

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH
OF

RUDDINGTON HELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON

TUESDAY 4th MAY 2010 at 7.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

Councillor J. V. Norton, Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair.

ATTENDANCE

20 Members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. M. Lyons-Lewis and M. Tailby (The James Peacock Bread Charity).

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2009, having been circulated to every elector present, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS

James Peacock Educational Foundation

Mr. Andrew Green, representing the James Peacock Educational Foundation, presented his Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2009 as shown below.

The Charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners No 513594 and constituted by Deed of Trust.

The objects of the Charity are to assist by way of gift or grant the education of young people up to the age of 25 years who live or whose parents live in the Ruddington area.

During the year income amounted to £5,474.10 (2008 £7,321.42), a decrease over the previous year of £1,847.32 (2008 increase £315.72).

Total expenditure was £6,352.80 (2008 £4,093.51), including photographic equipment purchased for St. Peter's School £1,000.00 and a contribution towards the Outdoor Classroom at James Peacock's School £2,000. Assistance towards St. Peter's School trips to Youlgreave and Whitby amounted to £973.00. Grants to individuals amounted to £400.00. All school children on transfer to secondary

school are presented with a bible, dictionary and calculator and total expenditure in this regard was £1,954.80 (2008 £2,385.01).

The excess of Payments over Receipts for the year amounted to £878.70 (2008 surplus £3,227.91).

Total funds (at cost) as shown by the Balance Sheet now amount to £62,856.85 (2008 £62,735.55).

The James Peacock Bread Charity
(previously known as The Bulwell Estate Charity)

In the absence of Mr. M. Tailby, the report and accounts which he had prepared for The James Peacock Bread Charity were presented by the Clerk to the Council. The trustees of the Charity are Mrs. Kim Aspinall, Mrs. Yvonne Clay and Mick Tailby (Chairman).

Vacant Plots – There continues to be a waiting list for plots. In an attempt to make any vacated plot appear more attractive to prospective tenants, estimates were sought for clearance. For a similar cost the Trustees decided to purchase a strimmer for use by new and existing tenants. The Trustees decided as from March 2010 rents would be increased. Tenants were advised in April 2009. This is the first rent increase for many years.

Security – We have yet again experienced considerable damage this year to property, with a large number of sheds being broken into on the west side of the Brook. To try and limit unwanted access to the site and cut off easy escape routes via the Brook, the Trustees agreed to the fitting of padlocks to both of the single gates on Musters Road.

Donations – A donation of £200 has been made to the Honeycomb with our usual request that the money is to benefit people of Ruddington in keeping with our Charity.

Charity name change – With the co-operation of the Charity Commission this Charity is to be the “James Peacock Bread Charity”. Reference to the Bulwell Estate has been removed.

The balance brought forward from 2008/2009 stood at £5,026.78. Incomings for the year amounted to £444.75 including interest of £5.00 (estimated) and the sale of new gate keys of £51.00, with outgoings being £718.15. The balance taken into 2009/10 is therefore £5026.78.

The Clerk advised that Mr. Tailby had indicated that he would be willing to answer any questions raised. Councillor Mrs M. Woodhead asked whether anyone knew what the increase in rental amounted to and was advised that it has risen from £6 to £7.

David Hollingsworth asked whether further steps could be taken to raise a replacement set of Deeds for this area of land since the originals appeared to have gone missing many years ago. Solicitors had been approached some time ago in this respect but nothing had transpired. There were ongoing disputes in respect of the hedges

between the allotment gardens and neighbouring houses which could be addressed if the Deeds were available for reference. The Chairman asked that the Parish Council Clerk investigate further. There were no further questions raised by the electors present and the Chairman thanked the Clerk for her presentation of the accounts.

Grace Theodora Wayte Charity

The accounts for this Charity were presented by the Clerk to the Council.

The opening balance at 1st April 2009 was £2247.12, interest received amounted to £1.56 with the breakdown of interest as follows: £0.39 for each of the following quarters 4th June 2009, 3rd September 2009, 3rd December 2009 and 4th March 2010. There were no outgoings during the year.

In October 2009 the Parish Council agreed to write to the Charity Commission seeking permission to use the balance of the funds in the Wayte Charity Account towards the cost of improving cricket facilities. Advice was also sought regarding the possibility of winding up the Grace Theodora Wayte Charity provided they agreed to the balance of the funds being used towards cricket facilities.

In January 2010 permission was granted to use the balance towards improving cricket facilities.

With regard to winding up the Charity, the Parish Council had to provide evidence that a parcel of land specified within the Deed had been disposed of. Proof was provided that the land had been disposed of by two separate conveyances – one in 1951 and one in 1958. The Parish Council resolved at the meeting held on 23rd March 2010 to approve the transfer of the balance of funds from the Wayte Charity Account into the Parish Council's 14-day account. The final balance of £2,248.68 was transferred on 26th March 2010.

At the same meeting, it was resolved to wind up the Charity and the appropriate application papers were signed by the Trustees. Confirmation from the Charity Commission was received by email on 19th April 2010 that the Charity had been dissolved and removed from the Register of Charities.

There were no further questions raised by the electors present and the Chairman thanked the Clerk for her presentation.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – presented by Councillor D. J. Hall

Councillor Hall gave a brief résumé of the work undertaken by the Amenities Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these Minutes.

Chris Murden asked whether the work on the play area at Elms Park would include any buildings and was advised that there would be no additional buildings required.

Chris Murden also asked whether there were any plans to re-introduce tennis facilities in the village as even a very basic facility would help children to develop an interest in the sport. He advised that the original members of the tennis club transferred to Gotham but that this would be too far for children to travel.

The Chairman advised that there were two main issues when considering new facilities in the village – the cost involved of installation and maintenance, and who would use the facility. Councillor P. F. McGowan advised that the tennis courts would have been very expensive to upgrade and it was the Parish Council's view that use was diminishing. He advised that the Parish Council has to take into consideration facilities where parishioners would most benefit.

Councillor Mrs. B. M. Venes asked whether there were plans to refurbish the children's play area on Sellors Playing field for the benefit of children living in that part of the village. Councillor Hall advised that work on play areas was rotational and that Elms Park was the main project for the current year with Sellors Play Area for review after that.

David Hollingsworth questioned the wisdom of spending money on the Elms Park Play Area for 8 – 14 year olds when the site is so close to an excellent facility on Rushcliffe Country Park and could be subject to vandalism. Councillor Hall replied that there had been considerable consultation with local schoolchildren and their parents to identify what was required and that Rushcliffe Country Park was too far for children to go unaccompanied. Councillor Hall added that the refurbishment at Vicarage Lane Play Area had been very successful and that there had been no recorded vandalism on the site in the 9 months since installation. Councillor K. Piggott added that it is in the interest of all the community to keep the youth of the village occupied.

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – presented by
Councillor N. J. Tegerdine

Councillor Tegerdine gave a brief résumé of the work undertaken by the Environment & Community Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these Minutes. Councillor Tegerdine added that this committee is rapidly moving forward and that the aim for the future is to "improve the look and feel of the village".

David Hollingsworth stated that in his opinion, Ruddington did not get its fair share of services provided by Rushcliffe Borough Council, in particular in respect of street cleaning and the provision of the mechanised sweeper. Mr Hollingsworth asked whether the Parish Council could put pressure on Rushcliffe Borough Council to improve cleansing services in the village.

The Chairman reported that this appears to be a complaint of most villages who feel that West Bridgford sees more benefits than

surrounding areas do. Councillor Mrs. M. Woodhead advised that Streetwise confirmed that the mechanical sweeper is used four times a year in the village.

No further questions were raised by any electors present and the Chairman thanked Councillor N. J. Tegerdine for his presentation.

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE – presented by Councillor P.F. McGowan

Councillor McGowan gave a brief résumé of the work undertaken by the Finance & Policy Committee over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these Minutes.

Councillor McGowan stated that in reference to the donation to the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Victoria Cross Committee, the memorial was due to be dedicated on Friday 7th May and the target of £27,000 had been reached.

Councillor McGowan also expressed his thanks to the Vice Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee, Councillor K. S. Piggott for his assistance in chiring meetings during Councillor McGowan's term as Mayor of Rushcliffe.

No questions were raised by any electors present and the Chairman thanked Councillor P.F. McGowan for his presentation.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL CLUBS/ORGANISATIONS

As previously agreed, clubs or organisations which received priority use of a Parish Council asset or had received funding from the Parish Council during the year were requested to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and present a report on their activities.

Ruddington Bowls Club – presented by Mrs. Fran Dent

"The Ruddington Bowls Club was founded in 1924 with 26 members. It has been using the green on Elms Park since 1934 and since then the membership grew to nearly 100 a few years ago but in 2009 there were 56 members of whom 42 were from Ruddington or nearby villages.

The season runs from May to September and our fixture list for this season will have over 70 league matches and 30 cup and friendly games. Half of these are played at Elms Park together with various club days and events. Our opposing teams come from as far afield as Hucknall, Newark and the Mansfield area, and we also have links with a team from Hertfordshire.

We also organise an annual holiday towards the end of the season, usually to somewhere on the south coast or Devon – so we help to put Ruddington on the map.

The Club plays on the Council green tucked away behind the cricket pavilion on Elms Park and we are very grateful for its provision and

upkeep. Members themselves get involved in assisting the greenkeeper by trimming the edges of the green on a regular basis and helping to keep the area neat and tidy. The pavilion, which consists of a club room, ladies and gents changing rooms and an equipment room, together with all the equipment and seating for spectators has been provided by the Club, who are responsible for its upkeep and maintenance.

All bowls clubs are experiencing a decline in numbers and Ruddington is no exception. The club will welcome anyone from Ruddington to come to the green and 'give it a go', and to this end we are holding an open day on Sunday 16th May from 2.00pm. So why don't you come along and see where we are."

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Dent for her excellent presentation.

Ruddington Local History & Amenity Society

History Society – presented by Councillor P. F. McGowan

Cllr. P. F. McGowan explained that the Ruddington Local History & Amenity Society covered two areas of interest being the History Society and the Village Museum. In Gavin Walker's absence he would report on both.

The Village Museum was originally taken care of by Gavin Walker who was sole curator of the museum for many years. The facility is now looked after by a team of volunteers including Gavin, who look after the artefacts and assist when the museum is open to the public.

Councillor McGowan explained that he was the chairman of the Local History Society which meets at St. Peter's Rooms once a month from October to April. During the winter lecture season the History Society has speakers on a variety of topics, one of which was a film show of old Nottinghamshire which was very interesting for those who attended. The History Society welcomes new members and talks, which are followed by refreshments, are advertised on the Parish Council notice boards

Councillor McGowan praised the introduction of the Village Guide, website and Village Newsletter and thanked them for advising residents of groups like the Local History & Amenity Society.

The Chairman thanked Councillor P. F. McGowan for the presentation.

There were no further reports from local clubs/organisations and there was no other business to report.

The Chairman said that as he approached the end of his second year in office, he would again like to express his thanks to the Clerk and her team, including groundstaff and cleaners, for the splendid work they do in order to ensure that the Parish Council is operated efficiently and facilities in the village are maintained to a very high standard.

The Chairman also expressed his thanks to all Councillors who give their time voluntarily and without payment, and stressed that Ruddington Parish Council remains non-political.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all those who attended and for the constructive criticism received during the course of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm

Chairman