

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 12th July 2018 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.

In Attendance: CB Cllrs K Matthews & R Morris.

249. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr R Kemeny & CB Cllr S Clark.

250. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

CBC has advised that the 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**

251. 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) *Why was the site for the defibrillator changed?* The School had advised there was no access to electricity where it was suggested the box should be sited so it had been sited at the church. Electricity will be connected to the box asap.
- b) *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**
- c) *Bushes are overgrown around one of the Aragon bungalows.* This is to be followed up by Cllr Spearing as Aragon have the responsibility to keep the area tidied. **Action: Ms**

252. 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). Cllr Spearing – Landowner, Ridgmont Village Charity and Greensand Ridge Country Partnership.

253. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2018, which were duly signed.

254. To discuss Matters Arising:

Cllr Spearing continues to chase CBC Highways about the state of the paving slabs in Station Road. The contact is now Mark MacDonald. As this has been going on for so long and we don’t seem to be getting any further, CB Cllr Matthews agreed to speak to Mark MacDonald. **Action: KM**

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**

Prologis have approached the PC to come and talk informally about our objections. No meeting took place but Prologis have been advised that the Parish Councils comments are all on CBC website but there has been no further response.

Parish Plan: A village meeting which had been arranged for Thursday 7th June to discuss Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan and the way forward had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

255. To receive Correspondence:

Hayfield Consortium: have submitted an application for up to 650 houses at Hayfield of the A421. As it is unclear as to the route the expressway will be taking, the application is a reserve application until the route is known. There are several reserve sites in Bedfordshire.

There will be two planning applications which are likely to affect the parish: 5,000 houses in Marston Vale and one for 117 houses at Brogborough opposite side of C94 to Marston Gate. There are 2000 houses at Marston Thrift in the pipeline.

Magpas Air Ambulance are requesting a financial contribution towards their services in Bedfordshire. In 2017 they were called out to a total of 312 incidents across the county and treated 137 patients of all ages. It was agreed people can make personal donations to charities so the PC would not be making a donation.

256.. To accept Payments:

Balance as at 10th May 2018 is £14,075.02

Received: Precept of £12,632

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

K Severs Internal Audit	35.00	100675
NAB Landscapes Grasscutting (May)	530.00	100676
Mrs Lyman (SLCC) Data Protection Webinar	36.00	100677
Playsafety Limited Safety Inspection	109.20	100678
Andy Muskett Ltd St Ltg Maintenance 1 st ¼	107.76	100679
NAB Landscapes Grasscutting (June)	530.00	100680
HMRC	175.80	100681

1st ¼ PAYE

Mrs H Francis Delivery of Local Plan leaflets	20.00	100682
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance June/July	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman June Salary	341.20	s/o
Mrs Lyman July Salary	341.20	s/o
e,on Monthly energy charge - June	139.45	s/o
e,on Monthly Energy Charge - July	134.96	S/O
	2,567.25	

The telephone banking mandate form is to be completed together with the bank signatory mandate form. **Action: LL**

257. **To receive Reports:**

Planning: Cllr P Francis said

Planning Application: CB/TCA/18/00219 96 High Street. Works to trees in a Conservation Area. Cllr Francis will check and come back to Cllrs.

Planning Application: CB/18/02501/LB 2-4 Eversholt Road. Listed Building Consent for Internal Cllr Francis will check and come back to Cllrs.

The application for 101 High Street was called in but it has been approved so CB Cllr Morris will check why this has happened.

PCC/Church: Following the death of Peter Garrett, a new church warden is required. . Peter Garratt was the representative to the PCC on the Ridgmont Charity.

Rumours are circulating that the church is closed but it isn't so the fundraising committee need to circulate something advising people of this. This is not a PC issue.

Ridgmont Charity: The last meeting was held in January and the AGM is overdue.

Village Maintenance: Nothing further 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 quote for safety surfacing under some of the existing equipment has been received at the cost of £19,875. As this is considerably more than the Section 106 funding allocation, the Clerk has asked

the supplier if a better price could be achieved and they have said if the surfacing which is in place at present could be removed and disposed of, they could reduce the price. Cllr Spearing has organised this to be done (no date agreed as yet until Broxap come back with the amended price).

CB Cllr Clark: No report.

CB Cllr Matthews: Local plan: the hearing should begin in October. Strategic process will be the first issue, followed by the site allocations in November. Likelihood in December the Inspector will concentrate on policies. These are only indicative dates, Finalised dates will be circulated. All comments received by CBC have been sent to the Inspector.

CB Cllr Matthews said that a lot of parishes are now realising that they need consultants.

Cllr Spearing said that in a report received from our consultant, it is reckoned that it is the landscaping that is the most important to us. Cllr Spearing will check with our consultant what the charges are likely to be if she attends the hearing. Crowd funding may be the way forward as the charges are likely to be around £1,200/1,500 a day. Cllr Spearing also hopes to be participating in the hearing. Cllrs P Francis and H Francis may be able to set up the crowd funding.

Can we agree an amount the pc may be able to put towards this if necessary? It was agreed to obtain some idea of the costs first and discuss again in the September meeting.

CB Cllr Morris: Nothing further to add.

258. War Memorial:

The memorial is being cleaned at present. The names at the bottom are hopefully going to be repainted. The slabs need to be power washed which NAB could do.

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 and it is the owners responsibility. Cllr Spearing agreed to contact the owner so that it can be resolved amicably.

259. Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 13th September 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm.