

ROCKINGHAM PARISH MEETING

An assembly of Rockingham Parish Meeting took in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, on Thursday 9 December 2021.

Those in attendance were:

Mr I Norman (Chairman)
Mrs H Greaves
Mr J Martin
Mr L Wood

Mr T Burbidge (Clerk)
Mr P Johnson
Mr D Norman

Mr D Carmichael
Mr M Kingman
Mr B Scales

Apologies - These were received from Miss C Johnson, Mr J Saunders Watson, Cllr M Nicholl (NNC), Cllr D Sims (NNC), Cllr K Watt (NNC), Mr J Douglas (King West). PC B Wilson

Declarations of Interest – There were none

4-1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read. Mr B Scales proposed, Mr J Martin seconded, and the meeting agreed that the Chairman sign them.

4-2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Highways - Footpaths – It was noted that the footpaths on the Hill were in a dangerous condition with pedestrians and runners using the road rather than the footpath which was highly dangerous. It was agreed to contact Northants Highways.

Rubbish on Hill – The meeting noted that there was a large amount of rubbish strewn down the Hill including car parts with a number plate. It was agreed to contact North Northamptonshire Council.

Grit Salt Bins – It was agreed to try and source grit/salt to fill these.

2.2 Bus Services – The meeting noted that attempts were being made to get funding for this from North Northants Council

2.3 Sondes Garages Wall – It was agreed to chase a response from North Northamptonshire Council were investigating the matter of the wall being replaced.

4-3 POLICE MATTERS

A report from the local police including crime figures was noted.

Speeding – It was queried whether figures of the numbers caught by the camera van were available. It was agreed to enquire.

Convicted Paedophile – The meeting noted a report in the **Northamptonshire Telegraph** of 29 October 2021:

“Rockingham pensioner given suspended sentence after depraved images of children found on his computer. A paedophile from Rockingham has avoided a jail term after police found hundreds of child abuse images on his computer. Officers visited the home of Alan Pell, 65, in Michael's Walk, Rockingham, in September 2018 and arrested him. An investigation found a total of 453 indecent images of children - 16 in the most depraved category A, 83 in category B and 354 in category C. Police also found nine prohibited images of children and 328 extreme pornographic images which included pictures of sex acts with dogs, horses and pigs. Pell pleaded guilty to five charges of possessing indecent images of children, prohibited images of a child and extreme pornographic images at his first magistrates' court hearing and appeared before Northampton Crown Court today (Thursday, October 28) for sentence. ... Sentencing him to eleven months in jail, suspended for two years, His Honour Judge Michael Herbert QC said that he had taken his early guilty plea into account, ...”

It was noted that discussions were still taking place with local councillors and the various authorities.

ROCKINGHAM PARISH MEETING

4-4 FINANCE

- 4.1 Payment of Accounts** – The meeting noted that payments amounting to £359.39 required approval. Mr D Carmichael proposed, Mr B Scales seconded, and the meeting agreed the payments.
- 4.2 Precept 2022/23** - The meeting considered a schedule of estimates. Discussion took place regarding the grants being paid for Village Hall and Churchyard Maintenance. Mr P Johnson objected to any precept being used to pay for Churchyard Maintenance. The question of the cutting of the grass verges being paid for by the Parish was also raised. It was noted that if left to Northants Highways they would only be cut twice a year. After much discussion, Mr D Carmichael proposed, Mr M Kingman seconded, and the meeting agreed a precept of £3884 – an increase of 24.33% on the previous year's total which was being made in consequence of the removal of grants for concurrent services. It was estimated that this would equate to a 30p per week increase for Band D properties.

4-5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 Footpaths** – The general overgrown state of footpaths in the village was noted and agreed to refer to Northamptonshire Highways.

4-6 NEXT MEETING

The next parish meeting was arranged to take place on at **7.30 pm** on **Thursday 2 February 2022** in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – 9 December 2021			
Payee	Date	Cheque No	Amount
S Morphy - grass cutting 9/9/21 Inv 67	30/9/2021	100749	£115.00
S Morphy - grass cutting 11/9/21 Inv 80	30/9/2021	100749	£115.00
S Morphy - grass cutting 6/10/21 Inv 98	30/9/2021	100749	£115.00
T Burbidge - re Website	9/12/2021	On-line	£14.39