

## **RUFFORTH AND KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in Rufforth Village Institute**

**On Monday, 8 April 2024, starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Peter Rollings (PR) Chairman; Cllr Helen Butterworth (HB); Cllr Linda Young (LY); Cllr Frank Di Lorenzo (FD); Cllr Terry Edmonds (TE) Cllr Suzie Flynn (SF); Cllr Gary Thompson (GT):

In attendance: Ward Councillor Emilie Knight (EK), The Clerk, Stephanie Warden and 11 members of the public, including Jane Wright (JW) trustee for the John Hawkins Trust.

#### **1 Welcome to the public by the Chairman:**

Councillor Rollings welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **2 Apologies for Absence:** Nick Murray (NM), Ward Cllr Anne Hook (AH)

#### **3 Clerk to read the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:**

The minutes of the 3 April 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read as they had been circulated to all present before the meeting. The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were proposed by LY and seconded by FD, agreed by all and would be signed as a true record.

#### **4 Chairman's Report 2023/2024:**

A copy of the report is in the minute file reporting on all the work carried out by the council over the past year.

A copy of the report is also on the parish council website and is available from the Clerk in hard copy.

The report outlined all the considerable work done by the Parish Council during the past year.

#### **5 Financial Officer's Report:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated the report previously to all present. A copy is in the minute file. The balance brought forward from April 2023 was £91,865.43, income to the year ending 31 March 2024 was £45,506.85, expenditure during the year to 31 March 2024 was £31,618.23 leaving a balance to be carried forward of £105,754.05. Of this total £94,248.99 had been set aside from 40% of all fees coming into the burial ground for future maintenance once the Burial Grounds were full and from general reserves. This left funds available of £11,505.06.

#### **6 John Hawkins Trust:**

JW presented the report and explained its main income was from ground rents from land held in trust in Hessay and shooting rights over that land. The purpose of the charity to give to the needy within Rufforth and to pay the vicar

for two sermons a year (£1.33). £25 had been given to 6 Rufforth residents. John Hawkins died in the year 1626 leaving a legacy of £1,12 shillings and sixpence which was set up in trust for the “poor” of the village.

Jane Wright and Celia Galloway are the present trustees. As the Solar Farm had been given planning approval there was concern regarding the future of the trust.

PR thanked Jane Wright for her report of a very historical trust. He said that in discussions with Solar 2 the Parish Council would keep in mind the Trust.

## **7 Public Comments and Questions:**

A resident was very unhappy about the car rally held on Easter Sunday, she felt the police should have been present in the village stopping the speeding through Rufforth. The noise was unacceptable and parking around the village illegal.

The landowner concerned stated that unexpectedly large numbers turned up and although police were notified they did not arrive until much later in the day. He assured the meeting that an event on such a scale would not be held again and in the future any event would be on a much smaller scale. In this latter circumstance the landowner agreed to notify the Parish council in advance. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and accepted the assurances given.

A resident enquired whether there was any update from the councillors meeting with the developers of the proposed housing site in Knapton. SF said that Knapton Councillors had met with the developer's consultant and passed on the various concerns raised. We now await the full planning application. Developers had said they were about 10 days from submitting the application but nothing had been seen yet.

A resident asked if the Community Police still came out to Rufforth and Knapton. SF said that they had a good relationship with the police and they tended to come out more at night. They are very stretched. They come out to the airfield most nights. Nigel has said that he could do a crime prevention event in Rufforth and Knapton.

Forestry England were not keeping the hedges cut and they were overgrowing onto the B1224. GT undertook to take the matter up with Forestry England.

PR thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

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