

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE RIXTON WITH GLAZEBROOK PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, HOLLINS GREEN, ON THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2016 AT 7 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor Trenbath (Chairman)  
Councillors Banner, Barnard, John, Mee & McLachlan  
Clerk - Adam Kellock  
Police – None  
Members of Public – 25

Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest  
Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012  
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached.

Declarations are a personal matter for each Member to decide. Whilst officers will advise on the Code and its interpretation, the decision to declare, or not, is the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances.

The Parish Council will take account of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act in all their discussions and decisions.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Bretherton (WBC)

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual PC Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2014 be accepted as a true record.  
Proposed Cllr Banner and Seconded by Cllr Clarke.

**MATTERS ARISING** - None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*This Parish Council would like to welcome members of the public to this Parish meeting. This is not the Parish Council Meeting so any resolution made will not be a Parish Council resolution. Anyone proposing seconding or voting on any resolution at this Parish Meeting must be a resident (on the electoral register) for this Parish of Rixton with Glazebrook.*

**The Parish Council**

In England there are three tiers of government. The Parish Council is the 3rd

tier of Local Government closest to the people and is a corporate body, a legal entity. There are seven council seats, four for Rixton and three for Glazebrook with council elections taking place every four years. The next tier of Government for Rixton with Glazebrook is Warrington Borough Council and there are three Borough councillors serving our Ward.

The Parish Council is an elected body that plays a vital part in representing the interests of the communities it serves, through improvements within our local environment and the wellbeing of parishioners.

Each councillor is required by law to sign a disclosure form and must respect all legal aspects of government that relate to each issue they may deal with in the course of their duty.

The job of the Parish Council is to represent the interests of the whole community.

It is a criminal offence if, without a reasonable excuse, there is failure to tell the monitoring officer about any disclosable pecuniary (financial) interests, either for inclusion on the register if a newly elected, co-opted or appointed member, or to update the register if re-elected or re-appointed, or when aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not recorded in the register but which relates to any matter. It is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information, or to participate in the business of authority where that business involves a disclosable pecuniary interest. If found guilty of such a criminal offence a fine up to £5,000 can be levied and disqualification from holding office as a councillor for up to five years.

### **Code of Conduct**

In Jan 2013 Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Councillors adopted the new Code of Conduct produced by WBC. Understanding that with the exception of extremely sensitive disclosures, all disclosures will be published on WBC website and hyperlinked to the [www.Rixtonwithglazebrookpc.org.uk](http://www.Rixtonwithglazebrookpc.org.uk) web site.

### **Transparency**

The parish council is fully transparent with all items and minutes covered within council, published, as well as, all financial statements, all work undertaken around the village and associated quotes for work. Published minutes are made available on RwgPC site and Rwg.net site, hard copies are also made available at both Post Offices, both notice boards and to the local Police. Additional public information is also made available at the village shop.

### **HS2**

We have been blighted by HS2 for some years and we will be for some time to come, the PC has made it clear that it is opposed to the viaduct which HS2 propose will pass over our parish dividing it and cause disruption for years through its construction. Following the original announcement of the Viaduct the PC pledge financial support to our local STOPHS2 group and following the government announcements so far this year the PC re affirmed its support to the STOPHS2group. The PC also made it known to WBC when attending meetings during March in regards to HS2/HS3 its opposition to the viaduct and its financial support against the proposed HS2 viaduct.

To support the local campaign the PC following parish council discussion, pledge further financial support which is to be used if required for solicitor's fees, consultant's fees and/or Barrister's fees. In order to ensure, our best financial support we have delayed the project to replace the Hollins Green footpath which will be reviewed at the December budget meeting, which will be after the final announcement on the decision of the viaduct by HS2.

### **Cenotaph**

The Shine a Light Group have been looking to place lighting around the cenotaph we as the custodians of this grade II listed monument requested a stone mason to review the structure which in general was in good condition. We also requested Warrington Borough Council to review its base their brief report stated.

The surface area is a floated concrete construction. There are two sections of cracking within the surface but does not create any trip hazard. The area is in good and safe condition.

If the Parish Council is considering street lighting within this base it would require ducting installing. This would necessitate trench reinstatements which would leave little of the base intact. In this instance it may be more economical to replace the base works than to re-instate with concrete and have a patchwork appearance.

### **Response from Parish Council**

The war memorial is a grade II listed building its listing includes the surrounding base and the rails that stand on it. Following a request by the Parish Council, Warrington Borough Council reviewed the cenotaph and its base with thought to placing ground lighting in the base around it (please find attached short report). As custodians of this graded monument we have a legal obligation to conserve it and because of the irreparable damage that would be caused by this proposed project, we cannot support work no matter how empathic it may be to the memory of those named on it, and as stated by WBC, would cause irreparable damage. Any form of damage in anyway is unacceptable and I am therefore sure you will agree with our decision which is supported by *Historical England's The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials, specifically page 47 of this report.*

The Parish Council understands the thought behind the lighting and suggests that the Shine a Light group approach Warrington Borough Councils highways department to discuss with them the possibility of placing ground lighting within the tarmac road which surrounds the Cenotaph.

### **The Village Green Path, Hollins Green.**

A provisional overview for the replacement of path through village green from WBC who explained that the path would need extensive repairs which would probably be ongoing repairs. Their suggestion would be to replace with an estimated cost of £15000 + and suggested approaching various companies for quotes.

Three quotes were received for full for full replacement, three for over covering the existing path and a further quote to repair the path. No decision was made as to which type of quote to move forward with as discussion on STOPHS2 financial support was raised as discussed above.

### **Play area**

Requests for quotes placed with three companies Wicksteed, the company who originally built it and Pennine Playgrounds and RSS. An idea of cost was required a) to know how much we could put towards the proposed Parish Plan project if successful, b) for the PC's if the play area project was not to be approved.

Questionnaires from WBC were delivered to 174 homes around the Village Green by the chairman and his wife.

Following the results from WBC of the questionnaire, as discussed at the October meeting, the contract was awarded to Wicksteed's with the repositioning of play equipment we were able to add an addition of a piece of equipment, a Surf Board for the older children age range 6-14, as was discussed at our PC meeting in July 2014, which at that time, was put on temporary hold whilst progress on the Parish Plan Groups proposals were progressed by WBC. Our idea being that if the Group were successful the money would then be put towards the overall project cost as we discussed with the Parish Plan group at that time.

Since the completion of the refurbishment the play area it has been reviewed by our insurers and a safety certificate issued.

### **Football Pitch**

The PC would like to reinstate the football pitch but there remains a big problem with dog fouling which needs to be addressed before we can move forward on this project.

**Three questions** were placed by Mr John Eccles in regard to a) Creation of a play area for the 8 to 14year olds, b) Installation of a junior football pitch, c) lighting of the path across the village green.

I hope the above statement address the enquires.

### **Other projects**

The PC are presently is finalising a license from WBC to use the piece of waste land to the side of the children's play area. Having spoken to the head mistress at the school Chris Smith the hope is that we can produce an area for the children to cultivate their green fingers. Outline development suggestions have been given by Wildlife Trust.

### **Colliers liaison group.**

WBC officials following a meeting with Colliers to discuss the broad terms of the Section 106 agreement which is concerned with the height of the tips. An agreement was made to set up a liaison group which would cover both sites.

1. The liaison group will be consulted in respect to the development – including restoration and aftercare of the sites

2. The liaison group will be kept informed of the sites progress and how any issues arising have been dealt with.

An Initial meeting was held 9/2/16, to review how the group should move forward, further meetings are to be held quarterly for the first year and then bi annually with the chair being able to call exceptional meeting if required. The chairman of the Parish council will have the responsibility of recruiting to the liaison group a further member. The height of the caps will be checked every eight weeks in accordance with regulation 106 and planning for paths and wild life sanctuaries will be part of the development following tip closures.

### **Glams wood**

Glams wood remains and ongoing project.

### **Refurbishment of village furniture.**

The benches around the Parish have been repaired and where and when necessary will be replaced.

**Parish Council Donations** were given to support projects, roof repair at St Helens Church, last year's village carnival and funding given again for this year carnival.

**Remembrance Sunday** was well attended and we had the good fortune of bugler Mr Bernard Tupman a Rotarian who has promised to come back for our commemoration's in November 2016.

### **Conclusion**

Our three borough councillors have over the past years worked hard for our community and the PC would like to thank them for their support. Our local police service have undergone difficult changes over the past year but continue to have a presence within our community, the PC thanks them for their vigilance and looks forward to working with them over the next year. At present the village is flourishing with **Daffodils and Tulips**, we would like to thank the borough council for their recent planting of large numbers bulbs which are complemented by the previous bulb planting by the Parish Plan Group.

**Finally** I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their work and support over the past year. We are now aware of the uncontested PC places and that members of the present council who will not be re sitting. Members who have served the community for a considerable numbers of years I thank you on behalf of all the council and the community.

### **Report from Borough Councillors**

Cllr Brinksman presented the report from the Borough Councillors for Rixton and Woolston for the year 2015/16. The report outlined the work that the

Borough Councillors had carried out during the year and was noted by the Parish Council.

**ADDITIONAL ITEM AT REQUEST OF JOHN ECCLES – RECREATION GROUND – 1. CREATION OF A PLAY AREA FOR 8 TO 14 YEAR OLDS 2. INSTALLATION OF A JUNIOR FOOTBALL PITCH 3. LIGHTING OF THE PATH ACROSS THE VILLAGE GREEN**

**OPEN FORUM**

Andy East from the Parish Plan Recreation group addressed the meeting to discuss a number of items including the path across the village green, the building of a junior Football pitch and the creation of a play area for 8 to 14 year olds. It was noted that the Parish Council had set aside a large amount of money to cover potential future legal costs relating to HS2 and the impact it could potentially have within the Parish and that this meant that there was no funding available at present for the projects outlined by Mr East. It was suggested that the projects could be discussed by the Parish Council at its December 2016 meeting where the budget for 2016/17 would be considered. The Parish Council raised concerns regarding the issues of dog fouling on the area of the proposed Football pitch and it was suggested that no work would be carried out on the area until the issue had been resolved. In relation to the creation of a play area for 8 to 14 year olds it was noted that a survey carried out by Warrington Borough Council regarding the proposals had received a sufficient number of objections from residents meaning that the Borough Council would not support the scheme. It was also noted that the land in question for all of the projects belonged to the Borough Council and not the Parish Council.

Residents Neil McCarthy and Peter Higson addressed the meeting and suggested that dog owners would be more respectful of the area in question if a Football pitch were marked out with the grass being cut accordingly. It was also suggested that the Parish Plan Group could bid to access the necessary funding for the projects that was not available to the Parish Council.

It was noted that as the meeting was not a formally constituted meeting of the Parish Council and was the Annual Public Meeting, proposals could be made but they would not be binding on the Parish Council.

**Proposals**

- 1) That the whole patch across the village green be replaced with an accessible with low level lighting for access in winter months in compliance with DDA regulations. It was proposed by Andy East and Seconded by Neil McCarthy. In favour – 19. Against – 1. The rest of those in attendance abstained;
- 2) That the Parish Council is to ensure the completion of the Football pitch by March 2017. It was proposed by Andy East and Seconded by

Neil McCarthy. In favour – 20. Against – 0. The rest of those in attendance abstained;

- 3) That the Parish Council be encouraged to create a play area for 8 to 14 year olds on the land owned by Warrington Borough Council with the aim of having it installed within 5 years. It was proposed by Andy East and Seconded by Neil McCarthy. In favour – 18. Against – 2. The rest of those in attendance abstained;

The Chair thanked residents for attending the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.55**