

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2019 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: CB Cllrs, K Matthews & R Morris.

286. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: J O’Hara, CB Cllr S Clark.

287. 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.

No issues raised.

288. 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 on Ridgmont Charity), M Spearing (Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC) & P Francis (PCC and Trustee of Ridgmont Charity).

b) **Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:** (Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner).

Cllr Spearing (Land Owner and Trustee of Ridgmont Charity).

289. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 15th November 2018 and 10th January 2019 which were duly signed.

290. To discuss Matters Arising:

282 It was queried as to whether work being carried out by NAB in the church yard should be paid for by PCC? This was going to be discussed at the PCC meeting. NAB has agreed to invoice the PC and PCC separately.

291. To receive Correspondence:

A resident had spoken to Cllr Spearing advising that they had been in touch with CBC to ask if they needed planning to site a temporary mobile home on their land to accommodate their daughter. As this is for a relative the Parish Council agreed that this was acceptable. There maybe a statutory limitation of a year, this is being checked.

FOI Application has been received from a resident regarding the Local Plan and Planning application CB/18/04600/OUT (Marston Gate 2).. The resident also wrote that they had concerns about the minutes of 10th January 2019. Councillor Spearing wrote to the resident inviting them to the meeting, but they declined.

The FOI request was discussed, and it was agreed that the resident be referred to the information regarding the Local Plan and the Prologis application held by CBC.

It was also agreed that as the resident was not at the previous Parish Council meeting, they are not in the position to comment.

Cllr Spearing has been asked if the Parish Council is a political organisation. Louise Ashmore BATPC/NALC has confirmed the Parish Council can only make decisions, but they are not a political organisation. There has been some discussion as to whether the PC could receive money from other sources including the a charity etc. Yes so long as it is for a specific project, which should benefit the parish and it should be ring fenced and not just go into the coffers. The Ward Councillors confirmed that this is perfectly acceptable. Cllr Spearing presented a policy on Donations and Grants, which was amended by Councillors. and a vote was taken to accept the amended policy, which will be added to the other Parish Council policies and reviewed regularly. It was agreed to meet especially to review policies on a regular basis then ratify at the following Parish Council meeting.

Action: MS

B & MK News volume 16.

CBC has launched a new community transport service called Greensand Country. This is a service for people who are unable to use public transport. Leaflets were circulated.

Love Woburn Sands Community Transport is advertising trips they are organising.

Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner is inviting parishes to pay for their own PCSO which would cost £31,200 to fund each year. There would be no guarantee that they would not be pulled away in emergencies. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to take this forward.

Highways England Smart Motorway Programme M1 Junction 13 to 16 list of upcoming lane closures.

Andy Muskett Ltd Annual street lighting maintenance contract for 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020. The quote is for £367.00 + VAT. This price could be held if a contract is taken out for 3 years. If not, it is subject to increase next year. It was unanimously agreed to accept the 3 year contract.

Action: LL

Prologis would like to meet with the Parish Council, but it was felt that we have done to date is sufficient so it may not be necessary to meet. It was agreed to ask what they wish to discuss.

Action: MS

292. To accept Payments:

Balance as at 8th February 2019 is £2,506.75

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

NAB	1,851.00	100696
Grasscutting		
Bedford Estates	20.00	100697
Annual Rent		

Mrs Spearing Parts for Defib	75.00	100698
Andy Muskett Ltd 4 th ¼ st Itg maintenance	107.76	100699
Mrs Lyman 12 months Clerks Expenses	67.30	100700
Ms Lyman Clerks Allowance February & March	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary – February	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary – March	357.55	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge – February	151.06	s/o
e.on Monthly Energy Charge - March	155.52	s/o
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	3,209.42	
For April Payment: April Payment HMRC 4 th ¼ PAYE	183.20	100701

Expenditure to date figures were circulated and discussed.

- Would there be enough of a reserve to contribute toward the consultants fee regarding the planning application for the Prologis expansion? At present it was felt the Council were unable to contribute, but the budget can be looked at again.. It was agreed there is a need to build up the reserves.
- NAB Grasscutting: The church should be paying for the churchyard grasscutting not the Parish Council. **Action: MS**
- The CBC contribution towards grasscutting has not been received so this is to be followed up. **Action: LL**

(Following the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, the telephone banking mandate form is to be completed together with the bank signatory mandate form). **Action: LL**

293. **To receive Reports:**
Planning:

CB/EN/19/0119 28 Station Road, Ridgmont. Alleged unauthorised erection of decking to front of dwelling.

CB/TCA/19/00075 102 High Street, CB/TCA/19/00076 67 High Street, CB/TCA/19/00079 59 High Street. Works to trees within a Conservation Area

PCC/Church: Cllr H Francis

The last meeting was held in February. The church is in the same financial position. Both the Current account and the Savings account have an approx balance of £2,500 each. For the next PCC meeting, Cllr Spearing is looking into the possibility of residents being able to make gift aid donations.

Ridgmont Charity:

Cllrs Fewings & H Francis reported: volunteers and PC and Ridgmont Charity members have been doing door to door consultations asking if residents would be in agreement for an amount of money to be spent towards the consultants costs. Current figures show that most seem in agreement. This will be taken back to the Charity Commission to see if it is permissible for the charity to make a disbursement for consultant costs. This would be from the interest from the capital fund. Based on the advice received from the Charity Commission, trustees will then be able to make a decision. Consultants have been doing the work, the cost of which will be underwritten by a resident until such time the shared cost may take place. Cllr Ken Matthews confirmed that this is acceptable and residents have done this on behalf of other Parish Councils and villages.

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 met with Justin Mottaz of Sovereign Play and a quote (£20,583.87) has now been received. The Clerk suggested the sub-committee meet to discuss the quote and what is being offered. Cllr Fewings took the quote to give it further consideration. The Clerk agreed to enquire whether Galliford (M1 Smart Motorway) could contribute, either financially or mechanically. She will also approach The Mick George Community Fund (Grantscape).

Action: MS/PF/LL

CB Cllr Clark: is having a meeting with Debbie Wilcox (CBC Planning Officer) regarding the Prologis planning application and will go through all the objections. Closing date was 28th February.

CB Cllr Matthews: CBC has agreed to the 1% increase in council tax. This should not incur any significant cuts in services.

There has been a further delay in the Local Plan Inspection, as the original Inspector has stepped down and two more have been appointed. The Inspection will probably take place around May/June. The timetable from the new inspectors is unknown at present.

Prologis has promised to do what they can to minimise the bright lights, which hasn't taken place as yet.

Key dates for the Prologis planning application decision are unlikely to be determined in advance of the inspectors report.

CB Cllr Morris: Nothing extra to report.

294. **Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings:**

The May meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.15pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

295. **Local Election 2nd May 2019 (7 Councillors).**

The Clerk handed out Election Packs to Cllrs Spearing, P Fewings, H Francis & P Francis and packs were taken for Cllrs Kemeny & O'Hara).

296. **Date of Next Meeting: 14th May**

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 14th May 2019 starting at 7.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting. .

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.