

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL RANSKILL PARISH MEETING**  
**held at the BOWLS CLUB, STATION ROAD**  
**WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2023 at 7:00pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Chair:** D. Simpson

**Councillors:** L. Shaw, M. Pryce, A. Garner, P. Brown, J. Peel

**Clerk:** B. Kinsey

**Members of the public:** There was one member of the public attending.

**01/0522: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr A, Bing, D.Cllr D. Bamford

**02/0522 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** None

**03/0522: CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council and the village in general, even though it seems a long time ago since the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the park were an undoubted highlight organised by the festival committee including Councillors Peel and Pryce.

Unfortunately, shortly afterwards, Ranskill achieved momentary widespread fame for the enormous fire at Boynton Bros that received coverage nationwide and internationally. The incident continued long after the coverage ceased and the village came together to help both the people directly affected and provide some well deserved treats for the emergency services , thanks to Councillor Pryce and other volunteers for coordinating fundraising etc.

Another major achievement was the Neighbourhood Plan finally being adopted following the village referendum. This is a document that has been many years in the making (2014 or 2016 depending who you talk to!) and thanks is due to many for their work on this, from the original volunteers, former members of the Steering Group and current and past councillors for their work. Hopefully this will help protect the village from over development for many years to come.

A successful event was held for the switch on of the new Christmas tree lights in December, everyone agreed that they looked much better with the reshaped and trimmed tree but might well need rehangng slightly more artistically for this year!

The new village website has gone live and is a vast improvement over the previous one and will doubtless prove useful to residents as it gets better known. Thanks to Councillors Garner and Peel for their work on this.

There has been more tree planting carried out during the last planting season filling in the gaps on the Jubilee Pathway as well as in the park and on the Green on Oakes Close, all planned and coordinated by Councillor Shaw. There will doubtless be more in the coming year as well as bulbs and grasses on the Jubilee Pathway.

The face of the village has continued to change with the completion of the developments at Folly Nook Park and Field View Gardens and the beginning of construction of Woodland Ridge on the Great North Road. We look forward to welcoming new residents into the community.

Work to update the equipment in the play park continues and an application for grant funding will go in shortly. My thanks to Councillor Bing for her work obtaining quotes and preparing the application.

My thanks once again to all my fellow councillors for their hard work over the past year but particularly to Councillor Blatchford who has chosen to stand down at the recent elections after many years of service to the village and Parish Council. Thanks also to our County and District Councillors for their help and guidance this year.

#### **04/0522: FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

The year to March 2023 saw the Parish Council reducing its total reserves by £11,764 to £52,743.

A breakdown of Parish Council reserves shows that it is made up of: -

Restricted CIL - £7,861

Ringfenced Defibrillator reserve - £406

General reserve - £44,882

In addition, the PC's share of the Joint Burial funds amounts to £5,509 (at 70% of cash funds)

The budget for 2022-23 was exceeded by £3,700, capital spending was:-

Grants

£1,600 Festival

£1,000 Ranskill Bowls Club

£600 The Star

£100 First Responders

£300 Ranskill Scouts

Capital

£735 BWP Creative (new website)

£678 Christmas Lights

We also spent £7,900 of CIL funds, mainly £4.9k on new parts and maintenance of the playground, plus fence repairs. In addition, we obtained match funding from Locality Community Funding to plant 31 trees in the village. We spent £3k and we received match funding of the same amount (£750 is outstanding).

No CIL funding was received during the year.

Due to new 20 more houses becoming available for council tax, we managed to restrain our Precept funding to +5% for the current year 2023-24.

We expect substantial incoming sums in the coming year, particularly CIL of about £45k. The external auditor is strengthening their approach to reserves, which must now be no more than twice the precept at the year end. We shall be seeking to support capital projects in the coming year.

#### **05/0522: PUBLIC FORUM FOR QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

No residents or members of the public attended the meeting.

#### **06/0522: CLOSE**

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed as a true record: -

Chair: D. Simpson