Rimpton Parish Council

# DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Tuesday 7th May 2024

**Present:** Cllr Le Hardy, Cllr P Copeland, Cllr L Diment, and 2 members of the public.
**In attendance** Unitary Councillor Mr Henry Hobhouse, Mrs A Tuck, Clerk.
Before the start of the meeting Members of the public were given the right to talk.

**2024.23** **Apologies:** Cllr Caruth, Unitary Councillor Mr Kevin Messenger

**2024.24** **Declarations of Interest:** None..

**2024.25** **The Minutes** of the last meeting were read, approved and signed, two Councillors were unable to read their minutes they were given printed ones and the clerk will resend.

**2024.26** **Matters arising**:

**2024.27** **County/District Councillors report.** Adult and children's social care area a big factor in the County budget. Suez are the contractors for our recycling, their costs have overtaken the contract and they have asked to renegotiate the budget or they cannot continue. The new highways contractor are in place and it is hoped things will improve, pot hole repairs will now have a 2 year warranty – they didn't have one before. Cllr Hobhouse should have enough money to put early warning monitors on the rivers for flood warning, they are currently having an app written to put on mobile phones, an amber alert gives an hours warning of flooding.

**2024.28** **Planning**

**24/00968/HOU** Crossways Farm, Rimpton, Single storey extension to front elevation, removal of conservatory on the south elevation. **No Objections**
**24/00696/COL** Perrens, Woodhouse Lane, Rimpton, agricultural occupancy condition.
**24/0061/FUL** lavender Keepers, Great Pit Lane, Rimpton, Change of use for land to site 3 tipi's to provide café/social function use and a farm shop ( net addition of two tipi's, including the resitting of the tipi approved under planning permission 20/00231/FUL. Application discussed, I Councillor objected but the councils conclusion is they have no objections to the tipis but to ask planning if the condition still stands to take them down between the end of October and March and to raise concerns on highways grounds about the entrance and the amount of traffic passing in Slade Lane when they hold events.

**2024.29** **Community Issues:**

**a) Highways:** Road closures as per the agenda were noted.

**b) The Way Ahead** Honeybrook Bridge and sluice gate need doing asap. Mr Ryall has quote to do the work. John Nicholson would need to approve us

doing it but he is away from the office on training until 20th May. Cllr Le Hardy email him and ask his permission to repair it. Cllr Hobhouse doesn't have a budget for any small improvement schemes.
Woodhouse Lane similar situation, One farmer is not prepared t pay any money for the repair to the damaged drainage, however he will help with the work, the other farmer concerned is happy to pay £1000 towards repairs. Cllr Le Hardy to speak to Mr Hopkins.
Pitfield Corner at the bottom of Slade Lane there is 50-70 metres damage at the side of the road. Cllr Le Hardy to ask Mr Ryall for a quote.
**c)** Need to clarify status of highway maintenance regarding ditches, drains and road sweeping. New contractors are in place and have started working, will keep onto John Nicholson and keep reporting problems on the website.

**2024.30** **Foot paths** The Ryalls have spread muck on the field and are ploughing – you can just about walk on the footpaths though part of the footpath has been damaged by the ploughing. Most footpaths are in a bad state because of the weather.

**2024.31** **Playing Field/ Mower Installation** The new mower is currently working away quietly the grass is looking good. The mounds will need strimming, the goal nets need replacing and will need lifting for grass cutting.

**2024.32** The LCN meetings - the cost to the County for these was £650,000 pa to pay officers, is it a good use of money? Cllr Hobhouse reported the youth programme in the Wincanton area is working well, a working group of the Scrutiny Committee are looking into the LCN's, without finances its just a talking group.

**2024.33** **Elections,** There was a small turnout for voting for the Police and Crime Commissioner. It's a fraught situation they are not employing any more PCO's, there are 4000 partly trained police officers who the government won't continue to pay all civilian staff are working on notice, they are being sacked and the partly trained police officers will fill the roles.

**2024.34** a)Finance: Payments were approved to D L Crease, electrical work for mower. Landpower for the robotic mower, Elite Playgrounds for the 4 inspections in the next year. Grass cutting pre rbo mower for the Marden field and for the Church, the Clerks salary and Tax.
b)The accounts for the year 23-24 were presented. The Agar forms were reviewed and signed.

**2024.35** **Correspondence –** None

**2024.36** **Any Other matters raised with permission of the Chairman**
None

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday July 4th 2024 at 7.30pm **The meeting closed at 9.15pm**