

**Minutes of the meeting of Ridlington Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 in Ridlington Village Hall**

**Present:** 15 Residents, the Parish Chairman and Locum Clerk

**1.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 25 May 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**2.0 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no comments made under this item

**3.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman referred to points within his report that is appended to these minutes.

**4.0 VILLAGE HALL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

Both the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee referred to points within their reports that is appended to these minutes.

At this point in the meeting a long and detailed discussion took place on the recent survey carried out in the village regarding the relocation of the village hall to the playing fields. The results had indicated that 22% of residents would be in favour of it being moved with the remaining 78% making no comment or against the suggestion. It was stated during the discussion that it would not necessarily be as easy as just building a new hall at the playing fields. Whilst the Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the hall and land it has no responsibility for the Playing Fields and therefore no right to build on the land.

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee commented that this had been the main subject at the AGM with a majority of those present being against the relocation but in favour of the refurbishment of the existing hall. It was the view of the Committee that those residents who were in favour of the relocation to undertake a feasibility study and if it proved to be the best option the Committee would reconsider it. However at the current time as trustees of the hall it was their responsibility to do the best for the trust and the current hall. He also stated that those who were on the Committee did not have the time to be able to commit to undertaking any further voluntary work that what was required to operate the hall at the current time.

A view was expressed that as 22% of the respondents to the survey wanted the hall resiting for various reasons the village hall Committee should be prepared to ask the village if it does want the hall to be resited. Once it is then established that a majority are in favour a feasibility should be undertaken at that stage to find out if it is possible. It was stressed that at the current time the request was not for a feasibility study to be carried out but just to ask the village if it thinks a feasibility study to be undertaken

It was felt by some present that the question that had been asked in the initial survey had not been able to be delivered and that this was wrong, other felt that the question to resite had not been asked and that there were a significant number of people felt strongly enough that they asked the question themselves. Others expressed the opinion that the questions asked had been contradictory and were therefore all responses were open to question as to what the results prove.

It was felt that a mandate from the village as a whole was needed on the way forward and the only way to know this was to ask. It was further acknowledged that there would be an opportunity to sell the current site as residential and to rebuild on the playing fields as there is a demand in the village to have more facilities than the existing hall can provide. Although it was acknowledged that there is equally an underlying desire to not alter the current status quo.

Chairman 's Initials
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It was stated that 18 residents had raised the question of resiting without being asked and therefore it should be given back to the people to make the decision. If the village says yes then it should be agreed who will form a group to do the feasibility study.

At this point the discussion moved more to who should undertake the further survey to establish if a feasibility study should be carried out rather than if one should be held. It was felt that it was not the role of the current Village Hall Committee to do this as, as the managing trustees, they would not be in a position to deliver.

It was commented that the original survey had been carried out by the Village Hall Committee as part of the grant funding process to raise funds for improvements as you need to demonstrate that there is a need within the community to support the improvements the grants were applied for to fund. The dilemma remains in so much as in order to make the building fit for purpose it needs a lot of money spent on it and as such is it therefore better to spend this money on a new building to start with, although this is likely to take a number of years to come to fruition. But that in the meantime the existing building needs to be looked after and this is the job of the existing Committee and others should therefore take on the responsibility of looking into the longer term options.

A view was expressed that without the backing of the Village Hall Committee other residents cannot ask the village what it wants. The Village Hall Chairman stated that the Committee are not blocking the question being asked at all but that they do not wish to do themselves due to the level of other commitments they have and their responsibility as trustees.

Following further discussion and exchanging of views it was agreed that Richard Thatcher, Deborah Thatcher, Maggie Mortell, Sheila Page, Ruth Lees, David Batten and Henry Ike form a Committee to undertake a survey to establish if a feasibility study into the relocation of the village hall should be carried out.

## **5.0 PLAYING FIELD REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

The Chairman, Mike Horwood, who had been appointed at the recent AGM referred to points within his report that is appended to these minutes, including that that accounts had been audited and the RoSPA inspection report completed recently.

As is set down in the Playing Field Committee constitution the Parish Meeting ratified the appointment of Simon Powell as a new trustee following a resignation. The Chairman confirmed that a number of people had been approached but were unwilling to take on the commitment. Before the appointment was agreed by the AGM nominations from the floor were requested and again no-one had put themselves forward therefore the Committee had proposed, seconded and voted unanimously for Simon Powell.

Comment was made that some people had been unaware that a vacancy had existed and it was therefore requested that should this occur in the future it was advertised publically within the village.

## **6.0 WARD MEMBER REPORTS**

The Chairman informed those present that for unavoidable reasons the ward members had not been invited to the meeting this year and had therefore not provided reports.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman - Ridlington Parish Council**