

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2010

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Cllr. R. Sutherland

Before the meeting began the council received the resignation of Cllr. N. Bayliss who said he would be unable to attend this and future meetings because of the increased demands of his business.

09/90 Apologies

None

09/91 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2010 as a true record.

09/92 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported on his meeting with Ms. S. Empsall of the borough planning department regarding the conditions on buildings, landscaping and sound placed upon the Driveme approval. Stafford Borough Council was happy with the landscaping and sound conditions. Cllr. Thomas now has most of the documents but is waiting for a signed copy of the approval of the revised application.

09/93 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

904	Ranton Village Hall	£140.00	Room hire
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ii) The financial statements for February 2010 were approved.

09/94 Reports

i) Mowing – Cllr. Thomas had held another meeting with Streetscene. A blanket order was to be raised to so that cuts could be reduced or increased as dictated by the weather. The council's own mower required servicing before being mothballed and Cllr. Thomas would contact Mr. Bayliss senior to do this.

ii) Highways – the clerk had been told by Highways that the cost of clearance of the ice at Brook Lane/Coton Lane could not be claimed against the minor repairs order. It was decided that an invoice should be sent in anyway.

Highways department had responded to the request for passing places on Stocking Lane. Such issues in the area will be prioritised on a bi-annual basis so that a work programme can be agreed with the local community.

iii) Footpaths – still under review..

09/95 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted.

It was decided that a flier advertising the Parish Assembly on 15 April should be sent delivered to all households.

The clerk would inquire if Mrs M Johnson would carry out the internal audit of the annual accounts.

A copy of the Staffordshire Freight Strategy questionnaire would be sent to each councillor.

09/96 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

Cllr. Forrester reported that the school governors have agreed to a meeting regarding the school playing field. He would arrange a meeting date through the head teacher.

The chairman had updated the list of actions and had produced a possible list of items to be included in a new resident's pack; the clerk would put a specimen pack together.

09/97 Public Questions

None.

09/98 Chairman's Questions

There were none.

09/99 Planning

The chicken farm just over the boundary with Gnosall had been approved. Cllr. Winnington felt that the application was flawed as the planning officers had missed many points. Cllr. Sutherland said that the planning committee had to make a decision on the facts given to it at the time.

The following application had been received:

10/13389/FUL 12 Brook Lane – retention of vegetable beds, paths, compost bins & mini-greenhouse.

The council felt that agricultural use of agricultural land should not require a planning application.

09/100. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 15 April 2010 following the parish assembly.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2010

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/79 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Bayliss who had been called out on an emergency.

09/80 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2010 as a true record.

09/81 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported that he would be visiting the planning department in the following week to obtain particulars of the noise and other conditions set by the inspector. He will prepare a file of all the information which will be available for parishioners to look through.

The clerk reported that Chris Reynolds, treasurer for the Seighford & Ranton Action Group, had audited and approved the monies spent by the council from the money donated by the group and also the money returned to the group.

09/82 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

902	Stafford Borough Council	£47.90	Amenity van
903	J Hill	£138.01	Salary & exes

ii) The financial statements for January 2010 were approved.

iii) The clerk confirmed that a request for precept of £4,126 had been made and this had been incorporated in the budget. Copies of the budget were distributed. It was decided to raise the miscellaneous budget to £100 and to obtain prices for a Christmas tree this year.

09/83 Reports

i) Mowing – the options for the mowing contract were discussed. **It was decided to accept the quote from Streetscene for mowing the churchyard, the verges and White's Meadow.** As Streetscene would use their own equipment, the council's mower would be mothballed and costs for service, fuel and insurance would not be incurred.

ii) Highways – correspondence from the Highways Department explained that potholes would be dealt with over the next few months.

iii) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas and Mr. Batchelor are walking the footpaths and will prepare a report.

09/84 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted.

A response had been received from the borough council re the failure to empty refuse bins throughout January. Contractors would not enter the side roads because of health and safety issues and no refund would be given.

Staffordshire County Council had written to explain its position on quarrying in the county which supplied most of the West Midlands aggregates. It was hoped to reduce the amount sent out of the county.

09/85 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

The chairman had produced a list of actions and responsibilities which was accepted. The clerk had written to the Development Control Department with a request for a 20 mph speed limit through the village. The Sundial magazine was no longer produced because of cuts in expenditure. Instead a newsletter was available by email which the clerk will now receive – anyone wishing to have a copy should send their email to the department dealing with this.

09/86 Public Questions

The new entrance to the field on Hextall Lane was far too big for the requirements. Cllr. Winnington said that he had called the application in but it had been approved anyway.

The council was asked to request passing places along Stocking Lane as there was not room for two cars to pass each other.

09/87 Chairman's Questions

There were none.

09/88 Planning

The following application had been refused:

09/13011/FUL West Haven, Long Compton Lane – roof extension

09/89. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 18 March 2010.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/68 Apologies

None.

09/69 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2009 as a true record.

09/70 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas gave a short report on the public inquiry inspector's decision (attached). Copies of the decision can be seen on or downloaded from the Borough Council's planning site. The document is very long and a hard copy would have to be paid for.

Conditions have laid down by the inspector and two undertakings have been made by Driveme and James Eld. Residents must be vigilant to ensure that Driveme complies with the conditions. A summary of the conditions will be distributed around the parish.

The council resolved to write a letter of thanks to the Seighford & Ranton Action Group through the chairman, Marie Larmour, for all the effort put in.

09/71 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

899	Information Commissioner	£35.00	Data protection
900	Seighford & Ranton Act Grp	£1276.00	Unused funds
901	M N Stanley	£76.37	Ice clearance

ii) The financial statements for December 2009 were approved.

iii) The draft budget for 2010/11 was again discussed. £500 was added to the costs for donations. **The council resolved to increase the precept by 5% (Cllr Winnington proposed a 2% increase).**

09/72 Reports

i) Mowing – the contract for the 2010 season was discussed. There were no volunteers for the work this year other than Cllr. Forrester who might continue to mow Whites Meadow. Mr. Rawlins was prepared to take on the churchyard at a cost of £8.95 per hour and might also do the verges as well. Other quotes should be obtained and the clerk was asked to request a quote from Sreetscene.

ii) Highways – there were continuing problems at Hextall Lane although Highways had cleared the ice pack. The clerk had reported the flooding and potholes on Hextall Lane, the mud on Coton and Stocking Lanes and the potholes through the village to the Highways complaint desk.

iii) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas and Mr. Batchelor would carry out a survey of paths and will report at the next meeting.

09/73 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted.

The fees for the amenity van had been received and the **council decided to have four visits in 2010/11 on roughly the same dates as last year.**

09/74 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

The clerk was requested to arrange a meeting, through the head teacher, with the governors of All Saints School and the council.

The clerk was asked to write to Mr Winnington of Ranton Hall Farm concerning a possible lease of a pocket of land in the field he had recently acquired on Stocking Lane opposite the school.

Other priority issues from the Parish Plan:

Cllr Winnington agreed to deal with safer roads, the 20 mph speed limit by the school and the GHOST Association.

The clerk was requested to write to R. Higgs of Development Services regarding a 20 mph speed limit throughout the village.

Other areas were dog fouling, the Parish Magazine and 'getting things done'.

09/75 Public Questions

DB raised the possibility of compensation or a refund of council tax for residents who had no bin collection between 24 December and 21 January. The clerk was asked to bring this up with the Refuse Collection department.

SJ asked the following questions:

i) When would the next newsletter be produced? The chairman responded in the next few days.

ii) Why hadn't the council tried to buy part of the field that was up for sale recently? The council has said above that it will write to the new owner regarding the lease of some land.

iii) Should we have a flag outside the village hall as it was in very bad condition? Cllr Winnington said he was about replace the flag. SJ felt that the flagpole, etc should be part of the maintenance by the parish council.

- iv) Should not the parish notice board be maintained by the parish council as it was in need of it?
- v) Would the council purchase a Christmas tree for the verge opposite the hall this year as using a tree in the churchyard had not worked?

The chairman thanked SJ for bringing these points to the attention of the council.

09/76 Chairman's Questions

The Christmas tree lights needed taking down. Cllrs. Thomas and Forrester undertook to do this.

09/77 Planning

09/13011/FUL West Haven, Long Compton Lane – roof extension
The council had no comments on this application.

09/13050/FUL Ranton Green Farm, Brook Lane – garage/store
The council had no comments on this application.

09/78. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 18 February 2010. Cllr. Winnington tendered his apologies.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice chairman – chaired the meeting)
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/57 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. MacLeod who was away on business.

09/58 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 as a true record.

09/59 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas gave a short report on the public inquiry (attached).
It had been noted that the limit of sound at the boundaries if the plan got approval would be 65 decibels.
A decision is expected by the middle of next month.

09/60 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

895	Audit Commission	£138.00	08/09 Audit
896	First City	£17926.20	barrister re inquiry
897	First City	£9302.73	consultant inquiry
898	R Thomas	£228.63	mower petrol

ii) The financial statements for October 2009 were approved.

iii) The draft budget for 2010/11 was discussed. As some issues such as concurrent allowances, churchyard maintenance and mowing could not yet be finalised, the decision on precept and final budget was deferred until the January 2010 meeting.

09/61 Reports

i) Mowing – Cllr. Bayliss would carry out the service of the mower at no cost.

ii) Highways – the clerk was asked to report the blocking of the grip opposite Ranton House Farm and the muddy state of Stocking Lane and Coton Lane to CLARENCE.

iii) Footpaths – thought would be given to work needed to be done by Rights of Way.

09/62 Clerk’s Report & Correspondence

The clerk’s report was accepted. As a tree in the churchyard will be used for the Christmas lights no licence will be required from Highways.

09/63 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

No meeting yet with representative from Staffordshire County Council re the All Saints School playing field.

09/64 Public Questions

It was pointed out that the time of parish council meetings was incorrect in the Church Magazine. The clerk would attend to this.

David Batchelor, on behalf of the residents of Ranton, thanked the parish council, and Cllr. R Thomas in particular, for its efforts on the Driveme application. Cllr. Thomas thanked him on behalf of the council.

09/65 Chairman’s Questions

The chairman informed the meeting that the Christmas tree lights would be put up at 11.00am on 5th December and the switching on would be that evening.

Cllr. Winnington informed the meeting that he had put in a request for a 25 mph speed limit to be put in around schools in the borough.

Emails had been circulated between residents in Johnson Close and Rural and Stafford Homes concerning a willow tree in the close which was causing problems. The parish council would express its support for taking down the tree. The emails were to be passed on to Cllr. Thomas.

09/66 Planning

09/12671/FUL 3 Park Nook Barn – erection of two gates

The council had no comments on this application.

09/12916/OUT Land to North East of Gnosall - Construction of free range egg production unit

Te council had the same objections as before to this revised application.

09/67. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 21 January 2010.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/47 Apologies

None.

09/48 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reminded everyone that the events leading to the public inquiry have taken place over a two year period which has included thousands of hours of work and thousands of documents. He gave his thanks to the community for all the support over that time, especially to Marie Lamour, chairman of the Action Group. It was now up to the counsel to put the case against the Driveme proposals.

A worrying development has been the clear-felling of coverts, an action which may have to be brought up if the decision goes against the parish councils. The coverts have afforded some barrier to the noise of the cars – the peak sound of which will be over 100db when a car is moving away. The Woodland Trust could be approached if Williams Wood was in danger of clearance as this is ancient woodland.

The result of the inquiry may not be known for some time as the inspector could take from six weeks to six months to reach a decision. At the end of the inquiry conditions are discussed. The inspector will set the conditions taking into consideration the discussions at the inquiry. Conditions, once agreed, would be enforceable by the Borough Council. If the decision went against the applicants they could re-apply after two years for a different site and a different plan.

Members of the public present were encouraged to write additional letters to be delivered to the inspector on the morning of the start of the inquiry.

09/49 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2009 as a true record. Cllr. Sutherland reported that he had access to funding for play areas).

09/50 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

892	First City	£17.35	courier
893	J Hill	£140.95	salary & exes
894	Stafford Borough Council	£71.00	amenity van

ii) **The financial statements for September 2009 were approved.** The parish council would now have to request donations from the Action Group to pay further expenses regarding Seighford Airfield.

iii) the budget exercise leading to the decision on precept for 2010-11 would be discussed at the November meeting. Some thought would have to be given to the undertaking of the mowing.

09/51 Reports

i) Mowing – the volunteer service had done very well. The last cut had probably been carried out.

ii) Highways – CLARENCE would probably have to be contacted regarding the sides of the roads through Ranton which have been worn away by heavy harvesting traffic. The council could use the minor repairs order to have some work done by contractors.

iii) Footpaths – nothing to report.

09/52 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted. It was noted that the Audit Commission had signed off the 2008/09 Annual Return without qualification. It had recommended a review of the Risk Assessment.

09/53 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

The following priorities were identified from the Parish Plan:

- Dog fouling
- Safer roads in parish
- Timetables for Ruralink
- 20mph speed limit
- Play Area
- Promotion of Village Hall
- Sundial magazine
- Finance church magazine for all
- Publication of local walks
- Support for disabled
- Getting things done.

Councillors agreed to take responsibility for individual projects.

The clerk had spent time with Ms. Reynolds, the headmistress of All Saints school, regarding the possible use of school land as a play area. Ms. Reynolds would have a meeting with the County Council representative responsible for property to ascertain the issues involved in sharing some of the play area land with the community. Once these issues have been identified a meeting between the governors and the parish councillors will take place.

09/54 Public Questions

None

09/55 Chairman's Questions

None

09/56 Planning

09/12729/FUL Land off Hextall Lane – vehicular access – new proposal
The council felt that the revised access/egress was too dangerous for the use of such large vehicles.

09/57. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 19 November 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/36 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Forrester.

09/37 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2009 as a true record.

09/38 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported that the exchange of witness proofs was due on 26 September – this was to show evidence to be used by each party. The First City consultant has visited points around the site and has since shown the barrister around the boundaries of the site. The consultant will deal with planning issues and the barrister will deal with these issues and the enforcement issues. The inquiry will commence on 20 October and will run for six days.

09/39 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment was approved by the council:

887	Haughton Mower Services	£335.31	clutch repairs
888	First City Admin A/C	£1383.45	barrister fees
889	First City	£122.48	courier fees
890	Ranton Village Hall	£168.00	room hire
891	C Reynolds	£208.00	Parish Plan

ii) The financial statements for August 2009 were approved. It was noted that the funds for the Parish Plan had all now been used.

09/40 Reports

i) Mowing – the volunteer service is still going well.

ii) Highways – the clerk was asked to request the imposition of a 20 mph speed limit in the village. The clerk would need items for the next Community Gang visit.

iii) Footpaths – as the crops have now been harvested there should not be any problems with the footpaths.

09/41 Clerk’s Report & Correspondence

The clerk’s report was accepted.

09/42 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

It was felt that in order to bring the Plan into being help would be needed from volunteers to allow time for the councillors deal with the Plan. The allocation of tasks was to appear on next month’s agenda.

The clerk would speak to the headmistress of the village school, Ms. Richardson, and to Debbie Lloyd of the governors regarding a meeting with councillors about a possible play area.

09/43 Public Questions

Mr. Batchelor requested that accurate details of future meetings should be sent to the editor of the Church Magazine.

09/44 Chairman’s Questions

The Village Hall Committee had asked about the plan for the Christmas Tree this year. The Council decided to ask the Committee to pay for the tree.

Cllr. Winnington reported that he and his son would re-paint the flagpole opposite the hall, and offers of a new flag had come from Mr. R Evans and Ms. C. Perry.

09/45 Planning

09/11001/REM Church Farm, Brook Lane – reserved matters
A few small adjustments had been made.

09/12327/FUL Land off Hextall Lane – vehicular access – revised plans
These plans have been withdrawn..

09/46. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 15 October 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JULY 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. N. Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Forrester.

09/26 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2009 as a true record.

09/27 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported that the exchange of documents before the inquiry would take place in September. Driveme has now produced an Environmental Statement which was advertised in the Express & Star. Representations regarding the Statement must be lodged by 7 August.

09/28 Finance

i) The following account for payment was approved by the council:

886	Stafford Borough Council	£71.00	amenity van
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ii) The financial statements for June 2009 were approved.

09/29 Reports

i) Mowing – the clutch on the ride-on mower has worn out and the machine is with Haughton Mowers for repair

ii) Highways – the clerk reported that a purchase order for minor repairs has been received from the Highways department. The Community Gang would be in Ranton in August and possible work for it would be unblocking the several drains.

iii) Footpaths – the clerk had written to crop farmers and received two replies. Mr. D. Jones would come over from Penkrige to check his field, while Mr. Hamplett did not think there was a footpath on his fields.

09/30 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted.

09/31 Action Plan from the Parish Plan

It was agreed that use of the school grounds at the rear of the building for a play area would be pursued with the governors. In due course some equipment would be bought.

09/32 Public Questions

Residents of Ranton Green were grateful for the flier that had been sent round alerting them to the planning application for an egg production unit. The parish council's support in objecting to the application was sought. Residents greatest worries were odours, flies and rats. The clerk agreed to contact Gnosall Parish Council to ascertain what action it was taking over the application, and to contact the clerk for Newport as to the reasons for rejection of a unit there. The chairman encouraged residents to write in to the planning department with objections as all are taken into account.

09/33 Chairman's Questions

The clerk informed councillors that they would be receiving invitations to an event at the Gliding Club on 1 August.

09/34 Planning

Objections to the egg production unit (09/12221/OUT) had been sent to the planning department.

Applications received:

09/11001/REM Church Farm, Brook Lane – reserved matters
The council had no comments.

09/12228/FUL Hextall Old Farm – rear conservatory and garden room
The council had no comments.

09/12313/FUL 4 Park Nook Barn – wall and gate
The council had no comments.

09/12327/FUL Land off Hextall Lane – vehicular access – revised plans
The council would send the same concerns as for the previous application.

09/35. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 17 September 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)
Members of public

09/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Bayliss.

09/15 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2009 as a true record.

09/16 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported that the inquiry was now set to start on 20 October 2009 and would last for 6 days. He was in the process of reviewing with other partners what had been done so far. Papers were due to be presented four weeks before the inquiry. The Action Group has sent out a letter requesting more funds and a money raising exercise was to be undertaken in Great Bridgeford.

09/17 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

884	First City Ltd	£2121.75	consultants
885	Tarmac Ltd	£235.75	printing Plan

ii) The financial statements for May 2009 were approved.

iii) The Annual Report & Statement of Governance for 2008/09 was approved by the council and signed by the chairman and the clerk.

09/18 Reports

i) Mowing – there have been some belt problems but otherwise going well.

ii) Highways – the clerk reported that final details of Highways reorganisation are still awaited.

iii) Footpaths – some may be out of action until crops are taken.

09/19 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk would circulate a copy of the Stafford Borough Rural Homelessness Project draft report to councillors.

09/20 Parish Plan

The Plan has now been circulated to every household in the parish and a final meeting had been held. This agenda item will, in future, address the action plan laid out in the Parish Plan.

09/21 Public Questions

Mr. Jeffries complained that an article in the newsletter suggested that the saving on mowing for 2008/9 was £1350 over the last year and that that was the amount charged by Mr. Jeffries and his son. He would like a the next newsletter to contain a revision of that figure. The chairman said that the fact that volunteers were carrying out the mowing in 2008/9 meant that there was a saving of £1350 against the budget for 2008/9 and the actual saving against the previous year would not be known until the end of the mowing season.

It was reported that patching repairs were being made in the lanes again but that this method was not good enough as the potholes would quickly reappear. Everyone was reminded that complaints about highways, etc should be made through CLARENCE.

Complaints had been received that some of the footpaths were not passable because the farmers have not cleared them. Cllr. Thomas said that initial spraying had been done but it needed doing again. The clerk was asked to write to the local crop farmers reminding them of their obligations.

09/22 Chairman's Questions

Cllr. Forrester reported that, at a recent governors' meeting, all had been in favour of the play area being used by children in the village. The school would like an income from the site but would probably want supervision of any activities. The clerk undertook to investigate grants.

09/23 Planning

Application received:

09/12221/OUT Land to north east of Gnosall – 16000 bird free range egg production unit (adjoining parish)

A flier concerning this application was to be sent to Ranton Green residents who were the most likely to be affected by this application.

09/24. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 16 July 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. M. Winnington

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

09/01 Election of Chairman

Cllr. N. MacLeod was elected as chairman and signed the acceptance of office.

09/02 i) Election of other officers

It was resolved that Cllr. R Thomas be elected Vice-Chairman.

It was resolved that Mrs. M. Johnson be appointed internal auditor.

It was confirmed that Cllrs. MacLeod and Thomas would be the council's representatives on the Village Hall Committee.

ii) It was agreed that the council should move its insurance cover to Norwich union (through Came & Company) for the year from 1 June 2009.

iii) It was resolved to continue membership of the Community Council of Staffordshire and of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.

09/03 Apologies

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland.

09/04 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2009 as a true record.

09/05 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas reported the Ranton/Seighford (R/S) joint statement would be put in to the Inspector in time for the June inquiry. The Borough Council and Driveme were unlikely to have their statements ready for this date, but it had been confirmed that the parish councils' statement would be held until the others were in. The R/S barrister was in hospital and a new one would take over until she has recovered.

The eventual inquiry may have to take place over six days in which case the total R/S costs could reach £28K.

Cllr. Winnington asked who was employing the barrister and whether or not the Action Group was employing their own. Cllr. Thomas said the barrister was jointly employed by R/S and the Action Group only existed to raise money which it would give to R/S to help pay the costs.

Cllr. Winnington asked whether or not councillors could be liable if R/S ran out of funds. Cllr. Thomas replied that if funds were all expended the employment of the barrister and consultant would terminate and he would take over the rest of the inquiry.

09/06 Finance

i) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

879	Community Council	£20.00	subscription
880	SPCA	£157.00	subscription
881	All Saints School	£300.00	donation
882	Aliens Insurance	£270.35	mower insurance
883	Broker Network Ltd	£286.83	general insurance

ii) The financial statements for April 2009 were deferred.

iii) The acceptance of the Annual Report & Governance Statement was deferred to the next meeting.

iv) The Risk Identification and Assessment was reviewed by the council and accepted. The Internal Audit Statement was reviewed and, with the addition of the VAT control and a system for maintaining a back up copy of computer data off site, was accepted by the council.

09/07 Reports

i) Mowing – the volunteers were doing very well.

ii) Highways – the clerk reported that John Sly, the Highways manager, was retiring. Members were concerned about the increasing evidence of heavy traffic being directed by sat-nav down unsuitable lanes.

iii) Footpaths – farmers are keeping paths clear of crops.

09/08 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk had received no reply to letters sent to local landowners regarding land for lease or sale for a play area. Cllr Winnington suggested further letters to Mr. Hamphlett and to Mrs Craddock (via Hutsby Mees).

Staffordshire Gliding Club had written to the chairman inviting councillors to visit the facility. The chairman had responded and requested further information regarding activities at the site. He read out the reply to the meeting. The clerk was asked to obtain convenient times for a visit.

All Saints School had requested financial help towards the cost of direction signs to the school as part of its efforts to attract more pupils. **The council agreed to pay the total cost of £300.**

09/09 Parish Plan

The Plan is now being printed and will be delivered over the weekend.

09/10 Public Questions

There were none.

09/11 Chairman's Questions

There were none.

09/12 Planning

Applications received:

09/11984/FUL Chinglea Brook Lane – new indoor swimming pool.
As three councillors had to declare an interest the council did not have a quorum to make any comments.

09/11750/FUL Gablecroft, Brook Lane – replacement dwelling.
The council had no comments

09/13. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 18 June 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. N. Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public
Borough Cllr R. Sutherland
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

08/116 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Winnington and Cllr. R. Thomas

08/117 Minutes of the previous meetings

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2009 as a true record.

08/118 Finance

i) **The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:**

878	First City	£26.80	courier fee
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ii) **The financial statements for March 2009 were accepted.**

08/119 Seighford Airfield

i) Cllr. Thomas had sent his report, which is attached, on the current Driveme activity. An aircraft carrying out acrobatics over the site and a microlite had been reported but these were using the landowners part and may have had permission.

ii) Action Group – has now raised over £9000.

08/120 Motorbike Scramble

Complaints had been received about a scramble held on 15 March. The council noted this and also noted that the field used has now been ploughed.

08/121 Local Development Framework

Letters had been received from the Leader of the Borough Council and from the chief executive to allay fears about the amount of development that would take place. The letters also stressed that the Borough Council was supporting the West Midlands Regional Assembly in questioning the government's figures for housing.

08/122 Reports

- i) Mowing – Cllr. Forrester and Mr. D Rawlins are now carrying out the grass-cutting
- ii) Highways – verges and road edges were now a problem in the surrounding lanes.
- iii) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas had taken no action yet.

08/123 Clerk’s Report

The clerk’s report was noted. The clerk was obtaining quotes for the insurance renewal. The parish council had fallen into the 5% of councils that the Audit Commission n required additional information from this year.

08/124 Parish Plan

Mr D Batchelor reported that the Plan was now at the printing stage and the printers were trying to find ways to lighten the photography. 200 copies would be printed.

08/125 Public Questions

There were none..

08/126 Chairman’s Questions

There were none.

08/127 Planning

Applications received:

09/11810/FUL Land off Hextall Lane – new agricultural access.
The council had no comments on the gate itself but had concerns regarding any damage to the trees either side. It also felt that the Ranton village sign would need to be moved to near the 30 mph sign as it could be damaged by large vehicles entering the field. The council also asked that it be noted that the widened area of the road from which the access would be made was used as a passing place and should be retained as such.

09/11827/FUL Ranton Abbey – variation of condition 2 to revise boundary in order to build a house for the estate manager.
The council had no objections as long as the occupier of the house would actually work in the land.

08/128. Date of next meeting

It was resolved that the Annual Meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday,21 May 2009.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2009

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman Of Ranton Parish Council)

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public
Borough Cllr R. Sutherland
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Parish Cllrs. R. Thomas and M. Winnington

2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is attached.
The Chairman added his particular thanks to Cllr. R. Thomas for all his efforts on the Driveme planning application.

3 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr. Sutherland reported that the two main issues during the year for the Seighford Ward have been the Driveme proposals and the Local Development Framework (LDF). The ward was most unlikely to be allocated any developments under the LDF. He had more concerns about possible developments for Eccleshall and Woodseaves and the employment areas at Ladfordfields because of the impact upon traffic in the area, especially at Great Bridgeford. There were also concerns about gypsy/traveller sites.

4 County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Winnington's report is attached.

5 Public Questions

The rest of the meeting was now open for public consultation.

J. Forrester felt that the Regional Assembly, a non-elected body, was forcing flawed policies on the West Midlands.

Cllr. Sutherland agreed and said that it should be local councils who produced the figures. If the LDF went ahead there would be no choice.

J. Forrester also thought that the area needed real high-skilled jobs with real salaries creating wealth, not warehouses with few employees and low wages.

D. Blakemore wanted somewhere to play that did not annoy residents.

Chairman explained that the council had tried four years ago to buy land for a playing area but none had been forthcoming. The Parish Plan consultation has now advised this as a priority and the council will again try to buy or lease land. Letters would be sent to Granger Plc and other landowners. The County Council could also be approached about using school land and Cllr. Winnington would be asked to progress this.

Cllr. Sutherland thought that section 106 money might be available

D. Batchelor how long after the public inquiry on Driveme would a decision be made?

Cllr. Sutherland said this would depend on how much work the inspector had to do and could take several weeks.

D. Batchelor said that Cllr. Sutherland had said that Ranton was not earmarked for major development but how much might come Ranton's way?

Cllr. Sutherland replied that all major projects put forward for the whole of the Seighford ward had been thrown out. There would be the odd one or two houses only in the villages.

D. Batchelor asked whether or not the council could spend some more money on the churchyard to make it more of a feature in the village.

Chairman said this would be looked at.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date