support. We also continually work on previous years campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy, More Midwives, Love our Libraries, End Plastic Soup, Care not Custody, Link Together and Alleviate Loneliness and SOS for Honeybees.

We have a varied programme for this year and are currently undergoing the selection process for our next campaign. Our National Annual Meeting will be in Bournemouth this year. We also liaise with our local community and will be at Rippingale Feast, Dowsby Fete and Lincolnshire Show and we will also be inviting our local group of WIs to some of our events.

As you can hear, we are busy, caring people who enjoy fun and friendship and we welcome new members to join us. We also encourage visitors, so if you like what you have heard, we meet on the first Thursday of every month except August, at 7.30pm, so come along."

i. **Rippingale Beer Festival**

016. The Chairman gave an overview of the planned closure of the Beer Festival bank account and the allocation of the remaining funds (~£1100) to the JPF Play Equipment Project; no comments had been received following Newsletter consultation. The Chairman highlighted the "special thanks" that should be extended to Gail & Andrew Hyland for all their efforts in running the Festival. The archived accounts were due to be retained by the Parish Council until disposal.

5. Questions and Proposals from the Public

017. The Chairman invited questions, comments and proposals.

- A footpath or track around the perimeter of the JPF to the play equipment was suggested for ease of access.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited everyone to stay for the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.32pm.

File copy signed

Michelle Free, Clerk

13 May 2019