

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER AT 7PM IN RAMDSEN MEMORIAL HALL,  
OLD BOLINGBROKE

Present: Pam Powell, Chair of Old Bolingbroke with Hareby Parish Council; Parish Councillors: Isobel Godsell and Charles Routh and 11 members of the public

Also present Parish clerk, Jane Slaymaker

Reports mentioned are available on the Council's website <https://old-bolingbroke.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

1. Chair's Welcome

Cllr Pam Powell welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the Parish Council were introduced.

2. Apologies were received from Linda Creedy and David Makins

3. There was not an Annual Parish Meeting last year due to the pandemic and the location of previous minutes had not yet been established.

4. Cllr Powell gave the Annual report of the Parish Council. Cllr Powell reported on the efforts of hardworking volunteers.

Changes have been made to reflect the different responsibilities held by the Parish Council as Sole Charitable Trust for the Ramsden Village Hall and King George V Field, with separate bank accounts being set up. It was noted that the Parish Council is able to gift money to the Trusts if necessary and if it is of benefit to the community. Substantial grant funding from FCC enabled the installation of new play equipment and volunteers were thanked for their help with site clearance, weeding and grass seeding. It is hoped that more seating will be provided in the future and a patio area constructed.

Two defibrillators have been installed in the village and thanks were given to John Taylor and to Dan Chipchase in this regard.

Mick Wilby was thanked for his work on the new planters and hanging baskets, all of which have received positive comments.

The Parish Council has had regular dialogue with Lincolnshire County Council Highways department and residents were encouraged to use the Fix My Street website to report their concerns. The Parish Council hope to look at the signage within the village and at the village entrances.

The Rose garden will require additional work this coming year and a resident has offered to repaint the sign.

Cllr Powell thanked the Parish Councillors for their voluntary support and commitment to the Parish Council and the village.

5. To discuss King George V Field

Cllr Godsell gave a report on the history of the field, its past management and the current position. A three year plan will be developed once outcomes of land surveys have been received. It was reiterated that there is no intention to stop the use of the field by dog walkers. The full report is available on the Council website.

Cllr Powell has the contact details for all those interested in hedge and tree planting, including the Memorial planting. A hedge laying course is planned for November. The course is full, however an additional course will be advertised at a later date. Cllr Godsell is able to issue receipts for any donations given towards the field. A card reader will soon be available so that a variety of payments can be made electronically at the Village Hall.

6. To discuss celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Cllr Powell recalled the village celebrations on the occasion of William and Kate's wedding, and it is hoped to have a similar village party using the carpark at the Ramsden Village Hall and play area, where residents bring their own food/drink and also share a large cake.

At the previous celebration all the children in the village were given a commemorative mug.

There is also a plan to light beacons across the country and Cllr Powell is hoping that Old Bolingbroke and Hareby might be part of this with beacons on Hareby Hill and Grantham Point.

7. Members of the public were invited to raise matters of interest.

Concerns were voiced that the King George V Field would become dog-free. There was a general feeling that people would be prepared to donate money and volunteer time to help maintain the field to retain a dog walking area. There was much discussion about dog poo; some people considered that this was an issue in both the George V Field and the village and others thought it was less of a problem. It was observed that some residents thoughtfully picked up abandoned dog poo.

It was noted that summer visitors were taking their dogs into the play area and signage would be required to help solve this.

The matter of an income stream from the Field was discussed and the over grazed nature of the land which resulted in the Field being left fallow. There was a suggestion of a large annual fundraiser for the Field using the historic Pin and Candle auction in some format.

8. Community Group reports.

The latest Neighbourhood Watch report was read by Cllr Powell and is available on the Council's website.

The representative from Operation Wallacea was unable to attend however it was noted that Helen from Operation Wallacea is to give a talk on Bees and Pollinators on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 in the Ramsden Village Hall. The cost is £5 to include drink and light refreshment. All proceeds to go to the King George V Field account. This is the first of a series of interesting talks planned, using experts from Operation Wallacea.

The Quilters Patch meets in Ramsden Village Hall every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday from 10am - 4pm. All types of material and wool crafts take place.

The Gregory Croft Trust meets four times a year. The trustees give out educational grants to children aged up to 25 to help with their studies. Further details are on the Council's website.

Carol Wilby reported on behalf of the Ramsden Village Hall Committee, briefly covering the history of the hall and how the Village Plan demonstrated a need for updated facilities in the hall, whilst retaining its friendly atmosphere. The pandemic has caused the postponement of any work on the proposed extension and some grant funding bodies have changed their parameters to focus more on post-Covid recovery.

It was estimated that at current building costs, the proposed extension would be in the region of £350,000. The Committee are looking again at the cost and, in the short term, will focus their efforts on the essential structural work to enable the Village Hall to remain in use.

It was fortunate that village halls were included in the Government's COVID-recovery plan and a grant had been received.

A three year management plan with financial forecast has been produced and this can be viewed on the Council's website. It costs £5,000 a year to keep the hall open and utility bills are rising. Residents were urged to use the hall and it was reported that there were 400 sessions per year available for different groups and lettings. There is no caretaker or cleaner for the hall; the Hall Committee works tirelessly to keep the Hall open.

New volunteers are always welcome to get involved. The members of the Hall Committee and other volunteers were thanked for all their hard work and help.

Bruce Talmage gave an update of the Delivery Group which was set up as a result of the Village Plan to co-ordinate volunteers and progress items.

The full report can be downloaded from the Council's website.

The pandemic has had an impact on advancement of the Village Plan, however progress has been made and in the last 18 months:

- a map of the village was donated by Stuart Crooks and can be downloaded from the Council's website;
- there are plans to install a map in the village;
- a second defibrillator has been installed and John Taylor was thanked for his efforts;
- ELDC provided training to the Parish Council regarding planning control;
- the Meridian Trail (Greenwich to Yorkshire) has been revised and the route through the village has been marked;

-there are suggestions that public conveniences could be provided either at St Peter and St Paul's Church or at Bolingbroke Castle;

- the Parish Council confirmed it would provide printing costs towards a newsletter if necessary;

- the new play equipment has now been installed.

The Village Plan is provided to new residents and is available on the Council's website. Volunteers, the Parish Council and members of the Delivery Group were all thanked.

Bruce Talmage also reported as Acting Chair of the Friends of Bolingbroke Castle which promotes the Castle, working with English Heritage and Heritage Trust Lincolnshire. The full report can be downloaded from the Council's website. The pandemic caused the 2021 re-enactment event planned to be scaled down, however it remained an enjoyable event and made a modest profit.

There will be a larger re-enactment event planned for next year and the Friends have a good relationship with the re-enactment society, The Plantagenets.

Future plans also include a meeting/quiz on 18<sup>th</sup> November, a Burns Night Supper, a star-gazing event in January and the usual Dragon Egg Hunt in the spring.

The Friends are working closely with the Friends of St Peter and St Paul and Heritage Trust Lincolnshire, to develop joint events. Membership forms are available from Colin Simpson, Membership Secretary.

9. Cllr Powell thanked all the participants for attending and contributing to the evening. The Parish Council will always welcome comments and suggestions.

Cllr Powell closed the meeting at 8.13pm