

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY ON THURSDAY 21 April 2016

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Cllr. J. Forrester (Vice-Chair)

Cllr. D. Batchelor

Cllr. S. Williams

16/12 Apologies: Mark Winnington, Norman McLeod (chair)

16/13 Chairman's Statement:

The present council was formed following the Parish Council elections in May 2015. Three councillors were returned un-opposed and two further councillors were co-opted to form the present council. The members of the council are,

- David Batchelor
- Jeff Forrester
- Norman MacLeod
- Shane Williams
- Mark Winnington

The clerk to the Parish Council was Julie Hill.

The council has been active during the last year on a number of issues related to the parish and these are summarised below.

DriveMe activities at Seighford airfield

We continue to pursue Stafford Borough Council's Planning and Environmental departments about their continual failure to enforce the planning criterion in respect of audible noise, as laid down in the Planning Inspector's judgement of 2009. Despite many fruitless meetings with the relevant officers, the situation has made no progress in many months. We have now submitted a formal complaint against the Borough Council and we will continue to pursue this matter on behalf of the parishioners of Ranton.

Finance

For the third year in a row the council has agreed on no increase in the annual precept. By careful management of our income and outgoings, the council maintains an annual surplus in our accounts each year. We have now built up reserves of £11,727. This is a high level for a parish council, amounting to about three times the annual precept. However, we retain a fund of about £5,000 to

fund the cost of a new grass mower, should our current arrangement with the Borough Council Street Scene department come to an end. Thus our active reserve of £6,727 represents about 1 ½ times the annual precept, which is considered to be the normal level.

Highways

The state of the roads throughout the parish is poor in many places and we maintain constant contact with the County Council Highways Department to advise them of major problems with the roads. Progress on pothole repairs is never as good as we would like, but we maintain our vigil on this matter.

Broadband

There have been delays in the introduction of broadband to the parish, primarily as a result of mal-administration by BT Openreach and their contractors. We understand that the fibre optic cables have now been laid from the Seighford exchange and that a power supply has been connected to the new cabinet on Stocking Lane. We hope that this means that higher speed broadband facilities will soon be available within the Parish.

Web Site

The parish web site – Rantoninfo – is now fully functional and we thank Ian Knight our webmaster for his support in setting this up and maintaining it on behalf of the Parish Council. Information on the activities of the council may be found on the web site.

Defibrillator

The Parish Council has agreed to fund the purchase of a defibrillator, with the support of a grant of £500 organised by our County Councillor, Mark Winnington. This unit will be installed on the outer wall of the Village Hall. We thank the Village Hall committee for their permission to mount the unit on the building and for agreeing the arrange for the necessary power supply.

Councillor David Batchelor

David will stand down as a councillor as from the April 2016 meeting. David has served on the Council for 5 years and we thank him for his strong contribution to the work of the council in this time. During his time on the council David also served as vice-chair and chair of the Parish Council.

Parish Clerk Julie Hill

Julie will retire from her position as clerk to the Council as from the March 2016 meeting. Julie has served the council for the last 9 years and we thank her for this long service and the contribution which she has made to the smooth running of the council.

16/14 County council report – none in attendance

16/15 Borough council – none in attendance

16/16 No questions from public

