

Rampton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on 21 November 2005

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

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Leaton, Smith

2 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in item 5a)
Cllr Arden declared a personal interest in items 5a) and part of 8c)
Cllr Mellors declared a personal interest in item 4a)
Cllr Rickells declared a personal interest in item 4a)

3 Minutes of meeting held on 10 October

Cllr Mellors argued that minute 4b) differed from his recollection of what had been agreed which was that the planning applications for the change of use and the removal of the hedge would be submitted simultaneously. Other members disagreed and after a vote the minutes were approved without amendment. Cllr Mellors asked for his objection to this decision to be recorded.

4 Field on Retford Road

a) Pipes

The Clerk reported that he had written to Laneham Internal Drainage Board confirming that the Parish Council will pay for the cost of the pipes. The Council noted that the Drainage Board is willing to undertake the piping of the dyke alongside the proposed playing fields and discussed a letter from the Drainage Board, previously circulated, advising that current legislation requires an Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken to determine if the works are likely to have significant environmental impacts. This also requires an advertisement to be placed in the local press advising of the proposed works. The estimated cost for the ecological survey and short appraisal is not more than £300 and the cost of the advert is normally in the region of about £400. Cllr Arden referred to the need for a wildlife survey on the whole site before grant applications can be submitted. The Council decided that it had no option but to pay the Drainage Board to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment; however, they will be asked to survey the whole site at no extra charge. The Clerk was asked to query the charge of £400 for placing advertisements in the *Retford Times*.

b) Land ownership

The Council noted that the land owner is now minded to hand the land over to 'the Parish' provided that certain conditions can be met. In practice this means that the Parish Council would become the legal owner of the land. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked Mrs Mellors for her generosity in making the land available to the village. Cllr Mellors reported that he had submitted the planning application for change of use of this additional strip of land. The Council agreed that he should withdraw this application, if it is not too late, and the Council will then discuss at its next meeting.

5 Sports Facilities

a) Constitution of Sports & Leisure Committee

Cllr Arden reported that it had become increasingly apparent that the Sports & Leisure Committee should be an autonomous group with no connection to the Parish Council. Although the short-term reason for this change is to widen the sources of finance, the Council agreed that, long-term, it is consistent with its view that the sports facilities should be viable in their own right ie without permanent Parish Council support.

b) Implications for Village Hall Committee

The Council decided that the Village Hall Committee should carry on as before (ie including three Parish Councillors) at least until the Village Hall AGM in April.

6 Other matters arising from meeting held on 10 October

a) Street names

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to arrange a meeting but will endeavour to do so as soon as possible.

b) Local Development Framework

The Clerk reported that, following discussion with the Chairman, he had cancelled the proposed visit by Officers from Bassetlaw District Council Planning Department to this evening's meeting. Unfortunately it is not possible to arrange another meeting before the publication of the preferred option for the Core Strategy in early January. However, the planners are making a presentation at Laneham Parish Council on 12 December and it should be possible for interested members to attend this meeting. The Chairman and Cllr Jackson are interested in attending. The Clerk was asked to let Cllrs Leaton and Smith know of these arrangements.

c) Post Office

Cllr Jackson asked whether there has been any response from the Post Office to the Council's request for facilities to be made available at the village Post office for the issuing of vehicle excise licences. The Clerk advised that he had now sent two letters but had not even received an acknowledgement.

d) Parking on Pavements

The Clerk was asked again to contact the Police Officer for the village – there has been no reduction in parking on pavements; if anything the problem is getting worse.

e) Grading and Drainage of Field

Cllr Arden reported on a meeting with the architect from Mayber Associates. Most grant applications ask for the contribution made by the community and Cllr Arden felt that it would be helpful if the Council agrees to pay for the grading and drainage of the field. The Chairman commented that the Council can not make a decision on this until tenders are received. The Clerk agreed to prepare, for the next meeting, a summary of the money that the Council has already spent on this project.

7 Handyman's Report

Nothing to report.

8 Planning

a) Correspondence

- Planning application for residential development, land off Laneham Street – the Chairman reported that a letter from Bassetlaw District Council had been circulated to members. In essence the letter suggested that if the Parish Council withdraws its objection to this development the recommendation from officers to the Planning Committee will be to grant permission with a condition that the developer makes a financial contribution to sports facilities in the village. It was clear that members considered that the Council's position, as set out in its response to the revised planning application, should be unchanged and the Clerk had replied to the District Council to this effect. Cllr Arden queried whether it was legitimate for the District Council to send such a letter. Cllr Jackson wondered whether the Council had acted in the best interests of all the residents of the village in turning down the offer of money for sports facilities.

b) Decisions

- Erect single storey side extension, Taynar, Retford Road Woodbeck – approved
- Erect steel framed storage building, land at Bramley Oak Lodge, Greenside – permission refused
- Erect conservatory, Zuriel, Greenside – no objections

c) Applications considered by the Planning Committee

- Erect porch, rear extension and garage, Tucks Croft, Treswell Road – no objections
- Construct dormer window & convert attached building to domestic use, Greenside Farm, Rampton Green Road – no objections

9 Village Hall

Mr Redmile had advised that he no longer has any plans of the Village Hall.

10 Accounts

a) National Minimum Wage

The Council noted that the National Minimum Wage had increased from £4.85 per hour to £5.05 per hour with effect from 1 October.

b) Grant acknowledgement

The Council noted a letter from the Friends of Rampton School thanking the Council for its grant of £200 towards the cost of providing tumbling mats.

c) Receipts

The Council noted the following receipt:

	£
MA Quickfall	144.30

d) Accounts for Payment

The Council agreed the following account for payment:

	cheque	£
PowerGen	068	35.85
PowerGen	069	69.77
D Landon	070	671.39
Anglian Water	071	69.08

Cllr Arden referred to an order which she had recently placed for heating oil for the Village Hall and proposed that the Council authorises the Chairman and one other councillor to sign a cheque to pay for it, should the company insist on payment before the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Mellors and the Council agreed unanimously.

e) Bank balances

After the above transactions the account balances will be:

	£
Current Account	4360.37
Nottingham Building Society	<u>55000.00</u>
	<u>59360.37</u>

f) Budget 2006/07

The Council noted that the draft budget, previously circulated, includes an increase in the precept to compensate in the reduction in Bassetlaw District Council's contribution. The Chairman considered that the Council should not increase the precept to pay for the cost of sports facilities and that the Council needs to 'tighten its belt'. Members tended to agree but no decision was made about the level of the precept or any other aspect of the budget. The Chairman asked members to consider how the Council should deal with applications for grants from village organisations (including Woodbeck Residents Association) with a view to formulating a policy at the next meeting.