

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2023 at 6.30pm
in Ramsden Village hall**

Present: Cllr Pam Powell (Chair)
6 Members of the Public
County Cllr William Gray
Also present: Jane Slaymaker - Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and introduction by Old Bolingbroke with Hareby Chair, Councillor Pam Powell

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Lumb.

3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chair, Councillor Pam Powell

The Chair read the Annual Report which is attached.

5. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest

The Councillors were thanked for all their hard work. Everyone who volunteered at village events were also thanked.

6. To receive reports from Community Organisations

The Chair read out the report from the Friends of St Peter and St Paul. This provided an overview of the work the Group does and an update of recent activities. The review from the Friends of Bolingbroke Castle was given by Bruce Talmage which summarised events held over the past year and future plans. He encouraged people to join the Group. The full reports are available on the Council's website

<https://old-bolingbroke.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

7. Vote of thanks to all participants

A vote of thanks was given to all participants.

8. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 7.02pm

Chairman's Report 2023

Once again I am pleased to offer you all a warm welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting and to thank you for attending.

I am Pam Powell Chair of the Parish Council and my fellow Councillors present are David Makins, Isobel Godsell, Charles Routh and Caroline Wills-Wright. Our clerk is Jane Slaymaker.

The Parish Council has been busy again this year in their capacity as the Sole Charitable Trust for Ramsden Hall. Improvements have been made to the entrance to make the building more accessible for the public. The old planter has been removed and replaced by shallow steps. A rail has been added to help those who may need support. We applied for and obtained planning permission to add a much needed storeroom and toilet to the western side of the kitchen and to alter the current storeroom and entrance foyer. We now need to obtain sufficient funds in order to go ahead with the build. In the meantime it is heartening to see that the hall continues to flourish and be well used.

Outside there have been lines painted in the carpark to encourage better use of the carpark and we have permission to use the field as an overflow carpark when necessary. A gate and hardcore entrance has already been established.

We hope to soon have fencing erected in our popular play area to separate the play area from the picnic area and to erect signs determining where dogs are or not allowed.

The field continues to also be very popular, especially with dog owners. Most are proving to be responsible, though regrettably not all, as there are still instances of dog mess being found and dogs not well controlled. Funds will need to be raised to maintain the fencing and we are very grateful to the local residents who have privately kindly made donations towards the upkeep of the field.

The Parish Council continues to be active in its other role acting on behalf of the local authority. Good relationships have been developed with the district and local Councillors and they have been very supportive of our work. The Parish Council has worked with the Highways department to try and improve the roads in the area. I would urge all residents to continue to use fixmystreet to indicate where work needs to be done. A resident kindly repainted the Rose garden sign in time for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Four new benches have been purchased. Two will be placed in the field and the other two in the village.

The work on the granite setts around the war memorial will start in the very new future. New entrance signs are also part of this year's plan for the village.

Conscious of the current cost of living crisis the PC decided not to increase the precept and so there was no percentage increase to the rates this year from the Parish Council.

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Jubilee last year and more recently the Coronation. Whatever one's own personal thoughts are about the monarchy these were successful events and enjoyed by those who attended and were not spoilt by the rain.

The Parish Council is pleased to work collaboratively with the FOBC and Friends of St Peter and St Paul. We also work collaboratively with Spilsby Town Council and other local parish councils.

I must finish by saying a huge thank you to the volunteers who work so hard on behalf of the parish and residents. The Ramsden Hall Committee do sterling work raising funds for and supporting the work of the hall. My fellow Councillors also work tirelessly for the benefit of the Parish and residents. Together these two groups supported by other volunteers from our community give of their time and effort to make this village what it is, a village recognised for its special qualities, a special place in which we are lucky to live.

One last big thankyou must go to Debs and Bruce Talmage who have made such an impact in so many ways whilst they have lived here. I would like to wish them both the very best for the future. They will be sadly missed.