

MINUTES

The Annual Parish Meeting of Kings Ripton was held on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 8.30 in Village Hall

Present M Krause, Chairman, P Rayner, Vice - Chairman, Mrs R. Carey-Townsend, Rebecca Rayner, Parish Councillors.
Robin Howe, District Councillor. Ms R Mimiene, Clerk.
1 member of the public.

1 Welcome by Chairman

1.1 Chairman welcomed members.

2 To Receive Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies received from Cllr P Bassitt.

3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2016

Proposal Proposed by Cllr RCT, seconded by Cllr RR, and RESOLVED that the minutes to be Carried accepted and signed as the true record of the meeting.

Chairman signed the minutes.

4 To receive Parish Council Chairman's Report

4.1 Report attached.

5. Finance

5.1 Report attached.

HDC Cllr RH presented a report, which is attached to these Minutes.

HDC Cllr RH report attached.

6 To receive Village Representatives reports

6.1 Village Hall Committee report attached.

7 Public participation to raise any matters of Interest

7.1 Kings Ripton Parish Council would like to express their sincere condolences to the family of Michael Toates who passed away on the 20th March. Mick spent countless years on the Parish Council as Councillor and Chairman and took great pride in his service and work to benefit Kings Ripton residents. He will be sorely missed as a friend to the village.

7.2 VH received £175 for the day for Elections on 4 May 17.

8 Chairman's Closing Remarks

8.1 Thank you everyone for coming tonight.

Meeting finished at 9.46pm.

These minutes are considered draft until ratified at the next Annual Parish meeting

Date

Chairman: Michael Krause

Kings Ripton Village Hall Annual Parish Meeting 2017

In the last year the most significant change to the charity was the resignation and appointment of trustees.

Roy Collett and Tony Jenkins stepped down after serving as trustees for many years. Roy was involved in the original purchase of the hall from Ely Diocese and he setting up of the charity to run it. Without the effort he and Mary Collett have made over years, the village would not have this facility today. In recent years, Tony has handled Village Hall finances and governance. He has recruited new volunteers, helped organise events and kept the hall going. All the village hall volunteers and, we hope, the whole village, are immensely grateful to them both for all they have done.

Jean Bassitt and David Sattell have both been appointed trustees and we thank them for taking on this responsibility.

In its last financial year, the charity showed a surplus of income over expenditure of around £1,800. This was largely because a grant payment was received in this year for work carried out and paid for the previous year. Financial reserves to cover repairs and emergency expenditure are around £5,000, which provides little security.

The trustees thank the Parish Council for its continuing support without which it would be very difficult for the hall to continue to function.

A number of events were held during the year, all run by volunteers. The best attended event was the summer tea party with almost 40 people present. We estimate that around 60 village residents have attended events in the hall over the course of the year.

The village hall trustees and volunteers will welcome and support anyone who wishes to arrange a public event.

Kings Ripton Parish Council 2016/17

A key judgement on the performance of the Parish Council is the annual audit, which looks at governance, financial control, risk management and accounting. Failures in the way the Council operates would be revealed by this audit. The audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 raised no issues.

Last year's precept rose by £100. Council expenditure was lower than in the previous year. Expenditure is not consistent, as major items occur irregularly. Financial reserves are maintained to cover these, income and expenditure evening out over a number of years.

The PC consulted villagers on the parish plan, asking for views on a form posted through letter boxes and at an open meeting. Strongest opinions were expressed on traffic through the village and on development. It was felt that the traffic calming measures put in place a few years ago had improved the situation but that more was required, with pedestrian use of the bridge being the highest priority. Most villagers wanted development to be on a modest scale. As much of Huntingdonshire DC was developing rapidly, residents wanted to maintain the character of the village, that is a village in an agricultural setting typical of Huntingdonshire's historic landscape. These views, some of which were conflicting, have been taken into account in the latest version of the Parish Plan which the Council intends to finalise this year.

Parish Council meetings are been sparsely attended. More views have been expressed by email or phone than at meetings. The Parish Council welcomes views, comments and concerns from residents by whatever method is convenient and thanks those who do attend and contribute.

The Parish Council thanks its councillors on Huntingdon DC and Cambs CC, Robin Howe and Michael Tew, for their contributions, help and advice during the year.

The councillors are very grateful to our clerk for the efficient and professional way she does her job and ensures council business runs smoothly. We also appreciate her patience and good humour.

District Council Annual Report

Upwood and the Raveleys May 2017

Shortly after my appointment as Leader of HDC in May last year, the Devolution deal for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire began to develop and in June I became a member of the Combined Authority Shadow Cabinet with responsibility for finance and fiscal policy. This created unexpected demands on my time with the result that my engagement with my five parish councils has reduced and my attendance at meetings has been sporadic. This is a regrettable situation as I am elected to serve the residents of the parishes and yet my time has been allocated to the District Council and increasingly, to the Combined Authority.

I was elected to the HDC leadership by the Conservative Group on a manifesto of reform and I appointed a Cabinet whom I felt could deliver the changes which are needed. These include

- the transformation of Council processes to improve service levels and productivity;
- delivering the 2016-2036 Local Plan with a strategy to build 21000 homes across the District, with a high percentage (approaching 40%) of affordable housing,
- an overhaul of the relationship between the District Council and our town and parishes
- an increase in the Councils commercial activities to raise non-tax revenues and help bridge the widening gap between revenues and costs to protect front line services
- the development of a strategic plan for the District which defines improved community resilience, economic growth, prosperity and housing plans and sets the framework for creating a more effective council for its residents.

We have published a rolling two-year corporate plan with input from the commercial sector, developers, landowners, the MOD, educational establishments and other stakeholders to ensure that development plans are coordinated. Our first objective is to ensure frontline services are not only protected, but continuously improved. To that end we have implemented programmes to improve the delivery of services for waste management, street cleaning and grounds maintenance, and are constantly fighting the challenges of littering and graffiti removal. Our officers efficiently administer housing benefits and related services to residents, both existing and new, while providing accommodation for those who for one reason or another have become homeless. Our planning department, in addition to their daily duties, are working on plans for the new A14 trunk road which, once completed in 2021, will unlock huge development potential for the district.

The Government has allowed Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to increase planning fees by 20% as from 1 July. The proviso is that all the income generated from the increase must be invested in improving the performance of the LPA. HDC has taken advantage of this increase and is in process of recruiting three new planning officers. We will also use some of the income to upgrade IT systems, including the website, to improve our service to customers.

Angie Dickinson, the Cabinet member responsible for Community Resilience chaired a parish and town council seminar in the Burgess Hall at the end of April. The aim was to establish better communication channels with all parishes and improve relationships. Good progress was made and it was agreed this event will be made a regular calendar feature with increasing interaction between local parishes and the District Council.