



Minutes of the Assembly meeting of the Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council held in Hamilton House, Foster Road, Parkeston on Thursday 14th April at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs Collis, Davidson, Donn, Elmer (Chair), Howe, Passmore, Ramsay, Smith, Stertz

Also Present:

Clerk: Lin Keating

Essex County Councillor Cllr Erskine

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** Cllr Singh, Ferguson

2. **Chairman' welcome and report:**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and gave his overview of the year:

a) Ramsey:

Planning applications in the ward have been of a high number this year with the development sites yet to begin works. The trend appears to be to sell the site on with approved planning applications and in the meantime leaving many untidy sites in the ward:

- Ramsey Old School Site
- Tyes Garden Centre (now up for sale with planning permission for housing)
- Ashridge, Church Hill (now up for sale with planning permission)
- Harwich Valley Development, the application expires on 29th April, which includes a 6 month extension. In contacting the agent the Chairman was advised that all consultation will be completed by the end of April and the development is planned to go ahead.
- Horse Rangers site lease expires at the end of April with no receipt of the land's future use known.
- Mayes Lane back yard development site, pending consideration.
- Local Plan the division over the wards of proposed additional allocation of 297 dwellings has not been confirmed until the completion of the new Local Plan.

Projects:

RPPC have no planned projects in Ramsey and all are encouraged to bring anything forward to the meetings for consideration in the new municipal year.

Drainage:

Issues of water running from the farmer's field has been resolved with no further issues, however the ongoing problem of fly-tipping of garden waste in Wix Road continues to cause flooding problems.

Ramsey Roundabout:

The contentious issue of securing regular maintenance to the planted area continues, the Chairman thanked all for their continuous efforts in trying to resolve the issue with Highways.

Ramsey War Memorial Hall Playing Field:

The Chairman congratulated the committee of the Hall in their success in the improvement and popularity of the field.

b) **Parkeston:**

A similar trend to that in Ramsey in relation to planning applications leaving sites remaining in an untidy state:

- Old petrol station at HIP remains stagnant
- Garland road bungalow continues to have revised applications refused by TDC, although supported by RPPC
- Garland Road Methodist Chapel site has been formally reported as an untidy site to TDC following a lack of response from the owner to tidy the site.
- Brickfield site remains stagnant
- Parkeston House is now being advanced well and in a good manner.

Potentially 59 new dwellings would be a result of all sites being developed, with an approximate of 400 dwellings in the village this would equate to an increase of 35%.

Projects:

St Paul's Church Lychgate; the request to house the memorial in Parkeston Cemetery is to be confirmed by the diocese following their meeting in May. Funding will be sourced to support the project.

Parkeston Cemetery:

With the support of the Payback Team giving many hours of work the cemetery has been given a makeover in clearing ivy from the uncared for graves. The work on the track and lifting of the trees has opened up the area and has made a great improvement.

The water leak repair has meant savings and usage will continue to be closely monitored; Cllr Passmore was thanked for his involvement and time given to the problem.

Alleyways:

Fly-tipping in the alleyways continues to be an issue; a further push in contacting landlords and leaflet drop to residents will be carried out in the near future.

Welfare Park:

Councillor Davidson was congratulated on his many successes in the park that has become very popular with residents and visitors alike.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors and the Clerk for their work over the year and looks forward to continuing to make improvements over both wards in the new municipal year.



3. Finance Report for the year ending 31st March 2016

The Clerk/RFO delivered a report of finances to year end:

Budget Overall:

Expenditure: down 26% overall on previous year, projects not taken forward apart from memorial rose and additional salt bins (underspend of 98% of £12k)

Notable increases in expenditure:

1. BT – increase by 90% to cover cost of broadband for clerk – (£336/annum) luxury of free broadband with mobile expired (no cost to RPPC for mobile £540 per annum) need to ensure this is encompassed in the new budget
2. Additional works within the Cemetery – renewing track (£1100), lifting of trees (£750) although offset by cemetery lodge/burial income
3. Stationery/publications: renewal of printer cartridges/folders and business cards for all – some savings will be proved in delivery documents electronically.

Income: overall income up by 14% on previous year with high VAT return (£3297) and additional burial/memorial income up by 36%.

Precept: minimal increase 2% (£37679) for 2016/17 with the LCTSS (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) payment of £4469 giving a total income of £41,925 (against £41,186 last year (£36717 + £4469))

Opening Balance 2016/17: £33,563.27 = +17.5% on previous year (£28572.59)

No questions were raised.

The Chairman closed the Assembly meeting at 6.50 p.m.