

Rampton Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Monday 29th April 2019** at 7.30pm in Rampton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs P Dunkley C Goldsmith (Chair)
J Garstang
Clerk C Perrott Public 8
Cllrs N Gough, E Wilson (SCDC)

- 1. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2018**
The minutes were accepted and approved.
- 2. Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2018, not covered elsewhere on the agenda**
There were no matters arising.
- 3. Annual reports and questions** (full reports where provided are available on the website www.rampton.org)

a) County Council – Cllr Wotherspoon

A wide ranging report was provided by Cllr Wotherspoon. Items of note:-

Finance: Based on predictions Cambridgeshire County Council will need to make another £60m of savings over the next three years and are proactively planning to meet the financial pressures ahead. The council strives to engage more closely with residents and to establish collaborative partnerships.

Priorities 2019 – 2021: 3 Outcomes: A good quality of life for everyone; Thriving places for people to live; The best start for Cambridgeshire's children .
Seven themes were listed and include: Developing strength and depth in our commercial activity; Involving citizens in the design and development of our services; Taking a system wide and long-term view in everything that we do.

Roles of Cllr Wotherspoon's : The report describes the roles and organisations he is involved with.

Moving from Shire Hall: Councils headquarters have been agreed to move out of Shire Hall to Alconbury Weald, once planned building is completed, due December 2020. CCC confirmed that the council recognises the importance of the castle mound and Civil War earthworks at Shire Hall and ensured that all bidders for the sale of Shire Hall are clear that any proposal for the site's future use must continue to provide access to these historic features.

Commercial Investments: The council's aim to become more commercial in managing its assets continued with the approval of outline business cases for two smart energy grids at the Park & Ride (P&R) sites at Trumpington and Babraham.

Cambridgeshire Housing & Investment Company became This Land and twenty-one parcels of council estate, some with planning permission, were sold to it, producing capital receipts and the prospect of a future revenue stream.

The report includes a summary of different standings on the planning for 154 houses between Les King Wood and the Recreation Ground.

The Environment: Showing their green credentials in more than just financially beneficial projects, councillors approved unanimously a recent motion to address the issue of single use plastic through changing its own behaviour and influencing other organisations to act similarly. The same principle of protecting the environment underpins the council's partnership with Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network.

The public consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan opened on Friday 15 March 2019 – eventually to be adopted by the end of 2020.

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Education and Young People: £200m has been allocated between 2019 and 2024 to increase capacity in existing schools and plan for new schools in areas of greatest demand. The council had identified areas for improvement and that the Children & Young People Committee had responded with investment to implement changes and boost staffing.

Major Development: A £500,000 National Lottery grant will help the council's Active New Communities project support eight growth sites across the county between 2018 and 2021. The first year's focus will be on Northstowe, Alconbury Weald and Hauxton. Relocation of the sewage treatment works at Milton is planned and a new low carbon 5,000 – 7,000 homes community in north east Cambridge.

Transport: Topics reported on include

- The Ely Southern Bypass
- The "informal" East-West Rail consultation
- Bus review meeting: 3 Highlights were identified:
 - Around half the population have never tried a bus;
 - Targets require a very significant increase in sustainable travel behaviours, which cannot be supported by the public transport network in its current form;
 - Frequency and routes of the network: the report proposes to enhance the existing bus network by a varying range of measures.
- Pilot rural Travel Hub update
- Funding for Bikeability, a national cycling proficiency scheme, popular in Cambridgeshire
- A new Public Bridleway in the parish of Cottenham, providing a new link for non-motorised users between Broad Lane and Rampton Road through Les King Wood has been created.

Awards: The report describes several awards received by wide ranging groups.

Thanks were given to the parish council representatives.

b) District Council – Cllrs Gough and Wilson

A wide ranging report was provided by Cllrs Gough and Wilson. A summary of the report:- We were elected with, among other things, a commitment to improve communication with residents including attending every full Parish Council meeting; submitted reports ahead of every meeting; sharing relevant information with residents: answering questions that arise via drop-in sessions and regular posts to our Facebook page (Cottenham and Rampton). A monthly newsletter is published, residents were encouraged to contact Cllr Wilson for details.

Running the council

A **New Business Plan** for 2019-2024 has been published.

An **organisational review** with the objective of business and delivery improvement, not cost-cutting.

Attracting staff is being addressed through better pay.

Financial income is increasingly being delivered by investment and commercialisation. SCDC precept is increased by 3.8%, the total is a small proportion of total precept bill to residents. Council tax increases have been introduced for empty properties. Extra green bins are now being charged for.

Our **new investment strategy** is ensuring council taxpayers are getting the best return for the council's financial reserves. **Cambridge Ice Rink** is being built off Newmarket Road, requiring additional loans. We have also refocused **Ermine Street's** (the council's trading company to let homes on the open market) investments towards South Cambridgeshire and the employment catchment of the Greater Cambridge sub-region to deliver properties that are not being supplied by current market conditions, such as rented homes for single people.

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A **new strategy for Housing** in South Cambridgeshire has been adopted to deliver homes that are affordable. We have shifted the focus from affordability being defined just by the cost of the property itself but also by the costs to live in it by ensuring new homes are energy and water efficient and better accessible by walking/cycling or public transport. One of our priorities is the provision of more council houses.

We hope to be able to provide homes for 5 **Syrian refugee families** by the time of the end of the Home Office scheme in December 2019.

Grants are being refocussed towards Mobile Warden Scheme and possibly community transport. In the past year, Cottenham United Colts and Ladybirds have benefitted from Community Chest grants.

The '**mysouthcamb**s' **customer service portal** is being rolled out and is evolving, offering residents the means to access Council services at any time.

Items included in the **planning** section of the report include:-

- The Local Plan: work on a new joint Local Plan with Cambridge City has already commenced.
- Issues relating to the Bellway construction (Cottenham) resulting in the creation of the Community Liaison Group forum.
- Cottenham Nursery
- New site for Durman Stearn that will reduce HGV traffic through Cottenham
- Waste incinerator application
- Operations at Cambridge recycling. Residents are encouraged to report issues.
- Deterioration of listed buildings in the area

Cambridge City Council and South Cambs Council are working together on a **North East Cambridge Area** Action Plan for development of the area west of the new Cambridge North Station. Government funding should ensure **relocation of the Anglian Water waste water recycling centre** from its existing site close to Cambridge North station.

We have initiated a District-wide initiative to combat **fly-tipping** in terms of increasing awareness of the problem, accelerating clearance and improving enforcement.

'**Green to our core**': Our administration has pledged to become a zero-carbon district by 2050. A range of measures such as increasing household recycling rates and improving air quality, particularly in "hot-spots" were mentioned.

Transport: Councillor Wilson is a representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Joint Assembly and has raised a number of critical transportation issues that impact our villages. These include:-

- Public consultation on the Oakington rural travel hub.
- Cycle path from Cottenham to Oakington.
- Cycle path from Rampton to the guided busway
- Cycling arrangements along the Histon Road.
- GCP focus on a limited number of locations, many villages overlooked
- Importance of extending the discussion to include other transport initiatives to encourage more use of public transport options.

Cllr Wilson indicated that "carrots", such as better public transport were needed to change transport usage before using "sticks" such as congestion charging for car use.

ACVs: We have been advised that SCDC has accepted applications to include the Free Church Mission Hall and the Black Horse Public House on the list of Assets of Community Value.

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c) Parish Council – Cllr Goldsmith

There was an election last year and we would like to thank Cllrs Cawley and Eden who stood down from the council after many year's service. Four councillors who were appointed at the election, Cllrs Drew, Allen, Cook, Goldsmith. Three additional councillors were co-opted in July, Cllrs Scrivener, Horne and Garstang. Due to personal reasons Cllrs Cook and Scrivener both stood down, and we would like to thank them for their contributions. Finally, Cllr Dunkley was co-opted in March.

Projects achieved this year include:-

- Installation of the new children's play area equipment thanks to the National Lottery grant.
- A hornbeam was planted to commemorate the centenary of the cessation of WWI.
- The Cottenham Colts have been using our recreation ground for some of their training.
- Installation of cycleway studs between Rampton and Cottenham with financial help from Cottenham Parish Council and the Cambridgeshire Community Fund.
- Adoption of the telephone kiosk on the Green.
- The Black Horse public house and the Mission Hall have both been re-registered as Assets of Community Value.

We are pleased to announce that two volunteers have come forward to fill the role of tree warden (to inspect and manage the health of the trees) in the village, and we would also like to thank Gilbert for his many years' service in the role.

The parish council was also awarded an LHI grant to assist with installation of a lamppost on King Street to fill the gap, unfortunately this has hit a snag as placement of a lamppost in the location would be problematic with the positioning of the overhead cables. RPC have been working with the County Council to try to resolve the issue but may have to accept that it might not be possible within the budget.

Other ongoing projects include New Life in the Old West (an initiative by Cambridgeshire ACRE), and the ongoing transfer of All Saint's Church ground to the care of the Parish Council.

d) New Parish Councillors – Cllr Goldsmith

We still have a vacancy available on the council which can be filled by co-option. If anyone is inspired to join the council then feel free to talk to one of the current councillors or the clerk.

e) Allotments – Parish Clerk

There are currently 2 half plots vacant, so if anyone is interested in renting an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk. The current annual rental, to cover the land lease, is £8 for a half plot and £16 for a full plot. Extending the lease of the land has been a slow process and RPC are hoping that it will be finalised soon. The new lease incorporates the land between the current allotments and the hedge alongside the High Street. Once complete the plan is to provide one more plot, which is already reserved and will be rented once the lease is in place.

f) All Saints Church – J Middleton

All Saints' Rampton has only a few services a year now that it is a chapel of ease. However It continues to be open every day thanks to a committed band of people who open it, clean it, arrange flowers and do general maintenance.

As well as Easter services there has been a Choral Evensong, Pimm's and hymns, Harvest festival, a Carol service and Midnight communion. All were well attended. There have also been funerals and a marriage blessing.

g) Black Horse Public House – H Alderton

Mr Alderton submitted his apologies prior to the meeting as unfortunately he would be unable to attend the meeting. Mr Alderton is happy to arrange to attend another future meeting to discuss anything raised, and is very keen to be involved in this process in the future.

No questions relating to the Black Horse were raised at the meeting.

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h) **Friday Youth Group – M Mould**

Cllr Goldsmith outlined details of the new Rampton Friday Club as provided in a powerpoint presentation report that supports the clubs application for a grant from RPC. The club is a safe indoor place where children living in Rampton can meet and play together safely.

i) **Friends of All Saints Church – S Beaumont**

The Friends continue to raise money for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church. They have a small committee of eight members who organise social events. During the last year we put on The Last Night of the Proms shown live from The Royal Albert Hall and the annual popular wine tasting evening which once again was very successful. At Christmas we had a well attended live nativity tableau outside the Church porch and sold mulled wine and mince pies.

The committee is currently busy planning several events for the coming year which will include the Last Night of the Proms and the wine tasting evening.

j) **Police – Cllr Horne**

The clerk passed on Cllr Horne's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting or provide a report. Cllr Horne had tried to get a PCSO to attend to answer any residents questions, but without success.

k) **Rampton '77 Committee – J White**

The '77 Committee continues to run events within Rampton with the main intention of encouraging a sense of community.

In the past year our Chair, Judy Garstang, resigned and was replaced by Jon White. The committee, and we are sure the village as a whole, are grateful to Judy for her inspired and enthusiastic leadership over the past few years. Other changes; Treasurer is now Sarah Palmer, Secretary Pat Mansfield and Vice-Chair Janet Eden.

Events organised last year, some in conjunction with the Rampton Fairies were Tea on the Green, the Rampton Relay, the Rampton Dinner and Show and a jumble sale. 2019 will see the return of the Rampton Summer Fayre as well as these events.

l) **Rampton Action Group (RAG) – J Middleton**

RAGs purpose is to keep All Saints' Rampton open to all, for services, concerts, worship and reflection as a Chapel-of-Ease. We are now formally established under Cottenham with Rampton PCC to care, day-to-day, for the church building and oversee large-scale repairs/ refurbishment. We shall formally launch a fund-raising campaign for day-to-day care of the church building this summer.

Our initial work has been in preparing to close the churchyard to new burial plots and then to hand over maintenance to Rampton PC. Formal application for this is now in train, and we have re-fenced the paddock to ensure then, when handed over, the churchyard is in good repair. We also anticipate conducting (and funding) some tree maintenance work prior to handover (subject to recommendation of RPC tree advisor).

Major (grant-aided) future works will be guided by the recent quinquennial report, which highlighted the south window to the western side of the porch, as requiring serious attention. Further to this, a redevelopment of the vestry to provide suitable facilities would greatly enhance the utility of the church for a wider range of events.

List of members: Rev Lynda Davies, Alison Dickens, Michael Hasting, Judi Middleton, Gavin Cameron, Colin Humphries, Alison Wedgbury.

m) **Rampton Arts Group (Ramparts)**

No report or representation was made by Ramparts.

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n) **Rampton Car Care Scheme – C Dickinson**

The Rampton Car Care Scheme is a voluntary scheme run by the village in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council. The Scheme has been running for a number of years and currently has 9 voluntary drivers. The scheme is run by Jill Howell and Chris Dickinson.

The purpose of the Scheme is to provide transport for those needing to make essential journeys where no suitable public transport services exist or who have limited access to a private car.

During the past year (2018) 162 journeys have been carried out compared to 78 the previous year. Total mileage of 2806 miles was covered during the year.

The cost to users is 30p per mile with a minimum charge of £3.

We would welcome anyone who could spare a half day or more to become a driver.

o) **Energy and Oil Buying Group – J Bateson**

Activities outside of the syndicate purchase of domestic heating oil have been restricted over the period 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019. If anybody wants to add or contribute something, then please do.

Concerning oil, 6 purchases have been made totalling 82,800L averaging 13,800L per drop. 134 drops were made averaging 22 per order.

Looking ahead: A second Repair Cafe for the village is planned for later in the year. Perhaps tapping into known expertise in the village in respect of an up-to-date overview of the technologies surrounding domestic energy generation and 'preservation' within the home with a view to a public meeting also for later in the year. I would like to add a 'For sale' piece as well to go to those agreed to be on the email list, justified by selling an item is just "recycling with added value".

Thanks are, as always, extended to Jill Howell in negotiating oil prices with the various suppliers

p) **Rampton Fairies**

No report or representation was made by the Rampton Fairies.

q) **Rampton Horse Show Committee – P Mansfield**

The 2018 Rampton Horse Show took place on 15th September last year and for once the weather was kind to us. Donations achievable as a result of the events success were:-

- £400 to Papworth Hospital Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group (in honour of our longstanding Chairman, Mick North, who very sadly passed away in 2018)
- £700 to Fenland Animal Rescue
- £400 to Rampton Church

In 2018 Rampton Horse Show Committee was able to improve the safety of our competitors by the use of our new plastic jump cups. These were purchased with a very generous grant from Fen Edge Community Association and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our grateful thanks.

Arrangements are underway for this year's show, the date of which is Saturday 21 September 2019. New members are welcome as always.

r) **Rampton Village Hall Management Committee - A Dickens/ A Bateson**

2018/19 has been another busy and successful year for the Village Hall, The work of the Committee includes the maintenance and day to day running of the Hall and we have an annual programme of improvements to the Hall. This year the exterior of the hall has been decorated and work has been done on ensuring our health and safety and fire safety documentation are up to date. The Committee also organised two further village litter picks one in the autumn but unfortunately the 2019 spring litter pick had to be postponed due to poor weather. Thanks go to the villagers who turn out regularly to help at these events which greatly improves the look of our village.

Fund raising events by the Committee during the year have included sell out concerts by Brooks Williams and the Willows, the annual Jumble Sale in October, coffee mornings and a tabletop sale. The Village Lottery remains well supported.

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The Hall is well used regularly by village organisations including the Parish Council, Ramparts, Table Tennis, the annual Rampton Show and Over 60s meal, the Harvest supper, Rampton Spinners and Tea Club for over 55s. The Friday Club, a new youth group, is also using the hall once a month and a new Craft group has recently started. The Hall is also used for fund raising events by others and private bookings from outside Rampton. The Hall continues in the black.

On behalf of Alison Dickens I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work and support and the support received throughout the year from the residents of Rampton. Thanks should particularly be recorded to Jill Howell who, although not a Committee member manages the lottery on our behalf. It should be noted that at our AGM our longest serving committee member, Celia Chappell, stepped down after more than 30 years. We are immensely sad to see her go and wish her all the very best in the future.

s) **Rampton Walking Group – S Beaumont**

The Rampton Walking group are in their 6th year and continue to have a sizeable group of walkers from the village and further a field. In the last year we have enjoyed walks in various parts of the county, based among others around Haddenham, Girton, Madingley, Abbots Ripton, Dry Drayton, Fulbourn and even Rampton.

We leave Rampton green at 9.00am and share rides where we can, we usually park in a pub car park returning there for lunch where we are usually joined by a few Rampton residents.

We take it in turn to organise the walk and the pub lunch and so far have never called off a walk due to weather conditions. Our walks are usually about 5-6 miles and we are often able to offer a shorter option for those that want it. We welcome new members.

t) **Rampton Website and Newsletter – C Goldsmith & H Scrivner**

Cllr Goldsmith read out the following on behalf of the **newsletter** editor:-

“Thanks to the 4 volunteers who help me to distribute the newsletter each month and to those members of the village who regularly contribute so that people can be kept up to date with village events”.

The **website** continues to be hosted kindly by Ian who provides space and bandwidth on one of his servers along with the registration of the rampton.org domain used for the website and the newsletter@rampton.org email (which also goes to the website editor).

There is a possibility that the Parish Council will be looking to adopt the website and get a more dedicated resource for hosting, also there is the possibility for co-hosting other community projects and if this is agreed we can reach out to other groups in the village.

The website has merely been echoing the content of the newsletter for some time now, this is becoming difficult with GDPR issues, so if you contribute articles to the newsletter or website please make it clear whether you give permission for your contact details to be shared on the website.

u) **Table Tennis Club – J Howell**

The group continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings.

v) **Tea Club – S Beaumont**

The over 60s tea club usually attracts about 15 people to its fortnightly meetings on Tuesday afternoons. We meet between 2.30 and 4.30, we serve tea or coffee and biscuits, the charge is £1.50 to cover the hire of the hall and refreshments. It is usually an opportunity for chat with the occasional quiz.

This year we have had a speaker from Age UK and an interesting talk by Alison Wedgbury on walking the pilgrimage route to Santiago in northern Spain. We enjoyed an interesting session with Amanda MacPhail decorating mugs using onglaze enamels. For next month we have a speaker arranged to talk about bread making.

We have had two trips out, we visited Southwold during the summer and a trip to a Christmas market in Birmingham in the winter.

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w) Townlands and Educational Foundation Charities – A Steward

Eleemosynary and Unknown Donor's Charity

The Rampton Townlands charity is one unit that supports two charities: Eleemosynary and the Educational Foundation both with the intention of providing residents of Rampton with financial support, albeit in slightly different ways.

The Eleemosynary (5 Trustees) aims to provide a one-off grant to those in need, who are either unable to work, out of work or on a low income towards, for example: the cost of clothing and or equipment for a trade/occupation or to supply food, clothing bedding, fuel or other articles in kind.

The Educational Foundation (7 Trustees) seeks to support the education of those who would otherwise struggle financially. Grants are available for children and young people up to their 22nd birthday who are Rampton residents. An applicant may apply for a maximum of three grants (although, in exceptional cases, further grants may be made).

The grants are easy to apply for and an application form is available to download online via the village website. There are generally two meetings per year for applications to be considered - May and September. However should an item be urgent please complete the application form, state reason for urgency and forward. The next approval meeting will be the 23rd May 2019. Anyone wishing to make an application should do so prior to 20th May 2019.

4. Open Forum

Cllr Gough talked briefly about the Fen Edge Community Association (FECA) that produce the Fen Edge News. The group has awarded over £10,000 in grants. The Rampton Horse Show, the Friday Club and Wi-Fi in the Village Hall have benefited. Ideas for the Fen Edge Festival, to be held on the 22/23rd June 2019 are encouraged from villages and residents other than Cottenham to participate.

Questions from residents on planning issues were raised as follows:-

- Potential development on County Farms land on Cow Lane.
- Safety on the road at Fox Corner with the additional property proposed.
- Delayed decision progress of the proposed development at 8, the Green.

It was noted that the new Local Plan would help to control development, and that in general with the lack of infrastructure, any large developments in Rampton are not likely to be justified.

The clerk outlined how RPC were involved in the planning decision process.

5.. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6.. Close of meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Posted on 02 May 2019
by Claire Perrott
Clerk to Rampton Parish Council
13 Cow Lane, Rampton, Cambs CB24 8QG
Email: ramptonparishclerk@googlemail.com

Signed:


Chairperson

Date:

26.4.22