

Kings Ripton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs Samantha Sharp
Telephone: 07927 530538
E-Mail: Clerk@kingsriptonpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Kings Ripton Parish Electorate held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm at: Kings Ripton Village Hall, School Lane, Kings Ripton, PE28 2NL

MINUTES

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Councillor Bywater (District Councillor)

Councillor Martin (District Councillor)

Councillor Criswell (County Councillor)

2. Minutes of the meeting held 17th May 2022 (disseminated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.)

The Council approved that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Approved and signed by the Chairman – Philip Rayner.

RESOLVED

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

None

4. To receive Parish Council Chairman's report.

Appendix A

5. To receive Responsible Financial Officer Report.

Appendix B

6. To receive reports from Local Organisations:

Signed by the Chairman _____

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- Kings Ripton Village Hall Trust
 - Appendix C
- Community Road Watch
 - Appendix D
- We Out Here – None Supplied
- Secret Garden Party – None Supplied

7. To receive update from the local County and District Councillors.

District Council – Appendix E

County Council – Appendix F

8. Village matters and public forum - discuss the general affairs of the Parish and to pass any resolutions thereon.

None raised.

Meeting Closed – 1928

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Appendix A

Chairman's report to Kings Ripton Parish Council

10th May 2023

2023 has been fortunately a much quieter year than the preceding ones affected by covid and lockdowns. There have still been notable community achievements over the year.

The key positive points have been the community involvement. These include the greater assistance for the village hall financially and the promotion of the Warm Room scheme which has been run by Bronwen Rayner with a regular thriving attendance. The scheme is specially to support those more vulnerable during the recent sharp increases in living costs, but also invaluablely it brings the community together especially after the isolating times of lockdown.

We have remained as 4 parish councillors, with one vacancy. This is still above average for small parish councils and it is especially beneficial because we have highly constructive and supportive councillors who have kindly offered their services for the community over many years.

Over the year the Camp Beagle protest has continued from its start in the summer of 2021. Whilst the PC does not make comment on the protests, it is very concerned at the apparent acceptance by Highways and County Council that this protest may stay indefinitely with significant expense to police and highways safety local budgets when there is a typical attendance of 2-3 protesters on most days.

The PC has been particularly dismayed that the expense has come from maintenance budgets whilst there is a shocking condition of local roads. The parish requests that this expense should be spent instead in the parish on a footpath, road repair or widening to the crematorium where a cyclist has recently been killed in the last years to the poor road condition and visibility. The PC will continue to press for the budget to be spent on road safety because a repeat death is very likely to affect those that live or work in the parish and will be a consequence of lack of action.

The challenges for this coming year will be the actions of HDC who are abandoning the existing local plan and reopening it, and particularly whether this will lead to large scale RAF Wyton development including potentially the connecting road across the parish from the A141 to enable the development. We again encourage all the community to be involved so that the countryside, environment and village quality are preserved.

The PC has considered a few planning applications over the year. At the current time, it is considering whether, and in what manner, it might sell a small access strip of its land to one or more local residents for domestic access.

Other current issues include the change in licensing of the Secret Garden Party site and whether this will create significant future disturbance for the community depends on the expansion permitted by licensing and envisaged by the operators or their tenants.

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Finally, Sam joined us as Parish Clerk in 2022 and has now completed her first year as clerk. She has supported our meetings and procedures admirably and it has been a pleasure to work with her.

May I thank the other councillors and parishioners for my time as chair this year.

Dr. Philip Rayner, Chair of Kings Ripton PC

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Appendix B

Kings Ripton Parish Council

Annual Report – 2022/23 from the Responsible Financial Officer

The financial year for Kings Ripton Parish Council started on the 1st April 2022 and finished on the 31st March 2023. The account balance on the 1st April 2022 was £22,283.33, finishing on the 31st March 2023 with £24,371.56 in the account.

Precept for 2022/23 was £7,712.00 with outgoing of £6225.00 which includes the Clerk's salary, business insurance, grounds maintenance, IT support and Defib support.

The Parish Council remains financially stable as they enter the next financial year.

The internal audit is currently being conducted and will be reviewed and signed by the Council during their next meeting, along with the Annual Governance Accountability Return for 2022/23.

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Appendix C

Kings Ripton Village Hall Trust ***Registered Charity 302647***

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Since the end of Covid restrictions and the subsequent reluctance of many to be indoors with groups of people, events at the village have restarted. Quiz evenings have proved popular with those who attended. The hall has been well used by local businesses running work training events.

As he moved away from the village, David Sattelle resigned as a trustee. Jean and Michael are very grateful to David for his generous, diligent and good-humoured commitment to the hall. We are delighted that long standing volunteers Sali Cooper and Philippa McDowell agreed to take on the responsibilities of trustees, both registered with the Charity Commission in February 2023.

In the Financial Year ended 31 December 2022, the Village Hall ran a deficit of £180, drawing from financial reserves. Increases in electricity and insurance increased costs and further increases are having a further impact in 2023.

The village hall trustees and volunteers thank the Parish Council for the continued financial support which makes running the hall viable each year and for the increased grant in 2023.

The charity holds a reasonable reserve to cope with maintenance and unexpected items. The trustees will be investigating improvements to the building, such as replacing windows, in 2023.

The village hall volunteers will continue to organise opportunities for villagers to meet and enjoy each other's company. The trustees thank all volunteers for their continued hard work. They want to see the hall used as much as possible and would welcome not just offers to organise events in the hall but also ideas on how more of the community could be encouraged to use the hall.

Jean Bassitt, Sali Cooper, Philippa McDowell, Michael Krause - Trustees

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Kings Ripton Village Hall Trust

Income and Expenditure

Year ended 31 December 2022

Income

| | £ | £ |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Bookings | 615.00 | |
| Parish Council | 750.00 | |
| Donations & events | 157.41 | |
| Interest | 21.92 | |
| | | <u>1,544.33</u> |

Expenditure

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Utilities and running costs | 1,089.79 | |
| Cleaning | 177.30 | |
| Insurance | 453.09 | |
| Event costs | 5.00 | |
| | | <u>1,725.18</u> |

Surplus (Deficit) (180.85)

Balance sheet

Year ended 31 December 2022

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Property at cost | 1219.67 | 1219.67 |
| Cash at Bank | 32672.17 | 32830.40 |
| Petty Cash | 209.28 | 231.90 |
| Cash (available reserves) | 32,881.45 | |
| Total Assets | <u>34,101.12</u> | <u>34,281.97</u> |

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Appendix D

COMMUNITY ROADWATCH(UK) C.I.C

Company No: 10085683; Registered at: 3, Blackhills Rd, St Ives, Cambs., PE27 6HY

www.roadwatch.org.uk Managing Director & National Coordinator: David C

McCandless md@roadwatch.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 22-23

FOR KINGS RIPTON PARISH COUNCIL

With COVID and its restrictions behind us at least for the time being, we were able to team up to help your sole village kerbside speed check participant – Ros Townsend identify those speeding through your village. Those reports, with Registration Numbers and speeds have been sent to your Parish Councillors via Samantha your new pro-active Parish Clerk who has already had a guided tour of the speeding hotspots that we monitor and report for you.

Also, in the past year, we have seen the installation of 3 posts for your new massive French Speed Indicating Device (SID) that needs TWO 8kg 22 AH batteries installed to power this power-hungry beast and these need changing every 2 weeks. To save us carrying out the changes we handed over that responsibility to volunteers Steve & Sal who have done a great job ever since. We bought a trolley for them as 16kg is not a safe weight to trudge up the hill and then down again for anyone. A lighter (2 kg) Lithium battery is available @ £125 ea (4 needed) to make it much safer for them. Also Lithiums charge to 13.5v so last longer.

CRW still retains the responsibility for moving the SID from time to time and we have just done that with a move from the centre post to the top where despite doubts of many, it is doing and always has done a good job in moderating at least 70% of traffic that otherwise would have been travelling at much higher speeds. The results from our downloads are published online at

www.Roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/KingsRipton

Do please remember that in some places along Ramsey Rd, like across School Lane, even 30 mph downhill is not a safe speed because of the restricted view left of drivers wishing to turn right towards Ramsey. At 30 mph = 44 fps, the stopping distance according to the Highway Code on a good day on a good road is 25 yards and that's longer than a cricket pitch – something you don't have there. So, like me you listen but EV's are even making that unsafe. So the best solution is for the village to apply to become a 20 limit throughout as locally Somersham and Woodhurst have just succeeded in doing and further afield we have helped Haddenham acquire it. OK, so the Police will not then enforce in a 20... but they don't regularly enforce now in village 30's, so why not go for it.

Signed by the Chairman _____

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Appendix E

I have nothing specific for Kings Ripton to report. Of a general nature, I would comment that our roads are now in the worst state they have ever been. In real terms, we are spending less on maintenance, and it is clearly showing. Gov't has made around £3.5m 'pot-hole funding' available and we will be insisting the Joint Administration spends this money as intended. Last year it was used to pay off debt instead and the roads suffered as a consequence.

Any questions or issues I can help with, please come back to me.

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Appendix F

AGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS - SAWTRY & STILTON DIVISION CCC

COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON BYWATER

I continue to be humbled by the various voluntary groups locally who have continued to “step up to the plate” supporting individuals and their own communities and I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to you all.

It has been a busy year since my last annual update, with Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) both recently setting their annual budgets for next year. The costs of this can be seen in the recent council tax bills you will have now received.

Sadly both councils decided to increase their parts of the council tax bills to the maximum. Given the pressures on households I just couldn't support this approach by the joint administrations.

In short, I felt CCC didn't need to do this (4.99%) and our alternative budget of a reduced increase with better delivery was voted down. I couldn't support the HDC budget increase (3.31%) because I was very concerned with their Medium term financial Strategy over the next five years, in particular their plans to consider charging for Garden waste Bins along with their business plans for Leisure in the district.

I think we need to leave as much money in residents pockets as opposed to councils thinking they know better on how to spend money through taxation.

I've been dealing with countless other issues including the sad proposals by CCC to Close Gidding Primary school, which has effected many families in Sawtry and surrounding villages. Thank you to those residents who spoke with me against this at the Children and Young Peoples Committee.

I would like to say a massive thankyou to everyone in our community who have helped in providing our warm spaces through the winter. Please do take a look to see how they may be able to help and support your residents.

I have been meeting a wide variety of people, partners and stakeholders to ensure both Councils are doing their very best for us all. I have particular concerns on how CCC are budgeting and maintaining the conditions of our roads. Despite this huge frustration I have had some local success in ensuring some of our roads and pavements were treated and repaired, but it is a continuous battle to ensure we have a voice, and that our local roads, and areas where the County Council have responsibility, get the attention that is needed. You can help me by reporting any highways faults/issues that you find here <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

A large part of my time is also occupied by the various local planning issues in the Division. For example I attended a recent appeal to the Planning inspector regarding change of use of a commercial building in Stibbington to the withdrawal of an application for large Commercial units on the A1 near Alwalton. Both had significant impacts on local residents.

Signed by the Chairman _____

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If there is a local planning issue that is important to you please do not go on Facebook to complain or have a rant, it is more effective to have your voice heard on the Huntingdonshire Planning portal here

<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> You may be aware that the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) are looking at congestion charging for Cambridge. At the moment there is no clear plan on how congestion charging will work and more importantly the impact on residents. I'm yet to be convinced what benefits we will get in particular this part of Cambridgeshire. We will have to wait and see what these proposals look like following the consultation which has now finished. I would urge you all to keep an eye on this going forward.

I support moves to improve public transport and make it easier for people to travel via means other than their car but I'm concerned this part of Cambridgeshire will be used as a "Cash Cow" for the Cambridge centric County Council. County Councillors will have the final vote on any proposals although no dates/timelines have been set.

Proposals for a 20 mph zone in Stilton and the consultation results are now being considered by CCC. Thankyou to everyone who has taken part or emailed me with their thoughts. A final decision will be made later this year by the highways committee.

This year's 20mph scheme is open and CCC are accepting applications. You can apply via the link. The deadline for submitting the applications will be by Sunday 30th April 2023 at 17:00PM. Further information on the process, funding available and application timeline is available on our website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding>

Despite the many challenges please rest assured I have been working hard as your Councillor representing our communities and bringing a voice for you.

I would like to thank you all for your help and support over the last 12 months in particular our Clerks and Chairs. It is not always possible for me to attend Parish council meetings, given all my responsibilities and diary clashes, but I do try my utmost to attend as many as is possible.

Finally I would like to thank my District Cllr Colleagues, Tim Alban, Marge Beuttell and Ross Martin for their continued support.

Don't forget you can get more info on what I'm doing on my face book page [Cllr Simon Bywater "Sawtry & Stilton"Cambridgeshire County Council | Facebook](#)

You can contact me at Simon.bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 07984637553

Many thanks for taking the time to read this short report.

Best wishes

Simon

Simon.bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Simon Bywater (County Councillor Sawtry and Stilton Ward)

Signed by the Chairman _____