

# Rampton Parish Council

## Minutes of meeting held on 11 July 2005

**Present:** Cllr Morris BEM, Chairman  
Cllrs Arden, Jackson, Leaton, Mellors, Rickells, Smith

**Also present:** D Landon, Clerk of the Council  
5 members of the public

### 1 Apologies for Absence

None.

### 2 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 3 Minutes of meeting held on 13 June

Approved.

### 4 Matters arising

#### a) Sports facilities

Cllr Arden reported that the committee had been pleased to see such a good attendance at the public meeting on 4 July and will take note of the various (good) points raised. There had been some discussion about whether the committee should remain as it is or apply to register as a charity. Whilst there are some grant funding bodies exclusively for charities, there are sufficient sources of funding available for properly-constituted bodies, including, in some cases, Parish Councils and the committee had decided to retain the status quo.

There has been no further contact with Lincoln University.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Arden for all her hard work.

#### b) Rampton Sport & Leisure Committee – request for grant

Cllr Arden advised that the £500 awarded at the last meeting is sufficient for the committee to open a bank account and to pay for the relatively small sums expended.

#### c) Salt box

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked the Village Handyman for ordering and installing the new seat and, now that this has been done, the need to move the salt box has become more urgent. The Clerk reported that, despite a reminder, there had been no correspondence from the County Council since February when they had advised that the Council could expect to hear from the Gritting Supervisor 'within two weeks'. The Council decided to move the salt box to a location near to the junction with Torksey Street and to advise Nottinghamshire County Council when this has been done. The Chairman commented that the Council should explore the possibility of obtaining a dog bin.

d) Health & Safety

Nothing to report – this item can now be removed from the agenda and included once a year.

e) Torksey Ferry Road

Nothing to report – this item can now be removed from the agenda.

f) Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman reported that Terry Reynolds had attended the public meeting on 4 July. The feeling at the Annual Parish Meeting had been that the Council should subscribe to Neighbourhood Watch provided that sufficient village residents are willing to act as co-ordinators. The Council resolved to use its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make a donation of £200 to Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Reynolds reminding him of the commitments he made at the public meeting and, in particular, asking him to contact the six people who had agreed to be co-ordinators.

**5 Planning**

a) Correspondence

None. Cllr Rickells advised that the planning application for the development on land adjacent to Orchard Drive will go to the Planning Committee no earlier than 17 August.

b) Applications considered by the Planning Committee

- Erect pair of semi-detached cottages, land fronting Torksey Street – no objections

c) Decisions

None.

**6 Village Hall**

Cllr Arden reported that the troublesome door has now been fixed.

**7 Accounts**

a) Internal audit and Annual Return

The Clerk reported that that the internal audit has not yet been completed. The Council provisionally agreed the Annual Return; the Clerk was asked to circulate the completed Annual Return which will be signed by the Chairman and by the Responsible Financial Officer provided that no member has any objection. Should this be the case agreement of the Annual Return will have to wait until the next meeting.

b) Report to Hacker Young for approval

The Clerk reported that the audit arrangements are that each year Hacker Young selects 5% of Councils for an intermediate audit. As part of this process Hacker Young has asked for a substantial amount of supplementary information which is included in a draft report, previously circulated. There is no additional direct charge for this work. Although most of the

questions to be answered are standard it is clear from some of the questions that the report has been specifically tailored to this Council. The Council agreed that the report as it stands can be sent to Hacker Young. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for completing this time-consuming report.

c) Applications for grants

The Council agreed that applications for grants will be considered at the next meeting. Village organisations who wish to apply for a grant will be asked to write to the Clerk by the end of August. The Clerk will post notices in the village and Cllr Arden will include a notice in *Roundabout*. Although there were some views to the contrary, the Council agreed that the sum available should not exceed the £1500 which was budgeted for this financial year. The Chairman advised that members who would like the Council to award more in grants should raise this at the time of the preparation of the budget for 2006/07. The Clerk was asked to include a list of organisations which had applied for grants with the agenda for the next meeting.

d) Receipts

The Council noted the following receipts:

	£
Severn Trent – refund of charges	64.19
Customs & Excise – VAT refund	137.69

The Council noted that the refund from Severn Trent is of charges paid since 1 April 2004. Cllr Mellors commented that it is unjustified for a company to charge for services it has not provided and that the Council is entitled to a refund of charges for twenty years or more. The Council noted that Severn Trent had advised that there had been a change in billing arrangements in 1984. Local Authorities had advised whether there was a connection to the public sewer but not the nature of the connection. The onus had been on owners to provide evidence of surface water drainage and this has been widely publicised.

e) Accounts for payment

The Council agreed the following account for payment:

	cheque	£
Laneham IDB	056	536.22
B Doyle	057	876.59
Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch	058	200.00

f) Bank balances

After the above transactions the account balances will be:

	£
Current Account	834.82
Nottingham Building Society	<u>60000.00</u>
	<u>61034.82</u>

## **8 Correspondence**

### a) defra – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Council noted this Act will allow Parish Councils to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for litter, graffiti, flyposting and dog offences and to introduce dog control orders for a range of offences (effectively replacing the current bylaw system).

### b) Bassetlaw District Council – Street Naming & Numbering

The District Council had advised that they had ‘conducted a village survey around Rampton and had obtained replies to current addresses in use’. They are also ‘in the process of conducting an initial assessment with the GIS Property Manager to determine the next course of action’. The Council decided to await further progress but members commented that this process seems to be very slow.

### c) Environment Agency – Tidal Trent Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Council noted that comments on this draft strategy are required by 30 September.

### d) Documents for Inspection

The following documents were available for inspection by members:

- Bassetlaw District Council – Best Value Performance Plan
- Nottinghamshire County Council – Planning and Property Briefing
- Clerks & Councils Direct – issue #40
- Notts ALC (Northern Area) Committee – minutes of last meeting
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service – Action Plan

## **9 Any Other Business**

### a) Fly tipping

Cllr Rickells advised that he had taken the registration number of a vehicle tipping rubbish at the entrance to a field. There were two witnesses to this incident which had been reported to the Police and to Bassetlaw District Council.

## **10 New contract for Parish Councils Clerks**

The Council agreed that the Clerk should meet Cllrs Arden and Jackson to discuss the details of the contract. The Clerk reported that he had prepared a draft, based on discussion with the Chairman of another Council, for consideration. The Clerk was asked to submit a bill for the additional hours he had worked preparing the report for Hacker Young.

## **11 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 12 September at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

