

MINUTES

The Annual Parish Meeting of Kings Ripton was held on Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 10.08pm in the Village Hall

Present P Rayner, Chairman, P Bassitt, Vice – Chairman, Rebecca Rayner, K Martin, D Sattelle
Parish Councillors.
R Mimiene, Clerk & RFO
No members of the public.

1 Welcome by Chairman

1.1 Chairman welcomed members.

2 To Receive Apologies for absence

2.1 No apologies received.

3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2017

Proposal Proposed by Cllr PR, 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 issued by Cllr M Krause was read out by Cllr PR and is attached to these Minutes.

5. Finance

5.1 Report presented.

6 To receive Village Representatives reports

6.1 Village Hall Committee report attached.

7 Public participation to raise any matters of Interest

7.1 PCSO Andrew Street submitted a written report on his absence.

8 Chairman's Closing Remarks

8.1 Thank you everyone for coming tonight. Welcome to new Cllrs Karen Martin and David Sattelle. Thank you Michael Krause for being a chairman and leading the Council. Also thanks expressed to long serving Councillor Ross Carey-Townsend for all ongoing help.

Meeting finished at 10.14pm.

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

Date

Chairman: Philip Rayner

There were no changes to the PC membership in the last year. The PC consisted of four members who work full time and one retired person who has considerable responsibilities to manage in addition to the PC. The PC is very grateful to all of them for taking on the role and carrying it out conscientiously. They do this without any benefit to themselves and for the good of the community. There were five significant points to note from the last year.

1. Some years since work was started on it, the PC last year agreed and published a Parish Plan. This sets out a broad strategy, based on information from residents in a number of consultations, and forms the basis of work and decision making by the PC.
2. Councillors regularly give their own time and resources to solve problems such as phone box maintenance, monitoring and reporting speeding vehicles, litter picking, replacing road bollards and cutting village greens, when the limited resources of the precept or District and County councils do not stretch to cover these.
3. There have been a number of occasions where parish councillors had a personal, business interest in PC business. On all occasions, councillors declared their interest at an early stage and refrained from any decision making on these matters. On some matters, interests were declared well in advance of a formal requirement to do so. All councillors have acted in a thoroughly responsible manner.
4. The PC should hear all views before making a decision and we made every effort to do so despite pressure to exclude views from some parishioners.
5. The PC's procedures, financial records and procedures were audited. The audit found the council has acted with correct financial and procedural governance. The PC's budget and precept were aimed for spending at a low level. This would have to increase in future if there are any improvements hoped for in the village or from on-going maintenance costs.

While the last three are only what residents should expect from their PC, they should still be noted. Planning applications considered in the last year included difficult issues. One involved a domestic application. Two commercial development proposals caused considerable interest and many residents expressed views directly in person, by telephone, letter and email to councillors, on a petition and at the two PC meetings at which the application was an agenda item. HDC's Development Management Committee agreed with the PC's recommendation that permission should be refused, although the developer has since overturned the HDC's decisions and has the option to apply again.

There was some criticism during the year of the amount of time councillors - all unpaid volunteers and most working full time - have found for PC business. All councillors are busy people and find as much time as they can for the PC. Given the level of interest for the two planning applications only and the criticisms, it was contrasting that so few were able to spare time to contribute to other village activities, attend village meetings or stand in the recent Parish Council election.

We should take the opportunity to note that the PC is not a planning authority; it only makes recommendations, with limited influence because final decisions are made by HDC's officers or Development Management Committee. The PC also gives comments based on official planning guidance so that its recommendations are acknowledged and valid but also that they represent all the views it receives.

The PC owes thanks to the clerk, Ramune, for her hard work, knowledgeable advice and efficiency during the last year. All the councillors have been delighted to have her help running the PC. The PC also thanks its District and County Councillors who have attended meetings, reported news and advised the PC – particular thanks are due to Robin Howe who has been a conscientious District councillor and a generous advisor to the PC for many years, until standing down at the last election. Thanks are also due to Kings Ripton Parish Councillors for their efforts over the last year.

The PC, and surely the whole village, are particularly grateful to Ros Carey Townsend who served as a parish councillor for many years, chairing the PC for several years. Ros devoted a huge amount of time to PC business, representing the village at a wide range of meetings, keeping in touch with many of our contacts in HDC, CCC, Cambs Police and other organisations, regularly raising issues of concern to the PC from residents and encouraging them to solve problems and reporting back to the PC and individuals. She has worked tirelessly on speedwatch and developing speed reduction measures along the Ramsey Road, and without doubt she will have helped to save accidents and lives in the village. We thank her for all she has done.

The Kings Ripton Village Hall
Report for Annual Parish Meeting May 2018

The Village Hall continues to run on a low budget, with modest financial reserves. The reserves will cover urgent modest expenditure but are not sufficient to cover any major expenditure, such as repairing a roof.

Village Hall Trustees and other volunteers are grateful to Parish Council for honouring the agreement made many years ago to support the hall financially. The annual contribution from the PC covers approximately half of the normal running expenses (utilities, insurance, cleaning, etc). The other half is raised by volunteers by organising social events.

Last year the flat roof needed replacing. We applied for and were awarded a grant of £5,000 to repair the roof, relay the paving in the yard, replace the back door and repair woodwork. This was from Mick George Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund, arranged by Grantscape. This type of grant is not available to cover running expenses, only improvements, and it a competitive process, so we cannot rely on this regularly.

There were fewer events in 2017 than in recent years, as volunteers concentrated on raising the money for the roof. However, the events, we have held in the last year have involved new faces both organising and attending events, which is encouraging. The volunteer team intends to hold more events in the coming year.

Any offers of help arranging events will be gratefully received. We hope to see more residents supporting their neighbours and the hall.

Jean Bassitt, David Sattelle, Michael Krause, trustees

Kings Ripton Police Report
1st August 2017 to 2nd May 2018

Reported Crimes:

24/4/18 Ramsey Road – A van was broken into overnight and power tools were stolen from within.

12/4/18 Ramsey Road – A car got stuck in a field at it appears that the occupants of the car have tried to gain entry to a tractor nearby, damage was caused to the door lock of the tractor.

28/3/18 Sapley Road – A business premises was broken into, a motorcycle and tools were stolen.

6/3/18 Quaker Close – A garage was broken into by removing the window, nothing was stolen.

6/3/18 Ramsey Road – A shed was broken into, nothing stolen.

6/3/18 Ramsey Road – A shed was broken into, nothing stolen.

19-21/2/18 Ramsey Road – A shed was entered and several cast iron signs were stolen.

2/11/17 Ramsey Road – A trailer was stolen from a driveway.

30/9/17 School Lane – An attempt was made to break into a shed by forcing the window, no entry was gained.

There was one domestic related crime reported during this period.

There were no reports of anti-social behaviour during this period.

Road Traffic Matters:

29/3/18 There was a three vehicle, slight injury road traffic collision at the junction with the B1090 and Ramsey Road, one driver was reported for a driving offence.

20/3/18 Police received a complaint of vehicles being parked between the chicane and the bus stop on Ramsey Road. Officers attended but there were no vehicles there at that time. We have since received further complaint regarding this and will be watching the situation.

10/3/18 Report of a two vehicle, slight injury RTC at the B1090, Ramsey Rd junction.

18/11/18 A car left the road and hit a tree on Ramsey Road, north of the village.

10/9/17 A car left the road and collided with some wooden posts on Ramsey Road, north of the village.