

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wed 21st May 2008 at 8pm in Ramsden Memorial Hall

Members Present: Mrs Holly Deans (Chairman), Mr Clive Cowen, Mrs Sally Miller, Mr Tony Shuker and Mrs Sarah Wiggins

In Attendance: 15 Parishioners, Cllr Simon Hoare and the Clerk

Apologies were received from: Cllr Rodney Rose, Cllr Warwick Robinson, Mr John Mason, Mr Richard Lord, Mr John Biggs, Mr Jeremy Holland.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 16th May 2007 had been circulated and displayed prior to the Parish Council meeting on 18th June, when they had been signed as a true record of the meeting. The minutes of this year's Parish Meeting would be held over to the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2009 for approval and signing.

2. Chairman's Report

The PC had considered planning applications for 23 properties, was much involved with consultations over the affordable housing (AH) development, the St John's House development, and in matters relating to the neighbouring Cornbury Park. Extensive work had gone into compiling a flood report with the help of residents, and it was hoped that grips on the B4022 would help reduce the effects of run-off. Paperwork continued to increase enormously and tribute was paid to the work of the Clerk.

3. Neighbourhood Watch and Policing

The Police no longer attended Annual Parish Meetings unless there was a particular pressing issue to be discussed. A Neighbourhood Police Team Update, with a local policing video blog, was available on their website: www.whosmybobby.co.uk

4. Financial Statement

The final balance on the current account was £472.26, and on the reserve held with WODC £6,500. A delay on several large invoices at the end of 2006/7 had made total payments appear artificially low in 2006/7 and high in 2007/8, and the reserve fund correspondingly high on 31st March 2007 – there was no sudden decrease in the PC's reserves. An underpayment on the Clerk's salary in 2006/7 had been rectified in the current year and the Clerk had worked more hours in 2007/8. There was one unbudgeted large payment: the Environmental Survey – needed before drainage work for the tennis court could be done on the Playing Field and was for the benefit of all Playing Field users. Newsletter advertising revenue was higher as the PC had caught up on back payments. The Newsletter profit since launch was £31. The large VAT reclaim was due to the timing of some large bills.

5. Committee Reports and Financial Statements

a) Memorial Hall (MH)

Mr Bill Miller reported that it had been a good year with successful fund-raising events. An induction loop had been installed, the purchase of a storage shed meant less clutter in the side room, and re-decoration was imminent. The constitution had been updated to reflect the changes in representation since 1946 and registered with the Charities Commission. There was a vacancy for a British Legion representative, Mr Frank Schofield was currently liaising when needed. A team leader was needed to

manage the development of the Upstairs Room, completing the project begun in 2000, and making it suitable for storage, with a project/meeting room for 10-15 people that in the longer term would be equipped with AV facilities. The financial situation had improved considerably, particularly because of one major regular booking, ending the year with a surplus of £3,495. The income for the year was £29,242. The 3 final mortgage payments would be met largely from the 200 Club funds, and the future of the Club would be reconsidered at that stage. There had been no extraordinary payments, large expenditure items had been the shed and increased energy costs. A new list of equipment for hire was being produced.

A request was made to inform neighbours when the Hall was booked for a late party. MHC members: Mike Brady, Jude Douglass, Angela Findlater, Gill Ford, Marvina George, Sandra Holifield, Julia Kirk, Anne MacLennan, John Mason, Bill Miller, Pat Morley, Howard Searle, Ian Thompson, Janet Vinnicombe, Nick Wiggins, Ian Winter. The Chairman thanked the MH Committee members for their work.

b) Playing Field Committee (PFC)

The PFC was continuing to progress plans for the development and improvement of the playing field. The initial priorities were:

- (1) The erection of the practice wall and hard standing area.
- (2) Landscaping works, avoiding extensive work in the potential second tennis court/multi user surface area and possibly incorporating an adventure trail.
- (3) Certain upgrades to playground equipment e.g. a zip wire/flying fox.

Longer term possibilities were:

- (4) Possible basic pavilion or shelter.
- (5) Possible second tennis court/multi user surface.

Discussions continued between the Tennis Club and the PFC over the possible second tennis court or multi user surface, with the possibility of a surface which could double as both second tennis court and five-a-side football surface, and as a surface for other games. Should there be any funding from the AH developer the PFC requested that the PC consider using it towards upgrading the playing field. Subject to PC approval on cost and planning, the PFC was eager to move ahead on the first three options when funding was available.

The income for the year had been £6,753; balances at the end of the year were £578.63 on the current account and £4,873.58 on the deposit account.

PFC members: Richard Lord, Claire Shuker, Paula Biggs, Ian Winter, Gill Ford, Jessica Mannix, Amy Gadney, Steve MacLennan, Howard Cooper, Amelia Richards. The Chairman asked Mrs Paula Biggs to thank Mr Richard Lord for his report.

c) Ramsden Tennis Court Committee (TCC)

This had been a year of changes with Sue Tucker standing down as Chairman after 10 years service. Membership stood at 81. The highlight of the year had been the 10th anniversary party, with had included a tennis tournament. The Club gained 2nd place in the Wychwood league. Court use averaged 25 hours per week in winter and over 60 in summer. Resurfacing was becoming imminent. The TCC was not keen on the idea of sharing a multi-user area. Cardio Tennis, Easter Coaching and the Round Robin were all successful activities.

TCC members: Jeremy Holland (Chairman), Michael Barnes, Ivan Hall, Shirley Holland, John Leftwich, Pauline Leftwich, Sally Ruse, John Tucker, Sue Tucker, and Clare Wilson.

A surplus of £1,012 for the year was declared, with a total cash fund of £6,462. The financial position was strong with satisfactory reserves for ongoing commitments.

d) Domesday Project

The financial account was accepted: opening balance £1,172.09, income £93.95, expenditure £128.95, closing balance £1,137.09.

Progress on the book had been sporadic. Fifteen chapters were planned, two were virtually finalised. More help was always needed, especially with photographs.

Committee members: John Cashman, Mary Castell, Holly Deans, Steve Richards and Dick Williamson (Chairman).

e) Lady Reade Charity

There had been no applications from youngsters living in Ramsden in the past year, so there was nothing further to report.

6. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Simon Hoare (SH) had been returned unopposed until 2012. SH was now on the Cabinet, a senior committee, to look after financial resources. There had been a good report from the Audit Commission. AH remained a key policy, as did waste management, with the need to reduce amounts sent to landfill and boost recycling. Work on the bottlenecks in Witney, parking, infrastructure and public transport were all important. WODC was working to co-ordinate efforts on flood relief by different agencies, and MP David Cameron was striving to get the Environment Agency (EA) to understand the problems small communities experience with flooding. SH confirmed that there was no comprehensive flood plan model for the Windrush valley, and that such work was the EA's responsibility. Necessary work was often sequential, and it was important to co-ordinate the larger agencies, PCs and landowners so that each phase could be dealt with appropriately.

7. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Rose's report was tabled at the back of the Hall.

8. Other matters raised by parishioners

Mrs Sally Miller advised that the government was proposing that GP services in rural areas should move to polyclinics, meaning that services in Charlbury and Hanborough would move to Witney. Residents were urged to sign locally placed petitions or send letters to the MP by 1st June.

Parishioners were invited to discuss grass verges, finances, health and social matters, speeding, planning and flooding with the relevant members of the PC.

Mrs Gill Ford thanked the PC for its work. This was seconded by Mr Dick Williamson.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Signed:

Date: