

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2018 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs P Francis – Vice Chair, P Fewings, H Francis, R Kemeny, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 9 residents.

In Attendance: CB Cllrs K Matthews & R Morris.

260. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs J O'Hara & M Spearing and CB Cllr S Clark.

261. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

This vacancy can now be filled by co-option.

To date, one person has expressed an interest so Cllr Spearing agreed to follow this up. **Action: MS**

262. 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 felt very unacceptable that just because one person complained about the Bottle Bank, that it has been taken away permanently. Why should one person dictate the future of it?

263. 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 H Francis (PC representative on Ridgmont Charity) P Francis (Trustee on Ridgmont Charity).

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner). No

264. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2018, which were duly signed.

265. To discuss Matters Arising:

The drains in High Street were also one of our priorities, but nothing has been done, despite there being problems for some two year. CB Cllr Morris said he would follow this up on our behalf.

Action: RM

177 The footpath going to old church needs to be scraped. Cllr Spearing has spoken to the farmer who now has this in hand.

Action: MS

251b Bushes are overgrown in the alleyway behind the High Street in the vicinity of The Old Police House. This covers the light too. Cllr Spearing will follow this up.

Action: Ms

251a The defibrillator has been installed and should have been connected today but is now re-arranged for tomorrow.

251c Bushes are overgrown around one of the Aragon bungalows. A site meeting is to take place next Wednesday at 2.30pm. . *Action: MS*

Ridgmont Charity: Cllr Kemeny proposed that Cllr Fewings become the PC nominee on the Ridgmont Charity. This was seconded by Cllr H Francis with all in agreement.

Prologis Planning Application: Many concerns have been raised on the Scoping Report which has been sent to CBC. All details are on the CBC planning portal.

266. To receive Correspondence:

.B & MK News.

CBC advising of the completion of the A421 dualling to Milton Keynes starts this month and should finish at the end of 2020.

Highways England: M1 Junction 13 to 16 Smart Motorway Programme.

Prologis Public Exhibition Monday 17th September 4.30 – 8pm at Ridgmont Lower School. All invited to attend.

Hayfield Consortium have advised that the Planning Application (CB/17/04989/OUY for Hayfield Park Village has been withdrawn.

267. The Landscape Assessor’s Attendance at the Enquiry:

An expert has been engaged to represent the Parish at the Enquiry. The Clerk had circulated a financial forecast which showed the approx balance by the end of the financial year - March 2019 which will not sustain the Enquiry costs. The cost will be quite high and more funding is needed. Facebook and Twitter accounts have been set up for crowd funding.

We will not be able to go ahead if we don’t get the funding. We need an expert there to be able to respond to the Inspectors questions. We have to decide about funding.

Lidlington Action Group is funding theirs through crown funding.

The Inspector has received the Parish Councils report.

By the next meeting we need to know whether we have enough funding to go forward.

Local Plan: Site specifics are likely to be known October from CBC.

268. To accept Payments:

Balance as at 7th September 2018 is £10,046.63

It was **RESOLVED** the following invoices be paid:

		100681 cancelled
H Francis Distribution	20.00	100682
HMRC PAYE	155.80	100683

NAB Grasscutting 2441	530.00	100684
Came & Company Annual Insurance	852.32	100685
J Darlow Mole Clearance 2014/2015	300.00	100686
GEM Conservation Ltd War Memorial restoration	4,054.50	100687
HMRC PAYE	183.20	100688
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance August/September	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman August Salary	341.20	s/o
Mrs Lyman September Salary	341.20	s/o
e,on Monthly energy charge – August	139.45	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge – September	139.45	s/o
	7,123.80	

The telephone banking mandate form is to be completed together with the bank signatory mandate form.

Action: LL

269. Speed Limit on Station Road:

A resident had requested that the speed limit to be changed in Station Road from 40 mph to 30 mph. A TRO would need to be put in place by CBC Highways which would be expensive. Need to pay for new signage and consultancy fee. The Council is unlikely to fund it. There might be a chance of using the Rural Matchfunding scheme which is shared between the PC and CBC. It is very dangerous at the top of Station Road. Unfortunately signs don't necessarily slow traffic down and enforcement is not always carried out..

May be we could have a 'slow, concealed entrance sign'. Cllr P Francis agreed to contact Mark MacDonald at CBC Highways to ask the question.

Action: PF

Speedwatch Groups were discussed. This is a community initiative which needs a group to be trained. At any one time 3 volunteers are required to man the equipment and take down the required details.

Maybe an idea to have a Zebra crossing/pelican crossing for the protection of the children going to school.

270. The Recreation Ground Hedge:

The hedge in the playground is becoming overgrown. It was pointed out that the person who owns the hedge is responsible for cutting it back. If the PC does cut it back, legally the clippings should be thrown back onto the owners side. NAB would be happy to cut the hedge but it would obviously be at a cost which is the owners responsibility. Cllr Spearing agreed to contact the owner so that it can be resolved amicably. **Action: MS**

271. Station Road Slabs:

CB Cllr Matthews provided an update advising that the work will take place during October. CB Cllr Matthews was thanked for following this up.

272. To receive Reports:

Planning: Cllr P Francis said

CB/18/02697/FULL Rose & Crown change of use to the annex. Tea shop at the front and pie shop to the rear. Community workshop area to. No objections.

BT has installed high speed broadband cabling which is working well.

In an effort to become digitised, CBC will now only be sending a hard copy of planning application and plans. Everything else can be viewed on their website.

PCC/Church: Cllr H Francis gave an update on the quarterly PCC meeting. She has taken over the role of Treasurer. Fund raising events are desperately needed ie Film Evenings, Christmas Event etc. Volunteers are needed. Monthly services are being held. 11th Nov British Legion Service.

Ridgmont Charity: The last AGM was held in May 2017 so they are long overdue for this years AGM. John Hawkes is putting together the accounts. Cllr Fewings is now a charity member. There remain no viable chance of a new village hall.

For the benefit of the village could an amount of the finance be used towards the Inspectors costs? The money is there and is stagnant. There are so many restrictions on the funding which need checking. CB Cllr Matthews said there is normally a clause in the deed which advises how the money can be used. **Action: P/HF / MS**

Village Maintenance: Nothing to report.

Section 106 funding: There is £12,138.97 Section 106 funding to spend on Leisure/playground facilities. The sub-committee consists of Cllrs Spearing & Fewings and The Clerk.

The revised quote for safety surfacing under some of the existing equipment has been received at the cost of £16,520.00. This is still over figure we have been allocated. And we will also be having pay for the removal of the existing surface for which we do not have a figure as yet.

Action: MS/LL

CB Cllr Clark: Gulley clearing – there is an ongoing programme cyclical cycle so the gulley's will be cleared but it is not known when.

CB Cllr Matthews: The Governance Review recently carried out resulting in the reduction of Parish Councillors on Ridgmont Parish Council to 7.

CB Cllr Morris: We would like to get the Bottle Bank bought back to the village but it is not a parish council initiative. If residents contact the CBC Communities Services Manager (Craig Siddle) hopefully he may be able to get a way forward to get it re-instated.

273. **War Memorial:**

The memorial has been cleaned, repointed, treated and gilded, letters been re-caved and repainted where necessary at the cost of £4,054.50. We have paid the invoice which will be re-charged.

Action: MS

274. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 15th November 2018 starting at 7.30pm. CB Cllr Clark gave her apologies.

Do we need a meeting with the village before the Inspectors Enquiry – we don't know the date of the enquiry as yet.

Resident said she thought maybe the new tenants at the pub may put on an event to raise money for the enquiry. She will follow up. They are tenants committed to 2/3 years.

The Meeting closed at 20.45pm.