

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 28th September 2017 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, P Fewings, H Francis, P Francis, J O’Hara, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 2 residents.

187. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Kemeny & P Phillips, CB Cllrs S Clark, K Matthews & R Morris.

188. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

No interest has been received at the moment. Cllrs were asked to give thought to the vacancy.

189. Open Forum:

Not to last more than 15 minutes. Residents will have the chance to raise anything relevant to Parish Council business but they will not be able to discuss the subject more than once. A maximum of 2 minutes per subject will be allowed.

- a) Weeds along Eversholt Road are coming over the footpath. Cllr Spearing agreed to contact Highways. **Action: MS**
- b) The grass verges at the top of Lydds Hill are growing and need cutting back. NAB are to be asked to provide a quote. **Action: MS**

190. Declaration of Members’ Interests:

a) Declaration of member’s interest of a non-pecuniary nature:

(Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship). Cllrs P Francis – Ridgmont Village Charity and Cllr H Francis – PCC and Ridgmont Village Charity.

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner). Cllr Spearing – Landowner and \Ridgmont Village Charity.

191. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2017, which were duly signed.

192. To discuss Matters Arising:

177 The footpath going to old church needs re-tarmac (CBC). Speak to Michelle Flynn as Rick Thompson has been moved to a different area. Michelle.Flynn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. Cllr Spearing reported that they are going to look at the footpath going up to the old church.

180 Cllr Spearing has contacted CBC regarding the paving slabs which have been moved on Station Road on the corner of High Street but no response has been received as yet although the job is on the work to be done listing. Cllr Spearing will check if it is not done soon. **Action: MS**

181 Bench on footpath to old church just needs sanding/varnishing: needs something to stop the weeds coming up under the bench. Tony Geddes is willing to do the work so Cllr Spearing will organise a quote. **Action: MS**

It appears that no work has been done to the gullies so Cllr Spearing will follow this up.

Action: MS

182 Defibrillator: Cllr Spearing has applied for a further grant towards the cost of the defibrillator. A contribution of £600 is a condition of the grant. It was agreed to support this with the cost being shared by the PC and the Ridgmont Charity.

193. **To receive Reports:**

Planning: Cllr P Francis reported on:

64 High Street – tree works.

69 High Street – no opposition.

65 High Street – proposed demolition of an old structure and a new permanent residence. A resident has issues. Cllr Spearing went to see the site and reported on the situation. There is to be an increase of 1.5 metres in height. All cottages listed as heritage buildings, which are entitled to have an enhanced vista. CB Cllr Clark has called in the application so it can be fully discussed.

Segenhoe House: demolition of conservatory and a link being built. It was agreed there are no adverse comments. The design is in keeping with the existing building and the size of the extension is appropriate to the size of the overall plot.

It was agreed that site visits should be made on future planning applications. Cllrs Francis and Spearing will do this.

PCC/Church: Cllr H Francis: The quarterly PCC meeting had been held 2 weeks ago. Peter Garrett is checking the finances of the church and will estimate when the church will run out of money. It was thought approximately 12 months so there is a need for focusing on fund raising. Barn Dance on Saturday at Segenhoe Manor. £10 a ticket. Last event raised £1,100. Sunday 9th December annual Christmas event in the church. May screen films in the church for future local events. Need more help from residents. Once the doors close, the church will not be re-opened.

Ridgmont Charity: Cllr H Francis reported that Peter Garrett has stepped down as has Rev Graham Bradshaw so there are vacancies. There is still no viable option for the village hall. A further meeting is being held on 18th October.

Village Maintenance: A resident had complained about a lighting column, which is shining too brightly into their house window. The Clerk has been reported it to our St Ltg Contractor who has now put a shield onto it.

Section 106 funding: The Clerk reported that the Parish Council have £12,138.97 Section 106 funding which has to be spent in various prescribed ways. (Leisure – Recreational Open Space – childrens play = £7,517.57; Outdoor Sport £1,873.22; LR – Informal Open Space £1,1129.18; LR – Outdoor Sport £1,619.00). May be best if a sub-committee is formed. **Action: LL +**

CB Cllr Matthews had reported that on 6th October there is going to a meeting re G & T with other pc's within the Cranfield Ward at Chicksands. Portfolio holders, officers and any Cllrs/Clerks within the Cranfield Ward will attend. The meeting will be to decide how CBC go forward in the future and to look at a new policy.

194. **To receive Correspondence:**

B & MK News (Milton Keynes Waterways Trust) July volume.

B & MK Waterways Trust invites Cllrs to the 7th Annual Partnership Conference being held on Wednesday 18th October 2017 at The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. Registration is open from 1.45 for 2pm start.

The Environmental Agency has published a draft decision on the Covanta Environmental Permit. CB Cllr Clark and Ian Pickering (Aspley Guise PC) are willing to draft a response on behalf of the 18 parishes who joined to respond to the first consultation and has asked if Ridgmont are willing to be included again? It was agreed we do want to be included again. They plan to meet on Wednesday 11th October to discuss the responses we are welcome to send anyone who is interested. Cllr Spearing and Francis agreed to attend.

(Amphill, Aspley Guise, Brogborough, Cranfield, Flitwick, Houghton Conquest, Hulcote & Salford, Husborne Crawley, Kempston, Lidlington, Marston Moretaine, Millbrook, Ridgmont, Stewartby, Wilstead, Woburn, Woburn Sands & Wootton.).

CBC Section 106 future monies: Having been asked by CBC about possible Section 106 funding request for the next 2 years, the Clerk suggested £7,000 to be spent on LREC which could cover upgrading some of the play equipment.

CBC is carrying out a survey to ensure the settlement details they have on record for the village are correct. A response is required.

195. To accept Payments:

BDO have successfully completed the external audit.

Balance as at 8th September 2017 is £16,496.13

NAB Grasscutting	1,010.00	100642
SLCC Joint Membership	38.00	100643
A & I Fraser Ltd Bund/Ditch Station Road	486.00	100644
Mrs Spearing Delivery of letter around the village (Hepworths)	20.00	100645
Tony Geddes Cladding to Notice Board legs	200.00	100646
HMRC 2 nd st 1/4 PAYE	111.40	100647
NAB Grasscutting August	530.00	100648
BDO External Audit	156.00	100649
Mrs Lyman	85.20	100650

Backdated salary increase from
April - September

Came & Company Annual Insurance	812.07	100651
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance Aug/Sept	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman August Salary	316.80	s/o (341.20)
Mrs Lyman September Salary	316.80	s/o (341.20)
e,on Monthly energy charge - August	122.70	s/o
E,on Monthly energy charge – September	122.70	s/o
	4,394.35	

At the November Parish Council meeting, thought needs to be given to the Precept request. Some areas may be ring fenced in terms of our priorities.

196. **War Memorial:**

Cllr Phillips had obtained the quotes, which Cllr Spearing has now forwarded to the War Memorial Trust. The appropriate person is now back from paternity leave and will attend to it as soon as he can. Cllr Spearing will chase again. *Action: MS*

197. **To consider Neighbourhood Planning:**

Cllrs Spearing and P Francis have done a lot of work on this and Cllr Spearing proposed rather than embarking on a Neighbourhood Plan, we should embark on the Parish Plan update. Too much time and assistance needed.

There is a need to have a village meeting in the New Year. An Action Plan needs to be drawn up.

198. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 9th November 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

Will need to make a date for the Parish Plan update meeting in the New Year.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Spearing for doing an excellent job regarding the G & T situation. Rubbish has been reported and is going to be collected. The invoice for the bund and ditch will be forwarded to CBC for their contribution to the cost. *Action: MS*

Cllr Spearing will be having an operation on her eyes at the end of October and will not be able to see very well for a time. She has given her apologies for the November meeting. She was wished well for her operation.

The Meeting closed at 8.16pm.