

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 9th November 2017 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, P Fewings, R Kemeny, P Phillips, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 2 residents.

In attendance: CB Cllr R Morris.

199. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs H Francis, P Francis & J O’Hara and CB Cllrs Clark & Matthews.

200. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

No interest has been received to date so Cllrs were asked to give thought to the vacancy.

201. 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.

It was noted that the street light at the top of Station Road by the memorial is out. The Clerk agreed to report it. **Action: LL**

201. 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).

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.

202. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 28th September, which were duly signed.

203. To discuss Matters Arising:

The Annual Highways Liaison visit attended by Rob Porter of CBC Highways, Cllrs Spearing & Phillips and The Clerk took place recently where the requested repairs were discussed. (Paving slabs on Station Road, grass/footpaths along Eversholt Road, gullies on Lydds Hill). Cllr Spearing agreed to follow these up with Rob Porter. **Action: MS**

177 The footpath going to old church needs re-tarmacing (CBC). Cllr Spearing had spoken to Michelle Flynn at CBC who has said that the surface is in an acceptable state but Cllrs do not agree. It used to be an asphalt surface and has been scraped in the past. Cllr Spearing agreed to speak to the farmer to see if he could scrape the footpath again. **Action: MP**

The footpath by the station is in a poor condition which Cllr Spearing agreed to report. **Action: MS**

181 Bench on footpath to old church just needs sanding/varnishing: Cllr Spearing has asked Tony Geddes for a quote which is awaited. **Action: MS**

182 Defibrillator: The grant from the British Heart Foundation has been agreed and the defibrillator purchased . A decision is to be made as to where it should be sited. As a bracket to mount the unit is required Cllr Spearing is to ask if the cost could be shared between the Parish Council and The Charity. 12 people have to be trained by St Johns in the use of the defibrillator. As this will be an asset it must be added to the Assets Register and the insurance. **Action: MS**

Collection of rubbish left behind when the Gypsy & Travellers moved on has been agreed and arranged. It was noted that a large group of Gypsy/travellers are camped at land at Toddington by M1 Junction 12 so we must keep eyes on any likely sites in the area.

197 Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan. Regarding reverting from completing a Neighbourhood Plan to updating the Parish Plan, Cllr Phillips thinks it should be down to the residents to decide and not a decision which should be made by the Parish Council, although the Parish Council first suggested the Neighbourhood Plan. Maybe an updated Parish Plan could be the basis for a Neighbourhood Plan (which is supposed to carry weight at CBC). There is finance which would help produce the Neighbourhood Plan although it has to be village lead so residents would need to join the management committee. Cllr Phillips suggested an Open Meeting so that the differences between the two plans can be discussed and explained.

It was agreed to wait until all Cllrs are present before a decision is made – it can be discussed again at the January meeting.

205. **To receive Reports:**

Planning: Cllr P Francis reported on:

CB/17/03684/Full 65 High Street. Demolition of existing wooden storage barn, relocation of 3 existing wooden stables and construction of new dwelling within existing paddock and plot behind 65 High Street.

CB/17/05125/61 Full & LB Segenhoe Manor. Listed Building – change of use from Stables to a Single Ground Floor 2 Bedroom Residential Unit & Ancillary Works. Cllr Spearing declared an interest and left the room whilst this was discussed. After discussion it was agreed there would be no objections.

Cllr Spearing re-joined the meeting.

PCC/Church: No report available.

Ridgmont Charity: No report available.

Village Maintenance: Previously discussed.

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). It was agreed a working party should be formed consisting of Cllrs Fewings, Phillips & Spearing and The Clerk. Dates are to be circulated for a meeting of the working party. **Action: LL**

CB Cllr Morris: As GDPR comes into force on 20th May 2018 and affects all Councils, Cllr Morris is running a GDPR briefing for Clerks and Parish Cllrs of Cranfield Ward on 28th November in

Marston Moretaine. This will have implications on personal information etc held by the Parish Council and is very important. The Clerk will be attending.

There have been 6,500 responses to the CBC Local Plan which is 2 ½ % of the population within Central Bedfordshire. The Draft Local Plan is due to come out in January with 6 week consultation period. This will then go to the Planning Inspectorate together with new and original comments.

206. To receive Correspondence:

Government white paper being issued on consultation, could increase the number of houses within Central Bedfordshire by 60%. 2,200 have been agreed by CBC but Government have increased the figure - the outcome should be known by December.

Covanta: Cllr Clark had completed the letter of response which had been signed on behalf of the 18 pc's. The Environmental Agency is mindful to pass the application. The footings of the building are being put in at the moment although permission has not yet been gained. Decision not known as yet. Over 4,000 responses to be considered. Cllr Spearing agreed to read the full document to see if the village could benefit in any way.

CBC has invited 2 Cllrs to the next Town & Parish Council Conference which is being held on Tuesday 21st November at Chicksands between 6 – 9pm. Cllrs Spearing and P Francis agreed to attend. The Clerk agreed to advise CBC of this. *Action: LL/MS/PF*

CBC reported on the Local Transport Plan meeting which was held on 2nd October to discuss LTP Rural Match Fund & Bidding Guidelines 2018/18. This type of match funding can be used on small Highways projects which CBC will not do. It cannot be used for maintenance.

CBC Household garden waste collection is to be suspended for the winter. (Between 4th December 2017 until 2nd March 2018. The Local tidy tips will remain open.

CBC Community Governance review. We could apply to have the number of Parish Council required reduced to 7 similar to other parishes. *Action: MS*

War Memorial bulletin.

207. To accept Payments:

Receipts: CBC £486 - Re-imburement for ditch digging (Travellers)

Balance as at 31st October 2017 is £13,326.88

British Heart Foundation Share of Defibrillator	600.00	100652
R J Pursell 2 x Mole clearance	85.00	100653
NAB Grasscutting.	530.00	100654
Mrs Lyman Re-imburement for Poppy Wreath	20.00	100655

Andy Muskett 2 nd ¼ st ltg maint	107.76	100655
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance Oct/Nov	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman October Salary	316.80	s/o (341.20)
Mrs Lyman November Salary	316.80	s/o (341.20)
e,on Monthly energy charge – November	122.70	s/o
	2,165.74	

Budget / Precept:

The Clerk circulated the accounts to end October. Budgets and further possible expenditure were considered.

- War Memorial expenditure - which is unknown at the moment.
- GDPR possible costs were discussed. Costs of data protection training etc are unknown at present.
- The village is looking good so we need to maintain that.

As we do spend the precept, after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Kemeny that a precept increase of 2% be requested. This was seconded by Cllr Fewings with all in agreement.

208. War Memorial:

We should know more by the end of November.

209. To consider Parish Plan update:

A date is to be arranged in the New Year for the Neighbourhood/Parish Plan update meeting and an action plan drawn up.

198. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 11th January 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

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

The Meeting closed at 20.50pm.