Rimpton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Le Hardy, Cllr P Caruth, Cllr P Copeland Cllr G Ford and 8 members of the public.
In attendance Unitary Councillors Henry Hobhouse, Kevin Messenger, Mrs A Tuck, Clerk.

The chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm with the announcement that sadly David Warburton had passed away on 26th August and he gave tribute to him.
The open forum followed, The Clerk was asked to publish the future meeting dates, and to ensure John Townsend is on the list to receive minutes and agendas. The state of the path across the Marden Field was stated to be dangerous with cracks, need to put a warning sign there, the last quote to repair was £5,000.

2025.55 **Apologies:** Cllr Diment

2025.56 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

2025.57 **Minutes of the Meeting on 1st July 2025** were approved

2025.58 **Matters arising**: The notices, 1 for Pitt Corner the other for North Street – size to be reduced.

2025.59 **County/District Councillors report.** Cllr Hobhouse reported that Somerset Council's financial troubles were not over yet, they will go into transformation to save £100 m. Due to a good financial officer they had saved £35m last year, they still have to find £66m before they use the reserves. There is a new 151 Officer. Adult and social care take most of Somerset's money, for each child that attends Chilton Cantello school it costs the County £100,00 per year. Wessex Water has enough phosphate savings to commit to build 18,000 houses in Somerset. The EA has withdrawn funding to clear banks and depth dredge but a lot of this has been undertaken by SRA. Cllr Hobhouse will speak to Tracey Harris tomorrow and bring her to look at the drains in Rimpton. Chairman asked that a date be arranged when he is available, There is one drain particularly that they are concerned about in Slade Lane, they would also like her to look at Back Lane re the planning application at Tree Tops.

2025.60 **Planning** There are 15,000 outstanding planning applications**,** an email has been received saying that for the next 100 days planners are trying to get on top of the back log and applications for less than 10 houses will no longer go to committee.

2025.61 **Highways:** Cllr Le Hardy told the meeting he was planning to commission J M Clarke to sweep the village once this winter in addition to the County sweeping it twice. Cllr Hobhouse will enquire with Tracey Harris tomorrow when County may be sweeping the village. We have had an email again about grit bins, we have been asked for the last three years but nothing has happened. Cllr Hobhouse will also talk to Ms Harris about this as well.

Temp Road Closure TTRP 3581455 Sherborne Road

2025.62 **Footpaths:** are looking pretty good.

2025.63 **Playing Field, Grass cutting and hedges.** The parish Council taking a 5 year contract with Soverign for the playground inspections and a one – off check on the Zip Wire. The robot mower starting later due to light evenings, there is undergrowth down the west and east side under the hedges, need to cut the grass so the robot doesn't get stuck and on the lawn by the gate.
There has been a problem with a child riding his bike across the road and round corners dangerously without being aware of oncoming traffic. Concerns were raised for his safety, he wasn't wearing a helmet. We will try and find out who it is.

2025.64 **a) Finance: The accounts were** presented and agreed, as were the invoices to pay. As we had donated £5,000 towards the Village Hall new boiler The Chairman asked for an update. The boiler has been replaced, there are new radiators in the hallway, the committee room, in the toilets, kickboard radiator with a fan in the kitchen, with 2 more fan mounted radiators in the main hall. In the Dorset half term double glazing will be fitted. The school that was using the hall now uses a hall closer to them and a little but of work remains in the kitchen around the boiler cupboard. Will it make the hall more attractive to rent out? They will be promoting the hall as a venue of choice. Wifi may make it more appealing to the Councils etc but hey would need a line run into the hall and to rent a wifi only hub which is on the hall agenda for the next meeting. The Parish Council were thanked for their contribution.

2025.65 **Website and emails.** Web site set up, Councillors all have new org.uk email addresses, clerk new email clerk@Rimptonparishcouncil.org.uk Clerk asked Councillors if they were all using their new email addresses not all on it yet. The clerk will update information in the parish News magazine.

2025.66 **Correspondence** There was a complaint about Wood Lane, and what was happening there. Cllr Hobhouse offered to get enforcement officers involved. Cllr Caruth to contact Mrs Ryall and ask questions. The footpath across the stream and separate pond outside the wood is an official water station.
Flood Mary Meeting – Cllr Ford hopeful he can attend.
The local transport plan will not affect Rimpton.

2025.67 **Any Other matters raised with permission of the Chairman**
Cllr Le Hardy reminded residents to clear and empty drain chambers and report blockages. Need to raise awareness and rally around keeping the drains clear of leaves.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm