Rimpton Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Le Hardy, Cllr P Caruth, Cllr P Copeland, Cllr Ford and 2 members of the public.
In attendance Unitary Councillors Henry Hobhouse, Kevin Messenger. Mrs A Tuck, Clerk.

The chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and Welcomed Cllr Ford to his first meeting as a Councillor. The Chair warned of a phone scam that he had recently received supposedly from DVLA

2024.557 **Apologies:** Cllr Diment

2024.52 **Declarations of Interest:** None..

2024.53 **The Minutes** of the last meeting were read, and agreed and signed , the minutes of the previous meeting on 31st July were also signed.

2024.54 **Matters arising**: None that don't come up elsewhere.

2024.55 **County/District Councillors report.** Cllr Hobhouse and Cllr Messenger had nothing to report but were asked about LCN's as we had recently received minutes from the Yeovil LCN, however we have requested to be back in the Wincanton/Castle Cary LCN. Cllrs reported there is a D&C scrutiny committee to look into LCN's, which seem to be in a flux.

2024.56 **Planning** None

2024.57 **Community Issues:**

a) Highways: Sluice gate and pipe quote from £950 M Ryall Councillors agreed to pay for this from Council funds.

b) Woodhouse Lane, James Hull's quote was for £1,000, need a requote because Mr Hopkins has done some work to the ditches, Mr Taylor has done some work, Mr Lock will make a donation towards work,

c) Autumn leaf clearance estimated £250 x 2

The Church and Home Farm Lane sweeping, clerk had a verbal quote of £140 for up to 3 hours sweeping, if less than 3 hours the cost would still be £140.

Somerset Council Highways cleared all drains in August but failed to clear blockage at Pitcombe Lane before Slade Lane. Row Lane has had 2 drains cleared and the pipes are exposed.

The Clerk has had an email ref salt bins from Somerset Council – Cllr Caruth reported the salt bin is full.

The Chairman sent the letter to highways and await the reaction from them.

The Chairman gave Councillors a draft document of Councillors responsibilities.

2024.58 **Foot paths** The footpath from Slade Lane to The Story Pig has been closed by Eve Wynn, Somerset Footpaths Officer due to a dangerous culvert.

2024.59 **Playing Field, Grass cutting and hedges** Cllr Caruth bought new nets for the football goals which have been fitted the swing has been cleaned of bird mess – Thank you for doing this. Mr E Jones from West Camel can quote for the hedges. Mr D Brown has agreed he will do the hedge at t eh back up to the road but can't get past the Cherry Trees. The left had side is not being done, whose responsibility is this? The field behind the hedge has been fenced off. Will Draper has agreed to cut the areas of grass land that the robot mower will not do for £20 per cut, it was agreed to pay him £40 for the two remaining cuts this year.

2024.60 **Village Hall Heating System** A report had been received by Richard Billings, the village hall has a fund but it will not cover the costs needed, to replace the oil boiler is bigger and will not fit so needs a new structure to put it in and will cost app £50K, if an electric system is used to replace it then a three phase system is needed costing £70k. The Council agreed the village hall is a fundamental part of the village. If we add £2K to the precept it will cost a band d house 43p per house and will take 10 years to raise 50% the money and we should be able to get a grant for 50%. It was agreed to start a fund, approach local companies and run a hard appeal to raise profile, the village hall could be used as a warm hub for the village, task to identify vunerable adults in the village. The village hall it is a vital part of the Emergency plan. **Ideas for the Emergency Plan and use of the village hall to next meeting.**

2024.61 **a) Finance: The accounts were** presented and agreed, as were the account to pay, Can we have a card with our bank account – we need to be able to pay Currys Know how direct - clerk to find out.

2024.62 **Correspondence** The Chairman agreed to drop a note about dangerous trees that need pruning to the landowner

2024.63 **Community Cohesion/ Civil Contingency Planning** . It was agreed that we all enjoy living in Rimpton but the demographic is changing, the population aging and it is increasingly more difficult to access services from the Local Unity Council. Highway maintenance is a significant issue. We need to help others tot understand the effects of the financial shortages and that we need their help and engagement to take responsibility in the vicinity of their homes. To maintain gullies, drain, clear weeds and debris, the hedges and verges and clearance of leaves in autumn. The Parish Council, the Village Hall committee and the Parochial Church Council all work hard to bring funding to events in the village successfully, they are to be congratulated on their endeavours but this is less than 5% of the community. Are we doing enough to encourage the 20-50 age group to join in.

Civil Contingency planning. Following covid we are being encourages to prepare more for civil emergencies. These could range from catastrophic flooding, na aircraft or railway crash to another pandemic. Emergencies such as flooding, fires and power cuts can affect all. We have a surface flooding plan in place but this needs updating. The SRA/ Environment Agency have put a telemetric monitor in place on Honey brook Bridge to warn of imminent flooding but what might be needed in the event of an emergency, What expertise do we have in the village, what equipment and resources do we have at our disposal – how can we organise and prepare?
Templates are held for
Home Emergency Plans
Community Emergency Plan
Do residents have experience in Resilience and Emergency planning?
Advice is available on the Government website.
We need to set an aim. We need contact details within the village as well as outside. Resources and skills available. Available shelters, Local hazards and risks. Community mapping, Volunteer Action Cards, Health and safety aide memoires, Communications – landline and wifi.
Whilst this is a Parish Council lead we need to do everything possible to engage across the community. Cllr Le Hardy suggests a meeting to kick the project off with a village wide meeting in late November. We are looking for volunteers.

2024.65 **Any Other matters raised with permission of the Chairman** There is Himalayan Balsam along the stream, its an invasive species and needs pulling in Summer.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm