

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Church Street, Rothersthorpe on Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr J Considine – Chairman, Mrs C Nolan, Mrs J Johnson, Mr J Morphy, Mr P Dickens, Mr R Boscott and Ms J Botterill.

In Attendance: Mrs A Addison – District Councillor  
Mrs S Murphy - Clerk  
Mrs N Fountain – School Headmistress  
7 Members of the Public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs J Kirkbride , Mrs J Eliot and Mrs K Cooper.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Mr Considine declared his interest in the discussion about the crossroads.

**3. Public Open Session**

Mrs Fountain addressed the meeting about the decision to limit gate access to the playing field. The decision was taken because of a safeguarding issue in the school. Mrs Fountain was unable to explain exactly what the issue was because of protocol but there was no option but to close the gate to the general public. Therefore the gate would be locked from 3.30p.m onwards. Mrs Fountain was uncertain how long this would go on for but could not guarantee that it will open again.

Mr Boscott asked if it would be possible to fence off the school entrance and to allow the playground to be used. Mrs Fountain agreed to look into the possibility. Mr Considine suggested that the Parish Council discuss possible options with the VHMC and then talk to the school.

Mrs Fountain confirmed that a letter would be in the next newsletter explaining why the gates are closed.

Genine Marrant addressed the meeting about The Chequers public house. She explained that she is unable to get financial backing to put an offer in for the Chequers because everything has been taken out apart from the bar. Both bars are being used as living areas and the pipes have been taken out of the cellar. Mrs Addison said that it was important to get the Enforcement Officer in as soon as possible. Mrs Addison agreed to speak to SNC Enforcement Officers.

Mr Pete Osborne addressed the meeting and said that he would like to pay for a bench to be positioned near the bus shelter and to put a plaque on it to remember his mother and father but would like the Parish Council to install it.

It was proposed that the Parish Council install and maintain the bench: Proposed Mrs C Nolan. Seconded: Ms J Botterill. All agreed. Mr Considine thanked Mr Osborne for his offer.

It will be necessary to obtain permission from NCC Highways to install the bench. Ms Botterill and Mr Osborne will decide on the exact location.

Mr Calvert addressed the meeting and spoke of his concern that someone had let air out of his tyres and that it may happen to other people. Mrs Nolan agreed to report to Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr Considine addressed the meeting and spoke about the recent accident at the crossroads which had demolished his garden wall. This was the third time in 16 years and he wondered if any measures could be taken to prevent this from happening again. It seems that speeding traffic from Kislingbury fails to recognise the Give Way signs at the junction.

It was agreed to contact Councillor Michael Clark, the cabinet member for Highways and ask if this could be looked into.

Ms Botterill said that she had received a complaint about HGVs travelling down North Street looking for access to Pineham and other local industrial estates.

It was agreed to contact NCC Highways and ask for sign posts to show that there is no access to and from the industrial estates through Rothersthorpe.

#### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 were agreed and signed.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

##### **Neighbourhood Planning**

Following the review of the Village Survey it was decided that another questionnaire would not be in the best interests of the parish council. Regular updates from the playing field committee in the newsletter could ensure that villagers are kept informed on progress. Villagers should also be made aware that the minutes are published on the website and copies are available if internet access is not available.

The recent article in the newsletter had been well received. It was decided that a quarterly article would be a good idea. It was also decided to set up a policy to decide how much to charge for a copy of the minutes.

It was decided that the Parish Council should review what SNC have on their website for Rothersthorpe in order to discuss at the next meeting.

##### **Churchyard Gates**

Mike Barber has made a temporary repair to the churchyard gates to try and prevent dogs going into the churchyard and fouling the grass.

##### **Cemetery Rates**

As yet there has been no response from SNC.

#### **6. Clerk's Report**

##### **External Audit for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014: Issues Arising**

The audit for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 has been completed. There were two issues arising:-

**Reserves:** the balances held by the parish council appear high and have been building up over the years. The council has no power to hold excessive reserves unless they are saving for something in particular. If the council is not saving for a large purchase, the balances carried forward should be reduced to a more appropriate level. The generally accepted level of reserves is usually no more than the level of the precept or one years expenditure at the most.

Minor Issues:- There were empty boxes In section 1 of the annual return. If there are no figures to go in these boxes they should include a nil or zero to confirm this.

### NCALC AGM

The AGM of the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils will be held on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 10a.m. at Raunds Town Hall.

At the meeting the proposed increase in membership fees will be discussed. The recommendation is that Rothersthorpe parish Council will pay £263.22 from April 2015 compared to £146.28 for the previous year.

It was agreed to write to NCALC to say that a 40% increase is unacceptable particularly when it was recommended that parish clerks should receive no more than a 1% pay increase over the past year.

### **7. Planning**

Application: S/2014/1477/LBC

Mr and Mrs J Batten  
26A Church Street  
Rothersthorpe

two storey link extension, including removal of fallen walls, replace missing roof and rebuild chimney top, fenestration and door changes  
And minor internal alterations.

The parish council have no objection.

S/2014/1507/LBC

Canal & River Trust

Replacement of top composite gate with timber Gate at Lock 2 – Rothersthorpe flight of locks.

The Parish Council have no objection.

### **8. Finance**

#### Expenditure

E.ON Electricity	£340.97	Chq. No. 000883
	Vat:£56.83	
Allseasons Gardening to 30.7.2014	£456.00	“ “ 000884
	Vat:£76.00	
Allseasons: Gardening to 31.7.2014	£462.00	“ “ 000885
	Vat:£77.00	
Allseasons : Gardening to 30 8. 2014	£342.00	“ “ 000886
	Vat:£57.00	
BDO.LLP: Audit Fees	£120.00	“ “ 000887
	Vat:£20.00	
Mrs S Murphy: Salary	£453.24	“ “ 000888
Mrs B Osborne: Payroll Services	£45.00	“ “ 000889
Rothersthorpe Village Hall: Room Hire	£38.00	“ “ 000890

### **9.Highways/Footpaths**

#### Salt bags

Salt bags are available from directly from Northamptonshire Higways at a cost of £4 for a 25kg bag of salt.

Tree: Banbury Lane

Northamptonshire Highways have arranged for the removal of the tree outside 30 Banbury Lane due to the further decline of the tree since the last safety report in May 2013.

Memorial Garden

Mr Dickens reported that it may not be necessary to returf the area of the memorial garden as grass seed may be a s effective.

**10. Representative Reports**

School Governors: Meeting next week.

VHMC: Nicola Fountain spoke at the last VHMC meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch: All reasonably quiet.

Rothersthorpe Website: Have sorted out the problems with the spam.

**11. Date of the next Meeting**

Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014 at 7.30p.m

Meeting closed at 8.50p.m

Signed.....Dated.....