

RINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2019 at 7.30pm in Ringland Village Hall

Present

Mr Nick Adams – Parish Council Chairman & Local Government Elector of the Parish
Mrs P Kirby (Clerk to the Council)
8 Local Government Electors of the Parish

1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present and explained the nature of this meeting.

This meeting is a meeting of the people of the parish and any matter pertinent to the parish may be discussed. An agenda has been produced however items for inclusion can be added at agenda item 4 as appropriate.

He further introduced the members of the Parish Council who were in attendance as local government electors and would request input from them if required.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 21 May 2018

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's report 2018/2019

The Chairman read the report. A copy of which is attached to these minutes

4. Subjects for discussion

- (i) Access and parking in Back Lane.
- (ii) Use of redundant paddock for a play area
- (iii) Damage to the Bridge railings by a HGV
- (iv) Damage to telegraph pole on LHS of Ringland Road towards Taverham.

5. Matters discussed

The Chairman advised the meeting

- (i) Back Lane issues had been raised at the previous Parish Council meeting and this is a very emotive matter. The Lane is a Public Right of Way and is a public footpath. It is an offence to drive on a public footpath unless it is to access property. If there is no reason for access then it is not legal to drive along the Lane and therefore it is illegal to park along the Lane. It would appear the Lane is not owned and therefore the default is that landowners of land that border the Lane are responsible for the Lane to the centre line. It would appear that the Parish Council has tried to help with matters in the past but that has not been effective and there maybe need to reverse some decisions. The current situation is untenable and needs improving however at this stage it is unsure what recourse the PC can take.

- (ii) The area was not owned by the PC. Costs to provide for play provision and

peripherals are excessive.

(iii) The outstanding repair to the Bridge railings had been reported and Mr Peck had advised in February the matter will be dealt. The Clerk to report the further damage.

(iv) The Clerk to report the damage.

The further matter of reducing the speed limit through the village to 20mph was suggested and discussion took place. It was noted this had previously been pursued and had been challenging.

It was with agreement to request the Parish Council addresses this with the County Councillor.

6. Close

The Chairman gave thanks for attending and encouraged attendance at the regular parish council meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2018/2019

2018 has been a year of change for the Parish Council but has been relatively quiet for the Village itself. The Northern Distributor Road, now re-christened the Broadland Northway has been open for just over a year and hasn't really had much effect on traffic volumes in the village itself although the congestion on the Ringland Hills has certainly not become any better. The Ringland Estate has been put on the market but it seems that uncertainty over the route of the proposed Norwich Western Link Road may be deterring buyers at this stage.

The NWL project is moving forward steadily, with the recent public consultation process showing closer result between routes C and D than was expected. WSP, the contractors who are administering the NWL project for Norfolk County Council are now fully analysing the results of the consultation together with vast amounts of data relating to factors such as costs, noise and environmental impact before making a final recommendation on route sometime in the summer. If adopted by NCC the next stage is for funding to be sought, with the hope that this will be settled by the end of the year. Ringland Parish Council has taken a central role in the Local Liaison Group meetings where the project is discussed and it will continue to fight to protect our village and all the other local villages from the potentially massive impact that such a road could have.

The NWL is greatly affected by the other major road project in this area, the dualling of the A47 between Easton and Tuddenham. Currently this project is falling behind schedule as the newly appointed contractors re-review the strategy for the junctions along this trunk road. The location and nature of these junctions are likely to have a major impact on the final route of the NWL. Once again RPC is closely involved with all discussions over the A47 and will work to promote solutions that offer the best solution for not just our village, but all the local communities.

On a smaller scale, the council has continued support for the maintenance of the various common land around the village, installing replacement fence rails, cutting the grass and so on. I would like to make a point of thanking David Sparkes, George Crayston, Graham Kidd and John Spinks in particular for their hard work in this regard. Sadly, these gentlemen are, like all of us getting older, and unless we can find new volunteers within the village to assist with some of these tasks we will have to start using contractors to do this work in the near future. This will be both expensive and less satisfactory as we will not be able to afford to do things like cutting the grass as frequently as we might like. If you would like to help or know someone who might please let us know.

The parish council has changed considerably over the past year. Louise Cooper stood down in December in order to be able to spend time working on even higher qualifications. Hopefully we will be able to entice her back when she has completed her degree. Philip Spinks has also stood down after being on the council for many

years and playing a major part in protecting Ringlands unique identity. I would like to offer the sincere thanks of all in the village for their efforts.

Sadly, Ian Colman also decided that he had to stand down from the council in order to be able to concentrate on his rapidly expanding travel business. I have always used Ian as my yardstick of how busy I really am, everytime I think I cannot do any more in a day I remind myself that he holds down a full time job, runs the local scout group, runs and conducts the local silverband, chaired the parish council, sit on various school boards and lord knows what else. It was quite comforting to find that even he has his limits! Once again I would like to express the thanks of the entire village to Ian for all he has done for us over the years.

Finally, Lisa Colman, the parish council clerk has also resigned her position in anticipation of moving from the village in the (hopefully) near future. Lisa came as part of the Colman package and has done a sterling job alongside Ian for numerous years. Once again, please express your thanks for all Lisas efforts.

At this point I would like to introduce our new Parish Clerk, Patricia Kirby. Patricia is a highly experienced professional Clerk who also works for Great Witchingham and Swannington Parish Councils. Her knowledge and understanding of council procedures will be invaluable to the council and I am delighted to welcome her.

The vacancies on the council have been filled by co-option, with Frances Addington, Justin Fisher and myself joining and bringing the council back to full strength once more. My thanks to Frances and Justin and indeed the rest of the councillors for their support.

While this meeting gives everyone a good opportunity to raise issues and to open discussions I would like to say that your attendance at the regular Parish Council Meetings is still greatly appreciated and offers the best way to both communicate with the council and keep up to date with progress on the various issues the council is dealing with.

Nick Adams

Chairman