

THE CIVIL PARISH OF RYTON ON DUNSMORE, WARWICKSHIRE

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 27th May in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr S Witter, Chairing
Members of the Parish Council, Cllr Tetlow, Cllr Henry
Miss L Foster, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Agenda was agreed by the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors Lloyd, Smyth, Nicholson, Miller, Jones, Bahra
Cllr Eccleson, Cllr Roberts

2. Report of the Parish Council from the Chairman, Cllr Witter

An interesting year for the Parish Council for the period 2020-2021. We started with the impact and severity of Covid-19 fairly unknown, the PC carried out some urgent work to ensure that the village outreach Post Office could continue its vital service to the community. A number of individual acts of kindness carried out throughout the pandemic by members of the PC including individual prescription collections and deliveries which has now led to a village service from the Wolston Surgery via the post Office. My first thankyou to Vanessa Braithwaite for continued support along with Althea who is a much needed happy smiling face for residents accessing the community facility on a Tuesday or Thursday from 10.00-14.00 hrs.

My second thankyou goes to Lindsay as the Parish Clerk who continues to offer a sterling contribution to the Parish Council and me personally as the Chairman. To each of the other Councillors and to Jayne and Stuart in their capacities as vice chairs. Furthermore I would like to recognise the attendance and support of both the Borough and County Councillors.

This year we quickly moved to virtual PC meetings, which was a challenge to some of the Councillors and created a great learning opportunity whilst adding flexibility for family life. Equally we have had minimal interaction with members of the parish community via Zoom but I would like to recognise David Butler for his ongoing interest and involvement and also Ian Castledine who representing the Pro-Logis development of the old Ryton Peugeot Plant has also made a notable contribution throughout the entire year. Right back at the beginning of the year we helped Martin Fleming with his idea of getting Easter cards created by schoolchildren delivered to residents around the village.

Whilst the Village Hall has remained closed for events the Parish Council made a decision to take the running of the Hall back into the accountability of the Council, with the Clerk providing the financial controls and due diligence and the Parish Council becoming the lone Managing Trustee. This move of accountability is designed for the long term good of the hall and the services that it can provide to the villagers and will ensure that for as long as a Parish Council exists then the hall can be well managed and hopefully well used for many years to come.

The Parish Council would like to thank Barbara Harris for assisting with the flag raising duties at the Village Hall. We would also like to thank both Barbara Harris and June Backholler for maintaining the area around the war memorial and keeping the area clean and tidy, it is appreciated.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to extend our thanks to all of the previous Village Hall Committee members for many years of service and in particular I would like to thank the three individuals who acted as Trustees for the outgoing committee, John and Sandra Loudon and Nick Spann gave years of dedicated service and I am certain their efforts will not have gone unnoticed by many and will give the extended newly formed committee a fantastic foundation to build from. I would like to thank the newly

elected Chair of the Village Hall committee, Kayleigh Henderson who has been incredibly proactive and has the full backing of the Parish Council to helping the Village Hall go from strength to strength.

I also would like to thank Nick Gray from Ryton Star and applaud his efforts in bringing kids football back to Ryton.

As a Council we have continued to provide an essential service in and around the village and this year we have been called upon to provide restrictions to some of the play equipment to adhere to government guidelines. Thankfully we have also progressed both adult gym equipment and new kids playground equipment which we should start to see the installation of this coming summer at the recreation ground.

The Parish Council has supported the Churchyard tidy up group (first Sat each month 2-4pm) the Orchard off the Leamington Road has been transformed this year and we have installed 9 dog poo bag dispensers after a successful initial trial. The Parish Council will continue to fund and replenish the dispensers although it should be noted that constant encouragement will be required to ensure dog excrement does not continue to plague the village. More dispensers have been ordered along with additional rubbish and grit bins for the village.

During the year we have sourced (free of charge) 800 trees that have been planted at both the Water Meadow and the Community Orchard to provide hedging once established. Wild flowers have been sourced and sown at the Recreation ground and we will look forward to seeing them later this year. We have seen a good uptake on allotment plots this year and we replaced the boundary fence and access gate.

After many years of lobbying with the Highways agency we have now seen the central reservation on the A45 have significant work carried out to prevent the visibility safety issue which has traditionally been a problem at this time of year.

This year we have started to see the benefits in the strategic decision to employ a village handyman and his work is having a real impact around the village.

I wish to assure all residents that we will continue to oversee the safe upkeep of the village amenities and act as the go between for issues such as potholes and broken street lights. The responsibilities of the Parish Council and who is responsible for other services has been published on each of the 7 village noticeboards which are also maintained. Three replacement noticeboards have been procured and these will be fitted as soon as the weather permits.

Following a lengthy process it was great to see a 85% in favour vote for the neighbourhood plan through the referendum and I extend my thanks to the entire neighbourhood plan committee for the arduous and time consuming process to get us this valuable document in place.

So looking forward we have a plan for the coming year which will see the Parish Office reopen along with the Village Hall when the restrictions have lifted further. Other future plans for this year include the following:

A complete revamp and upgrade of the recreation ground children's play area

- Further improvements to the village Pavilion.
- Remedial works at the Village Hall.
- Continued works to the Orchard, Water Meadow and Burial Ground.

In closing I would like to remind everyone that we do still have an open position for a Parish Councillor and anyone interested should speak to the Parish Clerk or myself in the first instance.

A final thankyou to each of the Parish Councillors for their continued effort and support as a volunteer, I wish you all the very best for the coming year and beyond

3. County Councillor's Report

- Cllr Howard Roberts was re-elected to WCC on 6th May with an increased majority.
- Howard continues in a cross-party working group looking at on street parking across the County. Much attention has been given to 'Residents Parking Permits' within Rugby Borough. As previously reported, findings of this working party will go out to Public Consultation before any decisions are finalised.
- Howard has also been involved in road safety issues along Leamington Road, Ryton where traffic travels too fast and the road is widely used by parents with children. He has spoken with the WCC traffic safety team on this matter.
- A WCC grant application supported by Howard from his delegate budget for the Junior Football Club in Ryton was successful.
- Plans for the 'Police College Roundabout' on the A423/Leamington Rd are starting to take shape. Work is about a year away to improve that roundabout.

4. Borough Councillor's Report

- Cllr Deepah Roberts was elected and inaugurated as Mayor of Rugby on 20th May for the forthcoming year. Cllr Roberts has chosen 'respect and protect the environment' as the theme of her year in office. During her Mayoral term, she intends to support **Rugby for Heroes**, a charity which works with the rugby community to raise funds and awareness for military personnel making the transition to civilian life, and the **Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre**, based in Leamington Spa.
- Cllr Howard Roberts was re-elected Ward Councillor for Dunsmore Ward and maintains his position on the RBC Cabinet as portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing.
- Cllr Peter Eccleson has been appointed Chair of the RBC Scrutiny Committee and also remains on the Planning Committee.
- We have been involved in liaison with the police and others concerning the so-called 'County Lines' activities of drug dealers in our region and have engaged with members of the community affected by this activity.
- Howard Roberts has been involved with the development of the RBC 'tree policy' which addresses issues of the climate emergency declared by RBC over a years ago.
- We continue to engage with individuals in the Ward to assist with their housing needs and liaise with our housing department on a number of other welfare issues. Dealing with these issues, helping people and gaining a positive outcome makes the Councillors role satisfying.
- In addition to Committee works regarding recycling, fly-tipping and graffiti we are looking at the formulation of strategies on all three subjects and addressing the root causes of fly-tipping and graffiti in particular. More details will emerge once we have agreement at Council level.
- Activity continues to influence the developers/owners of the former Moji restaurant at Stretton and the former Bull & Bush public house at Ryton to clean up both sites which were demolished and is attracting fly tipping.
- We wait for Coventry City FC to find alternative training facilities and are poised to ensure that S106 monies gained from any future development on that site are put to good use to improve traffic flows and road safety in Ryton.
- Discussion surrounding the development of a new recycling centre reported last month continue. The plant will be one of the most advanced in the country. It is a significant investment and development and will lead the way technologically – e.g. much of the power for the plant will come from solar panels mounted on the roof of the building.

5. Reports from other Village Organisations

History Group

We are pleased to carry on as a history group after all the commotion regarding the covid pandemic and would like to remind the Parish Council of what we do.

To preserve and educate the people of Ryton about the history of the village.

1. The Wroth Silver Ceremony, it has been in existence since 1170 AD, it is one of the oldest ceremonies in Great Britain, in which we support and attend every year at Knightlow hill on St Martinmas eve. (11th Nov). Please attend and help us support this fantastic custom.
2. The Crowning of the May King & Queen. We record this incredibly unique tradition that Ryton has been doing for over 200 years, as a reminder to all newcomers of our proud heritage.
3. Remembrance. The history group have been holding a Remembrance exhibition in the village hall for over 10 years now, working along side the Church and Provost Williams School where they have helped with the exhibition. Here we educate everyone about how Ryton helped in the war effort and how it helped change Ryton. Plus, we have raised over £800 pound for The Royal British Legion.
4. Church Fete, we are there every year for everyone to see our proud history, please pop in and spend a few minutes just to ponder.
5. Heritage weekends, we help raise awareness of our beautiful church where we have always had beautiful flower displays from all members of Ryton, including, The Ladies Guild, The Evergreens, The Twirls, Action Medical Research group, plus the Church ladies. We have always worked with the school in which they have always done fantastic displays, including a 40-foot banner, which was incredible, members of the Coventry City Council Heritage Team all came out, including Roger Baily, we also had the team out from Coventry Cathedral to teach the children about Peace and Reconciliation. We have also helped the church raise up to £2000.
6. The history group, this is an amazing group of volunteers that have helped establish us as one of the best groups in Warwickshire, and we will carry on preserving the history of the village, we have amassed over 1000 pictures so far and we have plans to make the village more interesting, by creating a history trail which everyone can learn the history of the village.

6. Questions from the Public

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19.31pm.

Signed: