

# **Ridlington Annual Parish Meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 6pm**

Attendees – 12 members of the public

Chairman John Morrell

Cllr. Debra Thatcher

Cllr. Adam Pettit

Cllr. Richard Allan

C.Cllr. Giles Clifton

Parish Clerk

## **1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. Matters arising**

David Roome suggested that bins, particularly if they are used to dispose of dog waste, should be in strategic locations and well away from residential properties and benches. It was suggested that bins should be lidded. The start of Green Lane was suggested as a suitable location. The clerk confirmed that all bins provided by Rutland County Council are 'dual purpose' and will be emptied by the council's contractor. The cost of bins and their installation would be funded by the Parish Council.

Shelagh Johnson explained a residents' idea to improve and make a feature of the bus shelter with some maintenance and planting. Permission for this would be sought from the Parish Council. Dependent on the work intended a licence to cultivate or planning consent may be required from Rutland County Council. Confirmation of cover may also be required from the Parish insurers. John Morrell suggested commissioning an artwork, depicting Ridlington, for display in the bus shelter.

## **3. Parish Council Chairman's report**

The Chairman's report was read by John Morrell – attached below.

## **4. Village Hall report and accounts**

Village Hall Committee report and accounts were summarized by David Roome, noting healthy finances and the submission of the annual return to the Charities Commission. Fund raising this year has consisted of 4 coffee mornings and one social event generating, with hall hire, an income of £836.

## **5. Playing Field report and accounts.**

Playing Field report and accounts were read by Ruth Lees, noting the role of the trustees. The most pressing issue remains the management and removal of unsafe trees.

## **6. Ward Member**

County Councillor Giles Clifton reflected on his first year as a County Councillor representing the Braunston and Martinthorpe Ward and the 15 parishes within it. He noted the making of Edward Baines an Honorary Alderman of Rutland County Council. Cllr. Clifton proposed a Rutland Farming motion in March to encourage Rutland County Council to recognise local producers. Cllr. Clifton sits on the planning & licensing committee, constitution commission, and Rutland Water partnership. He described his role as to champion the wishes and requirements of Ridlington to Rutland County Council.

## **7. AOB**

Portrait of the King – it was confirmed that the Parish Council's official portrait of the King will be donated to and hung in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm

## Chairman's Report

It seems clear to me that the greatest privilege to holding this office is that it gives me the opportunity to thank people on behalf of the Parish and I propose to make full use of that, rather than dwell on particular events that have happened during the year.

Firstly, thanks to my predecessor for all of his support and advice to this new, novice chairman – it has been very, very useful and much appreciated.

Then thanks to our efficient clerk who has kept us in the straight and narrow and on top of all that admin!

To the other three members of the Parish Council, thanks for your support, particularly covering for me during some 'interesting' periods of ill-health that this year has thrown at me, and for those involved in production of the Emergency Plan.

I am sure that you will agree that we live in a very special village, made even more special by those who give their time and energy to keep it moving along.

For the Village Hall, thanks to those who manage it and its accounts – prepare it for events (including excellent coffee and cakes!) and put it back to bed

afterwards. Also, to those who order and serve up newspapers and deliver some of them around the village.

For the Recreation Ground (Playing Field to some) thanks for managing that and for working to keep us safe whilst using it. Thanks also for the new trees and to those who work to keep it viable including mowing the grass and pathways and, of course, to dog owners who remove dog poo after walks and those who empty the poo bins.

For our lovely Church, thanks to our Church Warden for all her hard work in keeping it running for those volunteers who help in its running, clean it, brightening it with flowers and those who cut and trim the grass in the Churchyard.

Thanks to those who run, conduct, and sing in a very enjoyable choir.

Thanks too to those who open their homes to run craft events etc. and especially those who help neighbours in their times of need through illness etc.

I am sure there are many more contributions to village life that I don't have the wit to include – so to them my thanks also.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to act as Chairman of the Parish Council for the last 12 months.

John Morrell  
Chairman  
Ridlington Parish Council