

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 15th November 2018 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing- Chairman, P Fewings, H Francis, R Kemeny Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 1 resident.

275. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs P Francis, J O'Hara and CB Cllrs S Clark, K Matthews & R Morris.

276. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

As the next election is less than 6 months away, we do not have to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

277. 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 resident had applied for an extension to her house but it had been refused and she explained that she had re-applied.

Facebook was discussed and the fact that not everyone operates Facebook.

Unfortunately youths are leaving litter and undesirable rubbish in the school grounds so a newsletter is to be put together about this and advising that the defibrillator is up and running.

278. 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 (PCC Secretary & Treasurer and a trustee of Ridgmont Charity, P Fewings (Parish Council Representative, M Spearing (Trustee of The Greensand Trust).

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner). Cllr Spearing (Land Owner).

279. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 2018, which were duly signed.

280. To discuss Matters Arising:

The drains in High Street have been cleaned.

251a The defibrillator is now up and running. Thanks go to Tony Geddes and Phil the electrician for setting it all up.

251c Overgrown bushes around the Aragon bungalows: Cllr Spearing attended the site meeting where she was advised that the Parish Council is unable to do anything to the area.

Prologis exhibition held in September: Cllrs Spearing & Kemeny had attended the exhibition. Cllr Spearing had circulated her notes. She has asked for copies of the forms which had been completed. Under Data Protection, Prologis have to take off certain information before the forms

can be sent. Prologis may negotiate improvements to Ridgmont Station, footpaths, car park and improvements at Junction 13. The Local Plan is being called in for the Inspector, mainly for Luton and 5,000 houses between Brogborough and Marston Moretaine. There could be 7,500 vehicles movement at rush hour. Prologis own all of the buildings and let them out. SE2 Ridgmont site will be looked at by the Inspector. The enquiry has been delayed and may not happen until April/May time possibly later. November may be the earliest we may be able to have a say. Newton Trailers should be doing landscaping in Station Road but nothing has happened as yet.

Work to the War Memorial has been completed.

281. To receive Correspondence:

The Royal British Legion has thanked us for the donation we made when purchasing the wreath. The Clerk made the contribution up to £20 when paying for the wreath.

CBC Garden Waste collection suspension: The collection will be suspended between Monday 10th December and Friday 1st March 2019.

We have received a very nice photo of the old church which the person has said we can use if we would like to but just acknowledge that she took it.

The Clerk attended the Oxford – Cambridge Route Option Consultation held at The Rufus Centre last week. She circulated a map together with a usb stick which contains the presentation.

CBC has forwarded the Application Procedure for the Rural Match Funding scheme for 2019/20.

The Clerk attended the Town & Parish Council Conference at Chicksands last week.

282. To accept Payments/Budget/Precept Request:

Balance as at 3rd October 2018 is £7,538.59

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

Royal British Legion	20.00	100689
Poppy Wreath 17.00 + 3.00 donation		
Andy Muskett	107.76	100690
2 nd ¼ st ltg main		
NAB	640.00	100690
Grasscutting and hedge maintenance		
Mrs Lyman	98.10	100691
Backdated Salary increase		
Mrs Lyman	66.68	s/o
Clerks Allowance October/November		
Mrs Lyman	357.55	s/o
October Salary		
Mrs Lyman	357.55	s/o
November Salary		

e,on	134.96	s/o
Monthly energy charge – October	<u> </u>	
	1,782.60	

Budget/Precept:

The Clerk circulated the accounts to date and the forecast for the end of the financial year (March 2019) which showed very little funding would be available.

It was noted that some of the work which NAB does is in the Church Yard, and as such should be paid for by PCC. This needs to be raised at the next PCC meeting.

Cllr Spearing agreed to speak to Nab about a reduction as some of the things he has charged should be paid for PCC.

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Kemeny that an increase of 6% be requested. This was seconded by Cllr H Francis with all in agreement. The Clerk was asked to contact CBC to check if this would be acceptable. **Action: LL**

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

282. The Recreation Ground Hedge:

The hedge which has become overgrown has been cut by the new owner of the property.

282. To receive Reports:**Planning:**

CB/TCA/18/00415 The Rose & Crown – Tree Works to 4 trees. No objections.

CB/18/03134/Full West House, Warren Farm. Replace original windows on first floor. No objections.

CB/18/04108/Full 36 Station Road. The Parish Council support this application.

PCC/Church: Cllr H Francis gave an update following the meeting held on 3rd September. Unfortunately the date of the next meeting has had to be moved. There is a Christmas Event being held at the church on 16th December.

Ridgmont Charity:

Cllrs Fewings & H Francis reported that a meeting had taken place on 12th November which was the first one since the beginning of the year. Cllr Francis said she was very concerned about a donation of £500 which had been made which hadn't been agreed by all trustees. The Chairman is aware that all spends must be agreed by all trustees. He is keen to look at small ideas in the village which interest could be spent on. Litter bins in the Recreation Ground area were discussed but are not a goer. Landscape the church area. The Chairman has spoken to the Vicar who supports the concept. Other trustees agreed supporting but needed a budget etc,

Defibrillator: The Chairman was concerned that it wasn't at the school – he had been advised that there was no electricity cabling in the area which had originally been agreed and the school do know this. Cllr Spearing has e-mails to prove this which he could have if he wants them. The Accounts have been audited but the AGM has still not taken place.

Cllr Fewings is the Parish Council representative and Cllr H Francis is the Secretary / Treasurer.

Cllr H Francis had written to the Chairman asking 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 but he refused saying that it is not the Charities remit and it is not a charitable cause. 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 sub-committee are meeting with a representative from Sovereign Play Equipment next Wednesday to see if we can get similar work carried out at a more affordable price.

Action: MS/LL

CB Cllr Clark: Covanta have been invited to CBC's Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee next Thursday, the 22 of November, at 10 am.

This is in part at my request to the Chairman of the Committee. Unfortunately it has been arranged for a morning when I have to represent CBC at an East West Rail meeting that I can't miss, which is frustrating.

This is a public meeting, and I think there will be a chance to speak if you register before hand. I need to check the protocol.

If you are able to attend, it would be good to show a level of public interest.

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

CB Cllr Morris: No report available.

285. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 10th January 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

Cllr Spearing agreed to put together a leaflet for the village.

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm.