

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2017 at All Saints Church, Ridgmont starting at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, H Francis, P Fewings, P Francis, J O’Hara, P Phillips, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 5 residents.

In attendance: CB Cllrs S Clark, K Matthews & R Morris. Clare Poulton (Greensands Ridge Trust).

Prior to the meeting beginning, Clare Poulton – Greensands Ridge Trust gave a presentation about the Trust and Community Involvement which was very interesting.

175. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr R Kemeny

As Cllr Baddeley has not attended a meeting since last November, (6 months without agreement being the legal maximum of non-attendance at meetings) he has by default ceased to continue as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman agreed to advise him of the situation. The Clerk agreed to Report vacancy to CBC and the relevant notice will be put on the notice board. **Action: MS/LL**

176. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

- a) **Planning:** Cllrs P Francis
- b) **Communication & Consultation:** Cllrs P Francis & J O’Hara
- c) **Village Environment:** Cllrs Kemeny, O’Hara & Spearing
- d) **Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting:** Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
- e) **Play/Recreation/Cenotaph:** Cllrs Peter &, Kemeny & Spearing
- f) **Ridgmont Village Charity:** Cllr H Francis
(Cllr H Francis represents the Parish Council and P Francis is a trustee).
- g) **Development and Strategy:** inc Parish Plan. All Cllrs as a group
- h) **School Governor:** It is no longer a requirement for the Parish Council to be represented on the School Governing Body but it would be good to open a channel of communication.
- i) **All Saints Church** Cllr H Francis / Peter Fewings
- j) **War Memorial:** Cllr Phillips
- k) **Website:** The Clerk

177. Public Forum:

Not to last more than 15 minutes.

The footpath going to old church needs re-tarmac (CBC). Speak to Michelle Flynn as Rick Thompson has been seconded to new project. Michelle.Flynn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Action: MS

178. **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.

179. **To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12th May 2017 which were duly signed.

180. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

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. Ward Cllrs were asked to follow this up.

Action: KM/SC/RM

181. **To receive Reports:**

Planning: Cllr P Francis reported on a communication from CBC referring to a planning application on Stamp Cottage?? Check.... It was refused and has now gone to appeal.

PCC/Church: Cllr H Francis: The recent fund raising event was the wine tasting carried out by The Woburn Wine Cellar which was very successful and raised £450.

The Church needs £200/250 per week for overheads. The PCC meet quarterly - the next meeting may be in September. A barn dance has been arranged for 30th September at Segenhoe. May have a Cinema Night in the church which will need a projector. The Christmas Event on 9th December is to be re-vamped.

At the AGM the Deacon of the Diocese wanted to meet with Rev Graham Bradshaw and Peter Garratt about the future of the church.

Ridgmont Charity: Cllr H Francis reported on the AGM and the meeting held on 21st June. The proposal from Mr & Mrs Spearing was discussed. It had been agreed that John Hawkes would contact Mr & Mrs Spearing to look at their plans and to see how the Village Hall could be progressed.

Village Maintenance: Cllr Spearing said that Nigel is doing an excellent job of cutting the grass verges etc. The Village is looking very smart.

Cllr Phillips said that the bench on the footpath to the old church needs replacing as it is in a poor state. Do we as a council wish to replace the bench? Cllr Spearing proposed it should be replaced. Cllr O'Hara seconded this with all in agreement. A financial projection was requested although financial figures are included in the minutes of every meeting.

War Memorial: Cllr Phillips had circulated a file note of progress to date:

DATE: 07/07/2017 11:50

Unless otherwise stated, all conservators contacted are on the Conservation Register, provided by the War Memorial Trust.

Where I have spoken to conservators listed, they do tend to work on major project, such as parish churches, abbeys, cathedrals, castles, and stately homes, where travel/accommodation is not a major element of the cost of the job.

The details I have emailed to potential contractors include the work needed, as advised by the War Memorial Trust, (stone cleaning, deepening and sharpening of the lettering, re-painting of the lettering), with photographs of the memorial. In addition, I have asked potential contractors to include separate quotations for renewing the slabs and the remaining side of the surrounding metal fence/gate that runs along the High Street.

Many of those contacted would not undertake the slab and fence work or would subcontract it.

Gem Conservation (M Beesley) (Northampton)

Details of work emailed (30 June).

Spoke to Matthew who will visit when passing to their current work at Welwyn.

07 July: Hasn't had time to visit yet.

Hall Conservation (London)

Details of work emailed (30 June)

In Email correspondence with Jessica. Jessica passed documents to Katrina.

07 July: No-one answering phone. Email sent to say no communication received from Katrina.

Plowden-Smith (London)

Details of work emailed (30 June)

Visit arranged for 07 July.

Adamson Conservation (Essex)

Details of work emailed (30 June)

07 July: No-one answering phone. Message left on recorder to call me.

Sue and Lawrence Kelland (Somerset)

07 July: Spoke to Sue Kelland. Not interested – too far away.

VA Conservation (Birmingham)

Details of work emailed (30 June)

07 July: Spoke to Ms Vlkova who will look at document and come back to me.

Simon Swann Associated (Suffolk)

07 July: Spoke to Mr Swann. Not interested. Too far away given a small job.

Sally Strachley Historic Conservation Ltd (Somerset)

07 July: Spoke to Sally Strachley. Maybe interested although probably too small a job, details of work emailed.

Cllr Phillips said he is having trouble in getting quotes but he still has 3 / 4 to contact.

Action: PP

CB Cllr Morris:

- Potholes – the velocity patcher is here until September to fill approx. They try to repair 90 a day. Make sure we report every single pothole in the area.
- Gully cleaning: it is intended that a proper job be carried over the next 18 months, gulleys will be dug out if necessary. If there are no gulleys to work on, they will clean street signs and trim hedges. Any blocked gulleys need to be reported.

CB Cllr Clark: The Draft Local Plan Consultation has been published. It is the first formal consultation on the draft plan. It shows the possible strategic sites for housing growth etc. Sites will

be identified in the final draft of the plan. Could have 50,000 houses via government formula. We are situated in centre of Oxford/Cambridge arc which has suggested we should build even more. Central Beds is well connected by road/rail etc. Provision for the necessary infrastructure needs to be installed. A number of growth area's have been suggested.

4 new villages could deliver up to 5,000 houses in our area.

Cllrs/residents are being consulted and it is really important that we respond. Marston was the first consultation which was quite well attended and some very strong messages were forthcoming.

It is very important for CBC to have a local plan to shape the area rather than be ridden over rough shod.

4 more Warehousing sites have been identified. One is at junction 13 but not exactly where.

Positive aspects also can be put forward and will be welcomed.

Drop in session between 2 – 8pm next Tuesday at Chicksands. This will be specifically for Town & Parish Councils. Planning officers will be on hand to talk.

The Clerk has printed off the preliminary Site Assessment Results which can be seen on CBC website. This still has to be reduced by CBC.

It maybe an idea to hold a village meeting to make residents aware and how residents can respond. Also to put a notice on the notice board and Facebook.

HGV parking around all villages is very bad. That information should be fed back. Planners will need to address these sorts of problems.

The Local Authority is trying to get the powers of enforcement from the Police to be more effectively enforcing.

It is hopeful that building won't take place around Lidlington and Broughton End.

East West rail consultation next Wednesday at The Marston Centre between 12 – 8pm. They are proposing Ridgmont Station should be a hub and major stopping point.

Winterwoods: re-consulting the Inspector.

An Application has been sent to Beds BC to demolish the Chimney at Stewartby which everyone is against. So we need to object to that too.

CB Cllr Matthews: Nothing further to add.

182. **To receive Correspondence:**

East West Rail – Western Section Phase 2 consultation: Poster giving dates/venues. The nearest one will be the Forest Centre between 12pm – 8pm.

CBC Draft Local Plan consultation literature. A copy giving dates/venue has been put on the noticeboard.

SLCC as part of their Regional Training Programme have a training seminar on Wednesday 6th September 2017 between 8.30 – 4pm at The Marriott Hotel, Peterborough. The subject being is your council compliant in 2017 and beyond?

CBC Public Notice proposing to remove the existing residents permit parking and introduce parking places for disabled badge holders in Church Street.

The Chairman of the Ridgmont Charity said that they have agreed to go halves with the cost of the defibrillator.

183. **To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 7th July 2017 is £20,692.81

VAT repayment of £1,181.41 has been received.

It was **Resolved** that the following invoices be paid:

Playsafety Limited Annual Safety Inspection	109.20	100631
Andy Muskett Ltd 1 st ¼ st ltg maintenance	107.76	100632
Ridgmont PCC Hire for PC meeting	25.00	100633
Cancelled		100635
Mrs K Severs Internal Audit	35.00	100634
HMRC 1 st ¼ PAYE	237.60	100635
Ridgmont Lower School Donation for use of hall for meetings	250.00	100636
Mrs Lyman Salary increase due to tax code change	84.60	100637
HMRC 1 st ¼ PAYE	237.60	100638
Mrs J Hepworth Leaflet Distribution	20.00	100639
Tony Geddes Street Signage maintenance	130.00	100640a
Tony Geddes Notice Board	900.00	100640b

NAB Grasscutting	480.00	100641
Mrs Lyman June Salary	316.80	s/o
Mrs Lyman July Salary	316.80	s/o (401.40)
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance June/July	66.68	s/o
e,on Monthly energy charge - June	122.70	s/o
E,on Monthly energy charge - July	118.74	s/o
	3,557.48	

184. **Notice Board:**

The new notice board has been erected and looks excellent. The legs are being clad. The old notice board has been taken down and taken away.

185. **To consider Neighbourhood Planning:**

Suggested a mini time line. In September we should have an open meeting to advice residents what a NP is and what it will involve, what it will mean to the village. Cllrs Spearing & P Francis have done a lot of work on this. We need several non-parish councillors. It will take a lot of commitment. Invite different representatives from the village. The school, the church, the charity etc. Everything will be evidence led. It is not a parish council plan but the parish council are facilitators. It has a legal weight. We are a small community. Final approval is by referendum within the area.

The chairman of Maulden PC would share their experiences regarding their Neighbourhood Plan works to date if needed.

186. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 28th September 2017 starting at 7.30pm. Ridgmont Lower School has been booked for Parish Council meetings for the next 12 months.

Need to make a date for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Meeting closed at 9.21 pm.