

**Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.**

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

**In attendance:** CB Cllrs K Matthews & R Morris, CB Cllr S Clark and Craig McFadyen -Sales Advisor from Gigaclear (Broadband).

**152. To Receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from: Cllrs A Baddeley & J O’Hara.

**153. Public Forum:**

*Not to last more than 15 minutes.*

a) Alex Steel who used to live in Ridgmont but now lives in Stewartby would like to start up a football club for the younger members in the village both male & female, both able/disabled etc. He would also like to run a football festival in the future. He had put together a business plan which he explained. He has asked if they could play at the school but Woburn Lions already play there. He has put a lot of work into his research and has worked out a lot of the costs and has a long term vision. He played semi-professionally and is setting up a sport shop on line.

Cllr Spearing explained that the Parish Council do not own any land but as a land owner Cllr Spearing said she has land and may be interested.

The Parish Council think his idea is very laudable. He would need to look at how many children there are in the village, and maybe children attending the school. This could be mentioned on Facebook and he could do a leaflet drop. He could also hold an open meeting for the village. His business plan seemed very good.

CB Cllr Matthews said he wished him well and suggested that someone needs to explore the school commitment to Woburn Lions. Thought would also need to be given to the upkeep of any land/pitch used.

Alex left his contact details.

b) Craig McFadyen of Gigaclear said he has spoken to most in the village about the new fast speed broadband system which Gigaclear is proposing for the village. They are a private company who specialize in putting services into rural areas. He obviously cannot fully guarantee the high speeds but says they have one of the best ratios (25:1) and that fibre optic is very fast. The service could be supplied up to the property but you have to pay to get it connected into the property. (£100 one-off connection fee) and £41.30 including line rental per month. There would be an activation fee of £100.

Gigaclear is holding an open meeting in the village next Wednesday evening at the school starting at 7.30pm. Gigaclear has already carried out a leaflet drop and details of the meeting have been included on Facebook.

CB Cllr Matthews suggested Craig got in touch with Brogborough as broadband coverage in that area is not good.

c) Station Road now has double yellow lines by the station. The yellow lines do not go far enough. Unfortunately the TRO didn't identify the area correctly. HGV's are contravening the yellow lines and causing obstructions. CB Cllr Matthews said that Obstructions are Police matters and contravention are CBC Highways matters. He is already following this up with CBC Highways.

154. **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 – Village Charity and Cllr H Francis – Village Hall, PCC and 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 Village Hall.

As Cllrs H Francis and P Francis represent the Parish Council on the Charity, it was wondered how it affects their pecuniary interests. The Clerk had checked with BATPC and had been advised that both Cllrs H Francis & P Francis would have a non-pecuniary interest to declare (which they are doing).

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 which were duly signed.

156. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

103b Street lighting column is outside 99 High Street (ownership- CBC): The request had originally been passed to the Highways Street Lighting team but as it is a CBC asset it has been forwarded to the Highways Assets Team and a response is now awaited. This has now been escalated to the Assistant Director to see if we can get a response. The Clerk has chased this again. **Action: LL**

124 Defibrillator: Cllr Spearing advised that the British Heart Foundation had suffered computer problems and our application had been lost so she has forwarded a copy to them and their response is still awaited. **Action: MS**

War Memorial: Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing had had a site meeting with The War Graves Commission who has suggested instead of attaching plaques, they would recommend the re-cutting of all the names and re-laying the slabs. This would obviously cost more but there may be an option for a larger grant. **Action: MS**

142a There have been incidences of speeding cyclists on Church Path going down to Segenhoe. The Clerk has reported this to Rick Thompson – CBC Rights of Way Officer who is going to have a look at the situation. Cycling on a public footpath is only a trespass against the landowner – it is not a criminal offence.

157. **To receive Reports:**

**Planning:**

CB/17/00587/Full The Old Vicarage, 69 High Street. New detached garage.

After discussion it was agreed there would be no objections to this planning application.

**Planning Enforcement Case:** CBC has raised a planning enforcement case regarding alleged unauthorised change of use – caravans and motorhomes on site. An investigation has not yet taken place, but if the enquiry is confirmed as a breach of planning control we will be notified.

**PCC/Church:**

Cllr H Francis reported on the quarterly meeting which took place on Monday evening. Insurance is the highest expense. A Health & Safety document is being put together. Legally the chair must attend Safeguarding training and CBS checks are being carried out. Capital projects need to be carried out i.e. repairs to the Lych Gate and over hanging cedar tree which are liability. The AGM is being held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the church.

The balance at the moment is £3,600 so fund raising needs to take place. A Wine Tasting event in the process of being organised with the provisional date of 28<sup>th</sup> April although as that is the Easter weekend the date may be re-arranged. A Summer event maybe a barn dance provisionally on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Charity:** Cllr H Francis said the AGM should be held annually in April.

**Village Hall:** Cllr H Francis reported that no meeting has taken place since last November. There may be one towards the end of this month with the AGM in April.

**Village Maintenance:** Cllr Spearing said that the hedge on the footpath to the old church and the hedge which borders the old church at Segenhoe have kindly been cut back by the farmer. A Further walk around the village with Nigel Burrows is due. The mole man come to the village every couple of weeks.

The parking signs in Church Street should have been taken down by CBC but are still there at the moment. The disabled parking bay has also not been installed. CB Cllr Matthews agreed to chase this up with Garry Baldwin of CBC Highways. **Action: KM**

The fencing which was renewed by the memorial needs wood preservative to be applied.

It was agreed the village notice board needs replacing. It is in a poor state, is unsightly and cannot always be locked. Cllr Spearing has done research and the approx cost to replace the notice board would be around £1,000. It was felt that although this had not been budgeted for, we should explore the possibilities and Cllr Spearing agreed to obtain quotes for a good design which will enhance the village now that various things around the village have been/are being updated.

Regarding the potholes in Eversholt Road and Lydds Hill, CBC Highways ‘Streetworks list’ does include work on potholes in Ampthill so it was felt things would progress toward Ridgmont.

**CB Cllr Morris:** Advised that there is currently a consultation on overview and scrutiny.

**CBC Matthews:** Advised the CBC Local Plan is still ongoing; The Council Tax increase will be 4.54%; A 12 week consultation on Car Parking Strategy is coming up.

**CB Cllr Clark:** There is to be a closed meeting on behalf of the Hayfield Consortium (Martin Grant Homes) regarding the Aspley Guise triangle proposed housing at Aspley Guise Village Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Spearing will try to attend.

Covanta are now consulting on their environmental permit until 20<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed in principle that Cllr Spearing should write a response of objection to the Covanta Incinerator.

MKC are consulting on the MK Local Plan where they say they are not proposing to build within CBC until 2026 although it is not sure they can say that at the moment. It was agreed in principle that Cllr Spearing should write a response of objection to the MK Local Plan.

The East /West Rail Link consultation begins in May. It is known that they are looking at closing some of the footpaths in the Marston Vale.

The proposed Winterwoods planning application is ongoing as not all the statutory consultees have responded at present.

**158. To receive Correspondence:**

Autism Bedfordshire have requested a donation to support their good work. The Clerk has asked if they are actually supporting anyone with in the parish but was advised there are no service users within Ridgmont so it was agreed not to make a donation at this time.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity 2016 Yearbook was circulated.

Bedfordshire Police are organising a Neighbourhood Priority Setting meeting which Cllr Phillips has agreed to attend.

**159. To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 is £11312.56

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

Mrs Lyman February Salary	316.80	s/o
Mrs Lyman March Salary	316.80	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance Feb & March	66.68	s/o
E,on Monthly energy charge - February	112.18	s/o
E,on Monthly energy charge - March	101.33	s/o
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	913.79	

**160. To consider Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr Spearing has been doing research on other Neighbourhood Plans and made a suggestion that a couple of Cllrs got together to sort out an action plan and allocate people and resources to that. A Neighbourhood Plan has to be community lead. Cllrs H Francis & P Francis offered to assist.

It was agreed to have an informal discussion and Cllr Spearing agreed to circulate some dates, she will also get a brief outline of parameters. The project is not a sub-committee of the Parish Council.

CB Cllr Matthews advised that Sally Chapman is the CBC Designated Officer.

161. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 - The Annual Parish Meeting will start at **7.15pm** and will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.