

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM

Membership

Councillors	Mrs. B.M. Venes	Chairman
	K.S. Piggott	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs. B. Breakwell	
	Miss S.A. Chambers	
A	A. Chopra	
	D.J. Hall	
A	Mrs. S. Kaur Samra	
A	P. Lyons Lewis	
	M.S. McGowan	
	P.F. McGowan	
	Mrs. M. Pell	
	Mrs. M. Robinson	
	N.J. Tegerdine	
	M. Walsh	
	Mrs. R. Wilson	
	W.A. Wood	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

Persons representing the Parish Council on other business are marked 'O'

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Councillor	N. Boughton-Smith
Borough Councillor	Mrs. J. Greenwood
Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
G.D. Long	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L.M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk
Inspector Nolan	Nottinghamshire Police
Sergeant Booth	Nottinghamshire Police
4 members of the public	

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs. M. Robinson to her first Parish Council Meeting since being recently elected.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Chopra, Mrs. S. Kaur Samra and P. Lyons Lewis. Councillors M.S. McGowan, P.F. McGowan and W.A. Wood had indicated that they may be late.

C. 11/1418 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chairman declared an interest in Planning Application No. 11/01377/FUL.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2011, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors M.S. McGowan, P.F. McGowan and M. Walsh arrived during discussion of the following item

C. 11/1519 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Rushcliffe Borough Council – Review of Services
(Vide Minute C. 11/1511)

The Clerk reported that she had written to Rushcliffe Borough Council to advise that the Parish Council would be interested in exploring the option of delivering some of the services mentioned on behalf of the Borough Council. She had requested that further details be provided as and when available and a discussion arranged between representatives of the Parish Council and the Borough Council team. To date no response had been received. Members noted the above information.

Parish Council Surgery held on 10th September 2011

The Clerk reported that she had contacted British Telecom Buildings Faults to advise that the hedge at the telephone exchange on Kirk Lane required cutting and that trees were overhanging the footway, causing problems to pedestrians. The work had been carried out within 5 days of the request. Members noted this information.

Review of Standing Orders (Vide Minute 11/1514)

Following a query from Councillor N.J. Tegerdine, Gary Long advised that it is understood that NALC has recently updated some standing orders and a copy of these will be obtained prior to this matter being discussed at a future meeting. Members noted this information.

GL

School Bus Service

Councillor Mrs. R.H. Wilson advised that there was nothing further to report at the current time. Members noted this information

Councillor W.A. Wood arrived during discussion of the following item

C. 11/1520 MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Council adjourn to allow the members of the public present to make statements on Agenda Items.

During the adjournment, Inspector Nolan of Nottinghamshire Police advised members of the current situation in relation to the future of policing in Ruddington:-

Inspector Nolan, who is part of the Force Change Team, explained that Ruddington is included in the process of the significant savings which have to be made by the Force and the Police Contact Point will therefore be closing. Investigations have been carried out with a view to re-locating the contact point in its entirety to St. Peter's Rooms in order to continue the delivery of service, but unfortunately the size of the room is too small to house the necessary equipment for use as a base for the Beat Manager, PCSO and volunteers and access would not be available 24 hours a day.

It has therefore been agreed that the Beat Manager and PCSO will sign on for duty at West Bridgford and then be tasked to Ruddington on a daily basis. With this in mind they would still like to use the room offered within St. Peter's Rooms to site a computer and for the Officers to use as a drop-in facility, but only at times when the Parish Council's Administration Staff are in the building. This does not mean that they will be accessible to the general public at St. Peter's Rooms. It will be necessary to move the Blue box which contains the contact phone for use by the general public from outside the Police Contact Point to an outside position at St. Peter's Rooms. The Police volunteers will be contacted to ascertain whether they would be willing to offer their services at a location away from the village. The Clerk advised that as St. Peter's Rooms is a listed building it will be necessary to consult with Rushcliffe Borough Council regarding the possible installation of a telephone/box on the outside of the building.

Members expressed their disappointment that the Police Contact Point will be closing, but welcomed the fact that by offering the use of St. Peter's Rooms to the Beat Manager and PCSO this would go some way to ensuring at least some Police presence in the village. Inspector Nolan confirmed that the public will be kept informed of how, when and where they will be able to contact the local officers by way of notices.

The question was asked as to whether other premises within the village had been investigated and Inspector Nolan advised that they had, but none had proved suitable. He said that St. Peter's Rooms was the ideal location, being at the heart of the village and indicated that the Police would be willing to discuss making a contribution towards heat/light etc. Members were also advised that because the Police are not recruiting, coupled with the loss of officers through retirement etc. it will become necessary for existing Beat Officers to cover a larger area.

It was suggested that the Police could make enquiries through Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the possible use of the Community Centre on The Green.

The majority of Members said they were in favour of the Beat Manager and PCSO having the use of a room within St. Peter's Rooms as a drop-in facility for their own use.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Nolan and Sergeant Booth for attending the meeting and advising the Council on the current situation.

Inspector Nolan and Sergeant Booth left the meeting at this point

COUNCIL IN SESSION

C. 11/1521 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

90th Birthday

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had delivered a planted arrangement to Mrs. Irma Burnett of Lower Canaan on the occasion of her 90th Birthday on 4th October 2011.

95th Birthday

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had delivered a planted arrangement to Mrs. Cissie Carter of Fairham Close on the occasion of her 95th Birthday on 1st November 2011.

C. 11/1522 COMMUNICATIONS

Grant to Robin Hood Cadet Corps of Drums (Vide Minute C. 11/1483)

The Clerk read to Members the contents of an email from SMI Bugle Major Russ Jones. She advised that photographs had also been forwarded to the Parish Council and an article had appeared both on the website and in the Village Newsletter. The email advises:-

"The Corps played and marched into the Menin Gate, counter marched, halted and the Bugles were asked to fall out, and fall in, with the Famous Firemen. The Firemen had sounded the last post; we stood to attention for 50 minutes while wreaths were laid; then it was our turn, our regimental call and "Charlie Reveille" note perfect. We fell back into the CoD and marched off heads 20ft high. We had so many requests for encore, we formed up and played at the side of the Gate on the pavement.

After a fantastic performance we were immediately asked back next year by the Last Post Association President. The Bugles of Ypres have played every night since 1928 (except during WW2). One of the Bugles, an elderly gent B.M.E. aged 86 years said to me "I have played here every night, except two, for the last thirty six years and your cadets are the finest I have ever heard and seen". This is a fine and worthy comment as these young people aged between 12 years and 18 years have put in 120% effort.

Over the two days the Bugles sounded their respects at various war graves across the Somme, including Thepal, Delville Wood, Tynecot, Newfoundland Park and Lochnagar Creater.

Thank you for encouraging these excellent cadets – I think you will agree it has been worth it".

Members noted the above information and praised their attendance and performance at the War Memorial in the village on 11th November 2011.

Rushcliffe Borough Council – Update following the Visioning Event Consultation with Rushcliffe Borough Council Summer 2011

Copies of an email from Rushcliffe Borough Council regarding the above which had been sent to attendees was circulated to Councillors at the meeting. The email advises:-

“Following on from the work we did with yourselves earlier this year and taking into account both the feedback from this and the evidence provided by the revised housing projections commissioned by the Council, we have now come up with a number of houses considered to be appropriate for Ruddington to deliver, this figure being a minimum of 250 over the next 15 years. The Leader of the Council, Neil Clarke, has written to the Chairman of the Parish Council setting out the housing numbers; and has also offered to come out once again and talk at a Parish Council meeting about this decision. I would recommend you contact your Parish Council to discuss this further. Rushcliffe Borough Council Cabinet Members will consider the decision as to whether to proceed on this basis on 29th November 2011, the full Cabinet report setting out the background to the decisions regarding the proposed housing numbers will be published on the Rushcliffe website 5 working days before the Cabinet Meeting. A final decision will then be taken at a meeting of the Full Council on 15th December 2011. There is clearly still a huge amount of work ahead of us and no decisions have yet been made regarding the location of the new housing, again, the work we undertook with yourselves looking at sites around the village will feed into this process and we may well need to arrange further meetings with yourselves to progress this work in future.”

Members noted this information and agreed that the Leader of the Council be invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee scheduled to take place on 13th December 2011.

C. 11/1523 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

There were no questions raised under Standing Order No. 8.

C. 11/1524 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE – FUTURE ESTATE AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Members discussed the presentation regarding future Policing in the village given by Inspector Nolan and Sergeant Booth earlier in the meeting and agreed to support the use of St. Peter’s Rooms by the Beat Manager and PCSO when they are on duty in the village whilst the building is open and Parish Council Administration Staff are present.

RESOLVED:

That Nottinghamshire Police be granted use of a room within St. Peter's Rooms for use by the Beat Manager and PCSO as a drop-in facility when the building is open and Parish Council Administration Staff are present.

C. 11/1525 DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes, having previously declared an interest in Planning Application 11/01377/FUL, took no part in the discussion regarding that particular application.

New Applications

RESOLVED:

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 664 be adopted.

C. 11/1526 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

The Minutes and Reports as set out below were presented and motions made for approval and adoption:

Amenities Committee	4 October 2011
Environment & Community Committee	18 October 2011
Finance & Policy Committee	1 November 2011

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the aforementioned Minutes and Reports be adopted.

C. 11/1527 AUDIT OF ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2011

Copies of the Notification of the Conclusion of Audit of the Return for the Year Ended 31st March 2011, together with the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion had previously been circulated to Members.

Members acknowledged that the Clerk had dealt with any queries relating to the Annual Return.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the Clerk and Deputy Clerk be congratulated on the excellent manner in which the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 had been dealt with.

C. 11/1528 BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Copies of correspondence, together with relevant information downloaded from the Boundary Commission for England website, had previously been circulated to Members. The Clerk pointed out that the dates for the public hearings for the East Midlands mentioned in the correspondence had now passed. She advised that copies of the full document of Initial Proposals for the East Midlands was available in the Parish Council Office.

Members expressed their concern over the proposals for Ruddington to no longer be part of the Rushcliffe Constituency but move to be included in the new Coalville and Keyworth Constituency.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

C. 11/1529 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SAVING PROPOSALS

Copies of correspondence from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the consultation on proposals had previously been circulated to Members. The draft proposals may include:-

- Switching off completely some lights where they are no longer considered necessary
- Dimming some lights on main roads between the hours of 10pm and 7am when traffic flows are low and a lower level of lighting will not affect road safety
- Switching off some lights between midnight GMT and 5.30am GMT in residential areas in consultation with local communities (this option is referred to as part-lighting)

The correspondence also advises that care will be taken not to reduce the level of lighting in areas where there is an above-average level of crime or where there is a high risk of road traffic accidents. Detailed exception criteria have been developed in consultation with the emergency services and the Accident Investigation Unit and have been approved by the Cabinet.

Further correspondence, including a map of Ruddington indicating where lights will remain on all night and where they will be turned off between midnight GMT and 05.30am GMT, had also been circulated to Members. Comments on the proposals are welcome and the closing date for the receipt of these is 16th December 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

C. 11/1530 GRANT AID

3rd Ruddington Brownies

Copies of correspondence, together with a list of items which have been damaged, and therefore disposed of, had previously been circulated to Members.

The Clerk advised that over the summer holidays it been necessary to call out the Pest Control Officer to deal with an infestation of mice/rats at the Village Hall and at that time it was not known that the contents in the Brownies cupboards had been attacked. When the Brownies returned in September they discovered that damage had been sustained to their stores/equipment and the Clerk had therefore suggested that the Parish Council be approached with regard to possibly make a donation towards the replacement of these items.

The Chairman advised that she had sent a donation of £75.00 from the Chairman's Allowance, and it was also pointed out that the local Borough Councillors had each made a donation from their allowance.

In view of the above, it was agreed not to make a donation at this stage, but advise the Brownies that if they find they do not receive sufficient donations to cover the cost of the losses they have incurred, they should contact the Parish Council again.

RESOLVED:

1. That a grant to the 3rd Ruddington Brownies not be given at the current time.
2. That the 3rd Ruddington Brownies be advised that they may re-apply for grant aid later in the year if donations received do not cover the cost of the losses incurred.

JG

Lesley Brewer

Copies of correspondence from Mrs. Lesley Brewer asking whether the Parish Council would be willing to make a donation towards the purchase of equipment to enable her to become a Community First Responder for the village had previously been circulated to Members. She is an Advanced First Aider with St. John Ambulance and they have agreed to her training and will provide most of the necessary equipment, but she needs to raise enough money to purchase a defibrillator.

Members noted that in a recent email, Mrs. Brewer had indicated that St. John Ambulance had advised that they may have a defibrillator for her to use, but she is awaiting confirmation of this.

Members agreed that it would be advantageous to have a Community First Responder in the village and suggested that Mrs. Brewer be advised that if it becomes apparent that she will need to provide a

defibrillator herself, she should contact the Parish Council again for consideration of a grant towards the cost of this.

RESOLVED:

That Mrs. Brewer be advised to contact the Parish Council at a later date if it becomes necessary for her to provide a defibrillator to enable her to become a Community First Responder.

Victim Support

Copies of correspondence from Victim Support seeking a grant towards the cost of training people to become a YWS volunteer had previously been circulated to Members. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council last made a donation of £100 to Victim Support in March 2009. Following a discussion it was agreed not to make a donation at the current time.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council does not make a donation to Victim Support during the current financial year.

C. 11/1531 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

8th October 2011 – County Councillor Reg Adair; Borough Councillor Mrs. J. Greenwood; No Parish Councillor in attendance

The Clerk reported that she did not have details of the surgery held on 8th October 2011 and pointed out that no Parish Councillor had been in attendance. Councillor W.A. Wood apologised for his non-attendance and explained that he was under the mis-apprehension that he had 'swapped' with someone else for this particular date.

12th November 2011 – County Councillor Reg Adair; No Borough Councillor in attendance; Parish Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell

The Clerk advised that Borough Councillor N. Boughton-Smith had since apologised for his non-attendance at the surgery held on 12th November due to a 'family problem'.

The Clerk read to members the details of matters which had been raised at the surgery:-

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell discussed with County Councillor Reg Adair the concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians using the footpath over the railway bridge on Clifton Road, which was noted.

Carol Bowles of Dunblane Road – reported that the seat in the Bus Shelter located at the bus stop on The Green had been vandalised and suggested that it may be prudent to remove the seat altogether to prevent further vandalism and groups gathering. Action: County Councillor Reg Adair will investigate. (NB It was reported at the meeting that the seat had been reinstated earlier in the day). She also enquired

whether large print copies of the Village Newsletter could be made available to individuals on request. Action: The Deputy Clerk reported that large print copies are available to read in The Library.

Don Bakewell of Loughborough Road – gave an update regarding the installation of the bollards on Loughborough Road. He pointed out that vehicles are still parking on the verge, behind the bollards. Action: County Councillor Reg Adair advised that the bollards had been installed for safety reasons. Mr. Bakewell also suggested that Councillors in attendance at the surgery should have name plaques in order to identify who they were and which Authority they were representing. He said that the Presentation Evening held recently had been very much appreciated by residents, but commented on the small number of Councillors who had been in attendance on the evening. Muriel Woodhead of Musters Road – commented on the following:-
Ivy removed from trees in the Churchyard?; Plan for elderly re safety in Winter?; Keep pavements gritted and clear this Winter; Storm drains – leaves blockage (flooding outside Church); Rubbish collections – bins being left in a mess – dangerous – should be returned to where found.

Surgery Book

The Clerk reminded Members that there is a book available in which to record attendees and information regarding the surgeries, which is always left in the kitchen prior to the day of the surgery. She advised that on several occasions she has received information regarding the surgery on bits of paper, which she staples into the book, or received no information at all to report to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That actions be taken as necessary.

C. 11/1532 POLICING

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported on her attendance at the Police Priority Setting Meeting on 20th October 2011.

She advised that the meeting had been led by PC Ann Gill as there was no Inspector present. The following issues were discussed:-

- Anti-Social behaviour is still a priority across the whole area
- Officers are being moved around to cover various operations
- PC Ann Gill is progressively training more officers in the use of hand-held speed cameras
- Attendees were reminded of the Alert System which people can register with to be kept informed of issues/trends in the area. People can also fill in a satisfaction questionnaire on the site.

- On-going issue is car crime, but it was pointed out that a lot of this is due to insecure cars. It was stressed that in the lead up to Christmas, and during the current economic climate, people need to use their common sense to minimise the risk of becoming a victim.

She advised that she will be attending the next meeting which will be held on 26th January 2012 and would report back.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

C. 11/1533 RUDDINGTON VILAGE FOOTBALL CLUB

Members were reminded that four Councillors are appointed to represent the Parish Council at meetings with the Football Club, which are held twice a year. She advised that one of the current representatives is no longer a Parish Councillor (J.V. Norton), that Councillor W.A. Wood had reached the end of his term of appointment and those Councillors still acting as representatives are Councillor K.S. Piggott and Councillor N.J. Tegerdine. She explained that it would therefore be necessary for the Parish Council to appoint two additional representatives.

Councillors P.F. McGowan and Mrs. M. Robinson volunteered to serve as the two additional Parish Council representatives.

The Clerk requested that the Parish Council representatives contact Andy Scott, the General Secretary of Ruddington Football Club, as soon as possible to organise a meeting as this was now overdue.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following Members represent the Parish Council at future meetings with Ruddington Football Club:-

Councillors P.F. McGowan
K.S. Piggott
Mrs. M. Robinson
N.J. Tegerdine

2. That a meeting with Ruddington Football Club be organised as soon as possible.

CLLRS

C. 11/1534 CHURCHILL DRIVE OPEN SPACE (Vide Minute A. 11/906)

Councillor P.F. McGowan declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Members were advised that following the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 4th October 2011, an officer from Rushcliffe Borough Council had visited the site and suggested that quotations be obtained for necessary work to the willow tree/s located in this area.

Copies of two quotations from T & V Daykin in respect of work to the willow trees had previously been circulated to Members. The Clerk was requested to ascertain the precise details of the quotations as it was not clear whether the two quotations should be added together to cover all five of the trees located in the area. It was pointed out that as the total sum amounted to over £1000 it would be necessary to obtain like-for-like quotations from two additional contractors.

RESOLVED:

1. That clarification be sought from T & V Daykin regarding their quotations.
2. That like-for-like quotations be sought from two additional contractors.

GL/RS

GL/RS

C. 11/1535 OPEN EVENING FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Councillor K.S. Piggott advised that at the Environment & Community Committee Meeting held on 18th October 2011 it had been agreed to include a sum of money in the Budget to hold an 'Open Evening' when local businesses are invited to meet their Councillors and discuss issues that affect both parties in a social atmosphere. He explained that the idea had been put forward by Councillor Mrs. M. Pell who had attended a course recently at which she had been made aware that the Chairman of another Parish Council held such an event annually.

Members at the Environment & Community Meeting had considered this to be an excellent vehicle to open discussions with local businesses.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council should hold an 'Open Evening' for local businesses to meet Councillors in a social atmosphere.

C. 11/1536 RUDDINGTON FESTIVAL IN 2012

Members were reminded that following a suggestion put forward by the Environment & Community Committee at the meeting held on 18th October 2011 it had been agreed in principle to take a stall at the Ruddington Festival 'Market Place' to be held on Saturday 14th July 2012. It was pointed out that if the Council agreed to take it stall, it should be borne in mind that this will need manning on the day, and therefore it would be necessary to draw up a rota of people available.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Parish Council takes a stall at the Ruddington Festival 'Market Place' on Saturday 14th July 2012.
2. That the question of manning the stall be discussed at a Parish Council Meeting nearer the date of the festival.

JG

GL

C. 11/1537 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR OUR VILLAGE

Copies of correspondence from Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell had previously been circulated to Members. The letter explains that as a Councillor who has worked, and is still working, on various objectives the Parish Council wishes to achieve, she is acutely aware that there is not a strategic plan as to how to approach these and this would potentially impact on the ability to effectively apply for potential funding streams as it is currently not known who is doing what. There are therefore two strands which need further discussion and these are dealt with below:-

Strategic plan for each of the Parish Council Standing Committees

It was suggested that each Standing Committee should produce a strategic plan of what it would like to achieve during its term of office and if this includes applying for funding from outside sources it may prove to be more prudent to submit a joint application between committees.

RESOLVED:

That an item be placed on the Agenda for each of the Parish Council's Standing Committees to discuss the production of a strategic plan of what it would like to achieve during its term of office.

GL

Village Plan

It has been suggested on several occasions that the Parish Council should endeavour to engage residents to work towards producing a Ruddington Parish/Village Plan. It is becoming increasingly more evident that local communities around Rushcliffe are producing such a plan and whilst this can be a long drawn out process it does give an indication of the community's views of the village and what it would like in the future.

Whilst it is acknowledged that it is the community who has to produce a plan of this nature, not the Parish Council, it was suggested that further information be sought by the Parish Council with regard to producing a Ruddington Parish/Village Plan.

RESOLVED:

That information be sought in relation to the possible production of a Parish/Village Plan for Ruddington.

GL

C. 11/1538 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Copies of correspondence with the Secretary of St. Peter's Church regarding the possibility of 'dressing' a tree in the churchyard with festive lighting had previously been circulated to Members.

The Clerk advised that she, along with the Deputy Clerk and two members of the groundstaff, had identified a suitable tree within the

churchyard and the estimated cost for the lights etc. would be in the region of £160.00. It is anticipated that the lights will be connected to the power supply located within the War Memorial grounds.

The Clerk pointed out that the proposed lights would be exactly the same as those used on the small Christmas Trees installed on premises around the village and therefore if the proposed scheme for the churchyard did not work out in the future, the lights would not go to waste.

RESOLVED:

1. That St. Peter's Church be thanked for permitting the Parish Council to 'dress' a tree within the churchyard with Christmas Lights.
2. That six sets of lights, together with a suitable transformer, be ordered immediately.

JG

JG

C. 11/1539 REPORTS

Borough Councillors

Councillor Nigel Boughton-Smith, on behalf of the three Borough Councillors reported as follows:

Community Awards Ceremony – these took place on Thursday 10th November and the Borough Councillor's nominee, Mrs. Georgina Eyre (Gina) had been awarded the RBC Community Award for 'Supporting children and young people'. Gina has been Leader of the 3rd Ruddington Brownie and Rainbow Pack for 32 years and the success of her nomination was in a large part due to the supporting evidence Jean Greenwood obtained about Gina from her Girl Guiding contacts.

Community Support Scheme – each Borough Councillor has a £500 fund to distribute in support of the community and to date they have each donated £150 towards equipment for the sensory learning classroom at James Peacock Infant & Nursery School. Further funding has been applied for to support 3rd Ruddington Brownies towards the cost of damaged equipment, and St. Peter's Junior School towards a special computer programme which demonstrates how to deal with relationships, abuse etc. If any Parish Councillor knows of other worthy recipients who would benefit from support the Borough Councillors would welcome suggestions.

Meetings attended:-

- RBC Partners Forum was a chance to meet and find out about various partnerships serving the residents of Rushcliffe
- RCVS Annual Meeting which included a moving talk on 'the role of the voluntary sector on providing free confidential advice
- Visit to RBC Customer Service Centre – spent time in the call centre listening to live enquiries and was very impressed with the organisation, knowledge and information retrieval system in place

Borough Council Business:-

- LG Boundary Commission: the current ratio of Borough Councillors in Rushcliffe is one of the lowest
- New Homes Bonus – Government funds to set aside for capital infrastructure project relating to housing. Also earmarked £500K to support the delivery of dualling the A453 – do we know what impact this will have on Ruddington?
- Update from visioning event – Ruddington to deliver a minimum of 250 houses over the next 15 years. A decision to proceed will be made at Cabinet on 29 November and Full Council on 15 December.
- Planning – application from Soar Valley Homes to be discussed at Development Control on 17 November. It is understood the Officers recommendation is to grant permission (albeit with 18 conditions) but the local Borough Councillors will try to persuade Members of the Committee to vote against the recommendation
- Localism Bill – This will give a greater role for Parish Councils in providing services. What would the Parish Council like to see?

Ruddington Local History & Amenity Society

Councillor P.F. McGowan reported that at the last meeting of the Society they had a very interesting talk on 'Slate Gravestones'.

Parish and Town Council Forum Event

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported on her attendance at the above event held on 26th October 2011 at which the following were discussed:-

Electoral Review Process – This was a briefing by the Local Government Boundary Commission representatives who explained that an electoral review of Rushcliffe is being conducted to try to ensure that each Borough Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors ie how many Borough Councillors are needed. They will consult with the Borough and issue their recommendations and at that point comments can be submitted either to support or oppose, although it was pointed out that they will need evidence, not assertions, as that will aid their final decisions. **NB This has nothing whatsoever to do with the Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.**

2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee/Olympics event planning – Craig Taylor and Nicola Pearson reported that advice will be available regarding street parties etc. They also said that they are aiming to have six fire beacons within Rushcliffe. **NB No funding is available to support any events**

Olympics – The Borough Council is planning events to inspire the next generation and produce a lasting legacy of increased participation in sports. Advice will be issued at ways to promote/engage in the Olympics build up eg planting ideas in Olympic colours etc. The Rush 4 Health event will be a sports and health festival. It was pointed out that a lot of Olympic things are subject to copyright and may have to be

'bought' – BEWARE. Attendees were invited to express an interest in having running lanes on a park of their choice and she did so on behalf of Ruddington. She also advised them of the Ruddington Festival taking place on 14th July and indicated that it will have sports included as a lead up to the Olympics which start on 27th July and the national colours will be used in the proposed procession.

Fire Cover Review – Jo Hayden, Service Planning and Performance Manager, explained briefly the proposed changes and advised that in the longer term the Central Fire Station may relocate to the London Road area, as they need to save £8 million over the next 3 years. They are also aiming to reduce the number of time/resource wasting incidents eg false alarms on automatic systems. Road Traffic issues constitute the main demand, with the peak demand times being 2pm-8pm. With the closure of Dunkirk Fire Station more calls are received at West Bridgford and of the two engines based there, 72% of calls mean they go out of the area, most into the City.

C. 11/1540 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and they be asked to withdraw.

C. 11/1541 STAFFING

The Clerk reported that Gary Long had taken up his appointment as Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer on 10th October 2011.

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointment of Mr. G.D. Long (Employee No. 36) to the post of Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 10th October 2011 be approved.
2. That the above appointment be subject to the standard six month probationary period.

C. 11/1542 BANK MANDATE

The Clerk advised that it is normal practice for the Clerk to the Council and the Deputy Clerk to be sole signatories on the Parish Council's Imprest Account, in addition to 'any two' authorised Councillors. She explained that this account is used to replenish petty cash, pay returnable deposits to hirers etc.

Mrs. J.A. Goodbody and Mrs. L.M. Cooke are currently on the mandate for this account and with the imminent retirement of Mrs. J.A. Goodbody it is necessary to change the mandate to read Mr. G.D. Long and Mrs. L.M. Cooke.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council's Imprest Account Mandate be changed to Mr. G.D. Long and Mrs. L.M. Cooke as sole signatories, in addition to 'any two' authorised Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Chairman