

RIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 25th May 2016
in the Village Hall, Ridlington

Present: Councillors Johnson (in the Chair), Harvey, Richards, Roome, Townsend and Waterhouse together with the Clerk (Chris Lees).

In addition the following members of the public were also present, Mrs M Mortell and Mr C Veall

Apologies: Councillor Gilkes and Mrs E Simpson

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2015

These were read and unanimously approved being proposed by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Waterhouse

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everybody in the village for their support over the last twelve months and especially all the volunteers who had given their time to the various events that had taken place. He also thanked his fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their support in the work they have done on behalf of the Parish Council and the village at large.

The Chairman then adjourned the Meeting to allow Mr C Veall to speak, as a member of the public. Mr Veall expressed his concern at the rise in Council Tax at the beginning of the year. He stated there had been a 91% increase in the Parish Council levy for Ridlington; that this was too high and that the Parish Council should look to cut costs; upkeep of the churchyard was given as an example. He suggested the costs in Rutland were too high to carry on.

The Chairman then re-convened the Meeting and stated that Ridlington Parish Council, despite the increase referred to, still had one of the lowest levels of precept in the County, but would nevertheless remain vigilant in regard to costs. However, there is every likelihood that in keeping with other Local Authorities, Rutland County Council are likely to be devolving more responsibilities to Parish Councils in order to lower their own operating costs.

The Chairman then went on to say that we need to have a discussion as to the future shape of the Parish Council to deal with far more issues than it has ever

dealt with before. This needs to be balanced against the money it will cost to operate and this debate needs to take place in the near future

In concluding, the Chairman thanked the separate trustee bodies that look after the village playing fields and also the village hall and for providing copies of their annual accounts.

4. Village Hall Report and Accounts

These were circulated and presented by Councillor Roome who also chairs the Management Board of Trustees for the village hall.

Income for the year (£1832.92) exceeded expenditure (£1773.14) by £59.78.

Balance at the Bank has increased from £1039.09 to £1098.87. There were no major items of expenditure on the building during the year other than ongoing maintenance. The main areas of income came from the village lottery, two coffee mornings, a quiz and a pub night all of which were well supported.

The village lottery continues to be well funded with a balance held at the year end of £15253.57 compared with £13695.44 the previous year, an increase of £1558.13. Prize money paid during the year totalled £1365.00.

The Chairman thanked the Trustees of the village hall for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year.

5. Playing Field report and Accounts

These presented and circulated by Mrs M Mortell on behalf of the Playing Field Trustees.

The year began with bank balance of £2884.66 and ended the year on 31st March 2016 with a closing balance of £2545.10, a reduction of £339.56. The midsummer party was badly affected by the weather resulting in a much lower income compared with previous years. Gift Aid was correspondingly lower at £157.00. Fixed costs totalled £451.00. Grass cutting remained the largest single cost at £850.00.

Contributions totalling £363.00 were made by the Cricket Club, Petanque Club, Oakham School, Three private donations and a share from the village Christmas cards.

There were two unplanned costs during the year: a contribution of £150 towards the Great War memorial stone and £175.00 of general maintenance not covered by grants.

Belton and Ridlington Cricket Club played fewer games during the year than planned due to the bad weather. More are hoping to be played in 2016.

Regular maintenance of the play area continues and a ROSPA inspection in May 2015 identified no major problems.

Increases in grass cutting costs in 2016 together with other general cost increases are likely to see overheads rise to approx. £1500.00. Annual income, subject to weather, is projected to be at least £1500.00.

6. Our Ward member, William Cross, was not present

The date of the next Annual Parish meeting is Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 8.30pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

C J Lees
Clerk
Ridlington Parish Council
6th June 2016

Approved í í í í í í í í
Chairman
Date í í í í í í í í í í