

RAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2001

Present: Cllr G E Morris, in the Chair
Cllrs Arden, Dixon, Jackson, Mellors, Rickells, Smith.

Also present: 7 members of the public
PC S George
D Landon, Clerk of the Parish Council

1 Apologies for Absence

None.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2000

Agreed.

3 Matters Arising

a) Village Hall Car Park

A request was received that the Council erect signs on the car park saying that skateboarding and ball games are not permitted. The Chairman asked for a vote to test the opinion of the meeting. The vote was tied at 5-5 with 4 abstentions and the matter will be referred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

4 Progress with projects to commemorate the Millennium

The vicar reported that the new village signs will be erected later this week, their erection having been delayed because of the wet weather. There had been no further progress with plans for a garden in Woodbeck and Cllr Smith advised the meeting that the priorities of the Tenants and Residents Association had changed.

5 Policing in the Village

Asked what can be done to prevent children playing on the roads. PC George said that he could, and had on occasions, talked to parents. He stressed that, although the police can intervene, it is really a village problem and it is up to the village to provide an off-street play area which is accessible and safe. In response to a question, he advised that Greenside could not be closed to allow children to play there. Members of the public commented that they never see a police officer in the village – P C George said that there are only four officers to cover the whole of rural East Bassetlaw from Normanton-on-Trent to Bircotes, some parts of which have more serious problems with crime than Rampton. Neighbourhood Watch is up and running but there has been no meeting since there have only been two minor crimes in that time.

The Chairman thanked PC George for attending.

6 Any Other Business relevant to a Parish Meeting

a) Playing Field

It was reported that children were not using the playing field because of the condition of the equipment. The Playing Field Committee will investigate as a matter of urgency and, if any equipment is dangerous, it will be removed.

b) Planning Application for Change of Use from Agriculture to Sport

Members of the public expressed their concern that the planning application is very vague and contains no details of buildings etc. The Chairman explained that this is because the application is solely for change of use and there are no plans for buildings, or anything else to do with the site, at this stage. The Parish Council's original idea was to provide a site of 1-2 acres with a small building for changing facilities etc. During discussions, Bassetlaw District Council referred to the funding available through the National Lottery. There are various conditions attached to such grants: one, for example, is that there must be a building large enough to hold 4 badminton courts. A meeting has been arranged with the District Council and Sports England, to which local Parish Councils and schools will be invited, to discuss this idea further. Until this meeting takes place and the planning application has been considered by the District Council, it is impossible to say how, or if, the project will proceed. The Parish Council is likely to provide some of the funding for the scheme, the amount depending on the size of the scheme and on grants available.

The vicar referred to rumours which are rife in the village that the existing Village Hall is going to close and be replaced by a new building on the Retford Road site. Cllr Arden read the report from the last issue of Roudabout which had made no reference to the replacement of the Village Hall.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be prepared to consider a request from the Scout Group for financial support if it decided to apply for a grant to provide premises.

c) Village Hall

The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee reported that new equipment had been purchased with the help of a grant from the National Lottery. Clubs will be starting in the near future and a flier will be delivered to every house in the village with details.

d) Children

Cllr Arden commented on the number of references which had been made to 'the children of the village are creating problems'. She feels strongly that it is wrong to refer to all the young people of the village in this way. Most of the youngsters are well-behaved and enthusiastic and the problem is a very small number of trouble-causers.

e) Other matters

- Coles Charity – the practice of distributing chocolates to the elderly people of the village had been discontinued because the Charity was at that time short of funds.
- The Council decided to raise a precept on the advice of the Head of Financial Services, Bassetlaw District Council, because the District Council was at that time considering the way in which its contribution was apportioned to Parish Councils. One option was to share out the contribution in proportion to the precept – those Parish Councils not raising a precept would therefore receive no contribution.
- The Balance Sheet for the Village Hall will be placed on the notice board.
- The only continuing financial comeback on the Parish Council of the Post Office will be the maintenance of the building.


20-5-02