

THE CIVIL PARISH OF RYTON ON DUNSMORE, WARWICKSHIRE

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr S Tetlow, Chairing
Members of the Parish Council, Cllr Jones, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Smyth, Cllr Bahra
Miss L Foster, Clerk to the Parish Council
Ian Castledine; Prologis
Steve Garrett representing the History Group
6 Members of the public

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors Witter, Cllr Lloyd, Cllr Miller, Cllr Henry, and Cllr Elden may arrive late.

2. Approval of the minutes 2021

Proposed by Cllr Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Jones agreed by all.

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

General

The Council has undertaken a myriad of activities this year maintaining and upgrading the village assets. This year we have benefitted from the regular voluntary service from the current Councillors and the paid installation and maintenance contractors to continue to maintain and improve the assets around the Village. Although not an exhaustive list, the Councillors have this year completed the following:

- Conducted a tender to provide outdoor gym equipment, as identified during the Neighbourhood Plan process and included in our plan policies, which has been installed on the Recreation Ground.
- Conducted a new play equipment open tender with installation commencing this week on the Recreation Ground and completion expected by the end of May. The technical and financial evaluations and moderation conducted by the Parish Council supported the community consultation responses.
- Replaced and added additional rubbish and dog poo bins around the village with more replacements on order; expected this summer.
- Increased the provision of dog poo bag dispensers to 9 across the village to promote and assist responsible dog owners and will continue to keep the dispensers stocked.
- Cleared all the detritus from across the allotments to support current plot holders and leading to additional plots being occupied. In addition, green bins are now available to promote the appropriate disposal of waste on the site. Some pitches remain available for rent.
- Replaced some of the old noticeboards to ensure that key Parish notices are easily reached and well presented, with the final two on the Leamington Road and Oxford Road to be replaced this summer.
- Replaced numerous streetlight units around the village in response to lighting failures, with known failures awaiting replacement on the High Street, Warren Fields and on Holly/Cedar Drive.
- Taken on the accountability for the Village Hall to ensure the long-term viability of this community asset and support the volunteer group who run the day-to-day management.
- Replaced the Village Hall Christmas Lights with new installations for the perimeter trees and the hall itself.

Village Maintenance

During the year we continued to engage the Village Handyman for general maintenance and improvement work around the village. The contract for grass cutting has continued to work well, notwithstanding the damage to the Recreation Ground grass via the birds.

Churchyard Tidy Up

The Parish Council have continued to help the Church volunteer group with the regular upkeep of the Churchyard.

Prologis Site

Thanks to Ian Castledine for his continued liaison activities. Whilst we have a traffic routing agreement with them, but there are still too many instances of Lorries using the A445 Leamington Road. We report the ones that we know about to the Transport managers within UK Mail/DHL.

We continue to negotiate with ProLogis for the ongoing access and use of the Dell which sits at the Sports Connexion end of the site; and also facilitate with the transfer of ownership for the triangle of land that sits between the school and the site.

Pavilion

The planned improvements have continued on the pavilion and the next phase is to provide new female toilets, improved kitchen facilities along with disabled access.

Junior Football Team (Ryton Star)

The Parish Council is pleased to continue to support the junior football teams and wish them every future success. Our thanks to Nick Gray and his team for their commitment and voluntary time given to this important addition to the village.

Village Hall

Following on from the Parish Council taking responsibility for the Village Hall, the new committee has continued to go from strength to strength this year with the addition of new groups such as the youth club and martial arts which are both very popular. The Parish Council applaud the efforts of Kayleigh, Debbie and Corrine and the rest of the committee who through their personal efforts are continuing to attract members of the Parish to use and enjoy this important facility.

The Parish Council have paid for maintenance and improvement work to the front wall outside the hall and address the internal doors that were unfortunately incorrectly specified prior to the point of installation. During the Festive Period the trees on the High Street and the Village Hall were adorned with new fairy lights that were turned on for the 'Brighten Ryton' event in November.

Village Burial Ground

Following acquisition of the land for a new burial site in 2012, most of the original planned work has been completed including tree planting, the pedestrian walkway through to the Church and the fencing of the actual area for the plots.

A team from Dunsmore Living Landscape working with the Parish Council planted a double row perimeter hedge at the new burial ground.

The Burial Ground continues to be successfully used as a car park by visitors to Church and prevents Church Road from being congested. There is still the ongoing challenge of forming a trust to manage the Burial Ground in the long term.

Post Office

The Post Office is now established in the Village Hall on a part-time (two half days a week) basis. Thanks to the Post Mistress from Stretton and her staff for providing the service and enhancing the entrance to building.

Police Presence

The Parish Council have met regularly with the local rural police PC Rebecca Bailey, who is supported by the PCSOs, and we have provided the Police with access to the village hall for them to have a space to work and be visible and available to parishioners.

Redland Lane Water Meadow

Following the acquisition of the water meadow in 2010, we have continued the development of the land with treatment of Japanese knotweed and, working with Ryton Conservation Trust, removed a derelict building, unsafe trees and cleared access to enable a new hedgerow to be planted. This hedgerow runs parallel to Redland Lane, and we hope it becomes known as the Jubilee Hedge.

A new interpretation board, similar to the style of the new Steetley Meadows board will soon be installed to show the circular walks available and what may be seen.

Village Community Orchard (adjacent to Leamington Road)

The Orchard and surrounding properties are benefitting from the removal of the large conifers last year, the fruit trees now having more light to flourish. Three new trees were planted this year and the Orchard is now on the village mowing rota. In January a Wassailing event was held to wish a good harvest for this year, the two new benches being put to good use.

Wildflowers

Two new areas of wildflowers were planted in spring 2022 on the lawn outside the village hall and the edge of the rec running parallel to High Street. These wildflowers will take a year to establish themselves, their full effect being appreciated annually from summer 2023. In the interim these areas will only be mown in March and September to allow the new plants to establish.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and having received the necessary majority vote with over 86% of residents voting in favour of adopting the plan; a decision was made by the full Rugby Borough Council committee to adopt the document and issue a decision statement to that effect. The plan was adopted in July 2021 and since then our plan and its policies are being considered in all planning applications by Rugby Borough Council alongside the Local Plan and National policies.

Village CCTV Cameras

Replacement of the existing system and an increase to the number of cameras have been formally tendered and an approved supplier has been identified. New cameras will be installed during this summer providing a much-improved modern capability and service with ongoing support.

Grants Awarded & Donations

The Parish Council continues to provide grant support to the Village organisations who apply and meet the conditions for grants, including:

- Ryton Star Football Club
- Ryton on Dunsmore History Group
- Ladies Guild
- Evergreens 50 Plus!

Support by way of donations were provided to the Air Ambulance service and the British Legion for the Remembrance Day wreath.

Councillors

A full list of Councillors and contact details can be found on the website and on each of the village noticeboards.

I would like to thank the Village volunteers for their help with litter picking and general maintenance. I would like to thank Lindsay for her dedication and support within the role of Clerk and RFO. I would also like to recognise the continued support within the village from Geoff and Barbara Marsh, June Backholler, David Butler and Barbara Harris.

In closing I would like to thank all Councillors both active and retired for their commitment and contribution over the years including 2021. It is with sincere sadness that we recently learnt of the passing of Jim Boulton who had sat on the Parish Council including serving as the Parish Council Chairman.

4. County Councillor's Report

None Present

5. Borough Councillor's Report

None Present

6. Reports from other Village Organisations

History Group

First of all, I would like to thank the Parish Council for this grant, part of this money has gone to the commemorate the 2WW, we have organised a commemorative party for the over 70s and 60 elderly people have been invited thanks to your backing, we hope to do this every year. Its not often the elderly can get together and reminisce about their years; it brings them so much happiness and also, they do not feel forgotten.

We will be attending the crowing of the May King and Queen, a tradition that goes back well over 200 years in Ryton, I don't know of any other village that keeps this tradition, but we do, it's a fantastic ceremony, which the school do a fantastic job of keeping this unique. We the history group are there to remind them why we do this.

In September this year we will be doing a heritage trail, that everyone can participate in doing, we will be doing a map where you can find 7 plaques dotted around the village, this will also be in the school newsletter, so every child can learn about the history of the village, these plaques will go up on Friday 9th till Sunday the 18th that is if nobody objects to the trail? I hope the Parish Council will support this and think about permanent plaques situated in and around Ryton, it would make it more interesting and educational benefitting the children of the Parish.

In November we will be extremely busy with the Wroth Silver ceremony, something all the council should do once, not only to learn about this unique ceremony but to also raise awareness and keep this tradition going. Without support, these old ceremonies die, it's been going since 1170. The Duke of Buccleuch still supports this ceremony as it is on his land in the Parish of Ryton. It is also attended every year with the Mayor of Rugby, so if this doesn't tell you how special it is I don't know what will.

Also, we do the Remembrance exhibition at the Village Hall, supporting the Royal British Legion, we have been doing this for over 10 years and now most people in the village come and support us. We are also very proud that the Provost Williams school take the time to create some fantastic artwork another show of the community coming together.

We will be having our monthly meetings, starting this month on the 27th at Ryton Village Hall at 7pm if any of you want to come. It is £2.50 on the door it would be nice to see your support.

And the last thing for me to mention is the Facebook page we have a massive following, so it shows how important history is to the village. I hope you have all been on it. I would love to see your comments on this. We have people as far away as Australia and Canada that keep in touch and Europe as well not bad for a little village like us?

So please keep supporting us and be proud of where you live. You are part of Ryton's history.

7. Questions from the Public

A resident asked whether the Parish Council will be doing anything for the jubilee?
It was stated that a community group had been formed to organise an event however due to unforeseen circumstances the event had to be cancelled. Some streets in Ryton are organising their own street parties.

A resident would like to give thanks to the Parish Council for their assistance in the upkeep of the allotments. Muntjac deer are however accessing the site if we could manage this.

A resident commented how neat tidy Steetley Meadows look and offered thanks for this work.

There was a concern raised about the British Legion site and plans for it. The Parish Council have received no updates but will investigate.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19.21pm.

Signed: