

# RUDDINGTON VILLAGE PLAN

## STEERING GROUP MEETING



*'CONSULTING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PRODUCE A PLAN  
WHICH WILL PRESENT YOUR VIEWS FOR RUDDINGTON'S FUTURE'*

**Draft Minutes for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 commencing 7.00pm at St. Peter's Rooms.**

Present (alph): Annette Auckland (P C)

Cathy Brown

Phil Brown

Linda Cooke

Secretary

Helen Opie (P C)

Project Manager

Ali Ritchie

Chairman

Barbara Venes (P C)

Gavin Walker

Also present: Jenny Kirkwood (RCAN - Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire)

Apologies: Graham Wright

### MINUTES & UPDATES

#### Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

The Clerk to the Parish Council asked that the following statements are noted in respect of the minutes relating to the Estates Working Group:

1. Allen said that the running cost of the Youth Centre is about £25k. This is net of income, the gross cost is approx. £30k.
2. Helen stated that the precept would have to go up if the Parish Council took over the Youth Centre. Whilst this is clearly true if it is just taken over 'as is', the costing for the longer term option of investing in the site has not yet been done - nor have decisions been made as to what might be provided on the site and what impact that might have on other parts of the Parish Council estate, which would, of course, impact on the overall net cost. It is, therefore, unknown what, if any, increase in precept might be required.

Acknowledging the above, the minutes from the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014, were accepted.

#### Youth Centre

Allen Wood has confirmed that as of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, the Parish Council has not received the tender document from Nottinghamshire County Council for the Youth Centre.

#### Minutes from 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Vicarage Lane Cemetery

The Clerk has provided details of the average number of interments in graves and ash vaults over the last five years. These being:

4.8 new graves and 5.2 interments in existing graves

7.6 new ash vaults and 2 interments in existing ash vaults

Although the Parish Office cannot predict the impact of the possible future closure of Wilford Hill, based on these figures the cemetery will remain open for many years to come. There are no specific regulations in respect of interments for non-residents other than an increase in costs. The Clerk would welcome any suggestions as to changes to current rulings, costs, etc. which can be presented at the budget meeting later in the year. Gary's full report is attached to the end of these minutes.

#### Consultation with schools

Ali said that she would continue to liaise with John Mapperley, the Head Teacher of St Peter's Church of England Junior School to encourage him to attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July. However, she had not received any response to emails to Richard Waldron, the Head Teacher at James Peacock Infant and Nursery School and would therefore approach a member / members of the board of governors to see if they would like to send a representative to attend on behalf of the school.

#### VILLAGE PLAN LOGO / BRANDING

The group were delighted to see that the logo is now in full use and that an article has been submitted to the Village Newsletter thanking residents for submissions and congratulating Oliver Higgins for the concept.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

In Graham's absence, Linda apologised but had not had time to review the number of friends and followers of the Facebook and Twitter sites.

Gavin confirmed that the Pinterest site is now up and running but said that it would be helpful if information was posted on other sites so that residents could understand the procedure of how to get pictures posted. It was agreed that on Graham's return, he would be asked to share the information and submit an article to the Village Newsletter about all of the social media sites.

#### OUTLINE QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO SPORT, LEISURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The group spent considerable time discussing and identifying appropriate questions for the section related to the issues of sport, leisure and young people. The group utilised information collected from other Parish Plans, Rushcliffe Borough Council's 'Issues for consideration by town and parish councils', the results from the consultation slips, reports from many local groups in the village, the Village Survey 2012 and numerous emails from residents along with other sources.

It was decided that in this section, there would be a supplement specifically for younger people to complete. This would also be available online and schools would be encouraged to get students from Ruddington to complete the questionnaire during IT sessions or out of school. Mr Crompton of Rushcliffe School had been very enthusiastic about this idea during his visit to the group.

The draft copy of the questionnaire would be circulated to all members in the next few weeks so that everyone has time to re-consider the content and make notes of any changes or additions they think might be appropriate. Members who know younger people were also asked to get their opinions of the section specifically for them and feed this information back at the next meeting.

## NEXT STEPS & VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Ali will continue to contact schools for their contributions and ask if representatives from the schools would like to attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The next meeting would continue with this section of the consultation.

## OTHER MATTERS

Houses (250) on Asher Lane – On hearing that the Parish Council is meeting with developers' representatives at the Planning Meeting in August, Cathy expressed serious concern that Ruddington is being targeted for development. It was noted that at this time Rushcliffe BC does not have an adopted plan and that Ruddington would probably need to accept a minimum of 250 houses at some point. The group agreed that although this issue was at the top of the agenda for residents, the Village Plan could not express the view of residents until after the consultation. The issue of planning would be left until later in the process so that the information contained in it was up to date and relevant.

Parish Council representatives – The Clerk had advised Linda that the Parish Council may wish to change their membership of the Village Plan Steering Group. Linda had expressed concern that this could result in a change of 33% of the group's membership which would not be helpful at this stage of the process. The Clerk had asked that the Chairman and Secretary of the Steering Group should meet with Allen Wood, the Chairman of the Parish Council, to see if a solution could be reached to the satisfaction of both parties.

Jenny Kirkwood added that she had no experience of this occurrence during her six years in post.

Ali confirmed that on reading the Parish Council minutes, there was no reference to the Parish Council changing their membership on the Steering Group, only that three named councillors were selected. At a later meeting, Helen Opie was confirmed as replacing Peter McGowan.

After considerable discussion, the group decided that to maintain consistency it would continue to develop the consultation document with existing members and would ask for legal advice before meeting with the Allen.

In the meantime, Ali and Linda agreed to speak to the Clerk.

Linda also reported that it had been indicated the Parish Council felt it was not being sufficiently consulted. Jenny said that it was only necessary for the group to tell the Parish Council that it was meeting and that the process was progressing. Annette added that she had reported to every Parish Council meeting with information about how the group was progressing. It was suggested that a written report is provided to Annette so that there is no doubt about the information provided and to assist Annette with her submission.

## ACTIONS

1. Ali to continue to speak to representatives of local schools and encourage them to engage with the Parish Plan.
2. Graham to link up the Twitter and Facebook sites with Pinterest. Also, to write an article for the Village Newsletter giving updates on the sites and details of how to access them.
3. Linda to compile the first draft of the 'Sport, Leisure & Young People' section of the consultation questionnaire and circulate to members in preparation for the next meeting.

4. Linda to provide Annette with a brief report of progress to date for presentation at the Parish Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014.
5. Ali and Linda to email the Clerk and request that he contacts NALC for legal opinion on the Parish Council's request for changes to the group's councillor membership.
6. Jenny to contact ACRE for legal opinion as above.
7. Agenda items for the next meeting:
  - a. To progress the social media sites
  - b. To discuss any further developments about Parish Council representatives on the group
  - c. To review the draft questionnaire for sport, leisure and young people
  - d. Next steps
  - e. Any other items which may arise

CLOSE

9.20pm

## Cemetery Take up 2009 – 2014

Year (1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> March)	Burials		Ash Vaults	
	New	Existing	New	Existing
2013 – 14	5	5	8	0
2012 – 13	6	6	5	2
2011 – 12	6	4	8	2
2010 – 11	3	5	8	2
2009 - 10	4	6	9	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>
Average	4.8	5.2	7.6	2

So over the past 5 years:

1. the average number of **new** graves has been less than 5 a year, and
2. the average number of **new** ash vaults has been under 8 a year.

At the current rate it will be many years before the cemetery fills up. I cannot predict the impact of Wilford Hill closing to new interments.

There are 12 ash vaults in an 'angled' row (at the end) and 15 in a 'middle' row. They are, therefore, filling up at a row every 18 months or 2 years (depending on which sort of row).

The Parish Council does, and as far as I can see has for years, accept interments from non-residents.

There are 3 rates for burials:

1. Both purchaser and deceased from within the parish,
2. Purchase in area/deceased out of area & vice versa, (twice the rate of 1.)
3. Both purchaser and deceased out of area (four times the rate of 1.)

I have had a look through and only found one burial charged at the 'both out' rate in the last 5 years.

For some reason the differential pricing is not applied to ash vaults. I will take this to Amenities in September for reconsideration for the 2015/16 prices. So if the Village Plan Group has any suggestions I am happy to also put them forward for consideration at that time.

Gary Long

9/6/14