

**Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, P Fewings, H Francis, P Francis, R Kemeny, P Phillips and Lyn Lyman – Clerk and two residents.

**In attendance:** CB Cllr K Matthews.

**211. To receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllr J O'Hara and CB Cllr S Clark & R Morris.

**212. Parish Councillor Vacancy:**

As discussed at the last meeting, CBC are carrying out the Community Governance review, could it be time to ask if they would consider reducing the size of Ridgmont Parish Council from 9 Cllrs to 7 as is normal for Parish Councils of a similar in size to Ridgmont? After discussion, it was agreed to write to CBC.

**Action: LL**

**213. 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.

Nothing to discuss which doesn't appear in the Agenda.

**214. 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 and Ridgmont Village Charity.

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, which were duly signed.

**216. To discuss Matters Arising:**

Regarding matters discussed at the Highways Liaison Meeting: Some of the retaining paving slabs at the top of Station Road have now fallen down and been put on the bank; High Street drains. As no work has been carried out to these issues, Cllr Spearing agreed to follow them up with Rob Porter (Highways).

**Action: MS**

177 The footpath going to old church needs to be scraped. But as CBC will not do the work, Cllr Spearing agreed to ask the farmer if he could do it. Unfortunately the farmer is away on holiday at present.

**Action: MS**

181 The bench on the footpath to the old church just needs sanding/varnishing: Cllr Spearing has asked Tony Geddes for a quote but he is away on holiday at the moment. **Action: MS**

182 Defibrillator: The defibrillator has been purchased. As a bracket is needed to mount the box to the wall, Cllr Spearing said she would ask if the cost could be shared between the Parish Council and The Charity. Cllr Kemeny agreed to speak to the school to check where it could be sited. Training is to be deferred until after February. The Charity are to be invoiced for half of the cost (£300). **Action: MS / RK**

217. **To receive Reports:**

**Planning:** Cllr P Francis reported on:

CB/17/05993/ Full New Wood Farm. After discussion it was agreed there were quite a few issues which needed to be raised. Cllr Fewings has written in with his personal observations.

Enforcement Notice: CB/ENC/17/0482 The Rose & Crown 89 High Street.

Following an investigation this case has been closed because the pitches within the public house car park have been removed and the area to the rear has a lawful use certificate for camping (CB/12/02933/LDCE).

**PCC/Church: PCC/Church:**

As per previous updates, Cllr H Francis advised of the negative financial situation of the church and advised that fundraising efforts are heavily relied upon to meet the running costs of the church. Unfortunately the last fundraising event, a cinema event in December, had to be cancelled due to the snow. A music event has been planned for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March in which the Woburn Sands Band have kindly offered to provide an evening of music. Posters will soon be distributed and tickets will be on sale for the event.

**Ridgmont Charity:**

The date for the next meeting is Wednesday, 17 January where joint purchase of the defibrillator by the Parish Council and Ridgmont Charity is due to be discussed.

**Village Maintenance:** Nigel Burrows has filled holes which needed filling.

**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). (Working Party consists of Cllrs Spearing, Fewings & Phillips and The Clerk). The working party met on site and agreed as there is sufficient play equipment but the safety surfacing is non-existent it would be good to look at safety surfacing.

The Clerk reported on the site meeting she had with the Hand Made Places (Broxap) Representative. They looked at all the items and agreed not to do anything with the surface under the roundabout. Under some of the items there is already 'Safer Matting' but the areas are very pitted.

- Individual prices are going to be quoted for both Bonded Rubber Mulch and Wet Pour on The Swings, the Nest Swing, the Climbing Unit and the Trim Trail.
- The Trim Trail doesn't have much fall height so would be purely visual so will quote for Artificial Grass and Bonded Mulch.
- Also going to quote for artificial grass under both benches

The Recreation Ground could benefit from another adult sized table and a spring to be put on the gate.

Any decisions were deferred until the quote has been received.

**CB Cllr Morris:** No report available.

**CB Cllr Clark:** No report available.

**CB Cllr Matthews:** Reported that the consultation for the Draft Local Plan started 4<sup>th</sup> January and will finish on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. In the immediate area NLP244 is a submitted site based on evidence.

CBC will reflect on the outcome of the consultation for modifications. The responses will be analysed and CBC will recommend any modifications.

Individuals can object and can appear to speak at the Inspectors Enquiry.

1 The Inspector will be looking at the plan to see if it is legally compliant. (If the procedural requirements have been put in place ie duty to co-operate). These requirements must be discharged.

2. Is the plan sound, based on evidence and are the proposals deliverable.

3. Each of the proposed sites for the development is tested on sustainability and habitat regulations.

PC had a discussion about the NLP 244 and the impact it will have on the village. We agreed that the impact on the landscape was critical and it would affect the landscape and the approach to the village, The Greensand and the John Bunyan footpath, be an increase in traffic and M1 junction 13 Is overloaded at present. Warehousing is on an inappropriate greenfield site.

As the PC have no professional qualifications to produce the appropriate response to the Draft Local Plan, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Spearing be authorised to engage a professional consultant with the financial limit of upto £5,000. Cllr Spearing would keep all Cllrs informed.

**Action: MS**

218. **To receive Correspondence:**

CBC Budget Consultation takes place between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. Questionnaires were circulated.

B & MK News Volume 15.

Network Rail - East West Rail Western Section Phase 2 - Round Three Consultation starts 12th January 2018 and ends on 9th February 2018. There will be a public events on 17<sup>th</sup> January at Winslow Public Hall between 12pm – 8pm and 18<sup>th</sup> January at Lonqueville Hall, Newton Lonqueville between 11am – 5pm. The project is on a memory stick for viewing.

219. **To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 is £12,262.14

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

HMRC PAYE	196.60	100656
R J Pursell Mole clearance (Dec)	30.00	100657
NAB Grasscutting – November	530.00	100658
Andy Muskett 3rs st ltg maint	107.76	100659
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance Dec/Jan	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman December Salary	341.20	s/o
Mrs Lyman January Salary	341.20	s/o
e,on Monthly energy charge – December	118.74	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge – January	122.70	S/O
	1,854.88	

As the Clerk has registered to attend the SLCC East of England Regional Training Seminar on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, (subject GDPR) she asked whether Ridgmont Parish Council would contribute towards the costs. The share would be in the region of £65. This was agreed.

NALC have submitted the new Clerks Salary offer for 2018/19 & 2019/20 to the Union. This would mean a 2% increase if accepted and would be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. This was duly noted.

**220. CBC Pre-Application Draft Local Plan:**

Discussed above.

**221. War Memorial:**

The grant of £2,580 has been received. Once the contractors form has been received, duly signed, Cllr Spearing will return it to the War Memorial Trust.

**Action: MS**

**222. To consider Parish Plan update:**

As a lot of time is being spent on the Draft Local Plan at present, it was agreed further discussions on the update would be deferred.

**223. Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.