

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont which started at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs P Francis – Chairman for the meeting, P Fewings, H Francis, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 1 resident.

In attendance: CB Cllr R Morris.

The July Parish Council meeting had to be postponed as it was not quorate due to illness and work commitments.

In the absence of Cllr Spearing, Cllr P Francis was nominated to chair the meeting.

310. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr M Spearing and CB Cllrs S Clark & K Matthews.

311. To elect a Vice Chairman:

Cllr P Francis was nominated by Cllr H Francis. This was seconded by Cllr Fewings with all in agreement. Cllr P Francis accepted the position.

312. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

Following the uncontested election, there are vacancies for two Parish Councillors. Every effort is to be made to fill the vacancies.

313. Open Forum:

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.

Resident: Had written an article for the newsletter which she read out concerning the future of the church. She asked if it could become a village community amenity area to be used for meetings, get together etc as well as its normal functions, maybe sparklers on Bonfire Night. She was very concerned that it should not be closed. The Yew tree is vastly overgrown and needs cutting back. Hopefully someone within the village may be able to take on a project of this nature. The Diocese of St Albans owns the church. It was agreed to ask Cllr Spearing to raise this at the PCC meeting

The next PCC meeting takes place on Monday 16th September. A Quinquennial Inspection is being carried out at present in order to be able to apply for lottery funding. (Structural Report - £600).

Note the comments taken in July when no meeting could be held: the notes were read out. A) would like the speed limit along Eversholt Road and Station Road lowering from 40 to 30mph. CB Cllr Clark was going to follow this up but as it is likely to be too expensive, the speed limit may have to stay as it is. **Action: SC**

Hedges have become very overgrown at 1 and possibly 10 Mount Pleasant (Housing Association owned). The Parish Council doesn't have a jurisdiction over these – they are private issues.

Re excessive pigeon droppings on the round swing: Pigeon spikes had been obtained but Cllr Fewings had concerns about safety in case the older children climbed up onto them. It was suggested cable ties be used. This was agreed. **Action: PF**

The landlord of the Rose & Crown wanted the Parish Councils support as he is trying to develop the pub and promote it as a local amenity and as such, he had erected signs on the verge of A507 but the grasscutting contractor (CBC) had cut them up with the grasscutting equipment instead of moving them out of the way. Although the Parish Council sympathized, no one is legally allowed to erect signs on council owned property (verges) and the Parish Council do not have responsibility for grass verges.

A resident had showed interest in organising an event in the village, she also showed interest in the Parish Councillor vacancy but nothing further has been received.

314. **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 Representative on All Saints Church), 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).

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meetings held on 14th May 2019 which were duly signed.

316. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

Grasscutting: CBC are saying the Parish Council 'opted in' which means CBC cuts the grass and we are not eligible to receive a contribution towards the grasscutting which NAB does. I assume CBC didn't cut what NAB does and we wanted it done for neatness? **Maria says she was not aware of opting in with CBC, so this must have been some time ago – I don't remember it either. Ask for maps – Lyn**
Action: MS / LL

317. **To receive correspondence:**

Magpas Air Ambulance Service has requested a donation towards their very worthwhile service. Last year it was decided that residents could make their own individual donations if they wanted to and it was agreed with this decision.

Andy Muskett (Street lighting contractor) has spoken about the concrete street lighting column number 2 in Mount Pleasant, which needs replacing as it has deteriorated badly. The cost would be in the vicinity of £1,000 to replace it. It could possibly be an insurance claim: vehicle impact but no vehicle details obtained.

CBC is carrying out a Street Lighting Review. They want to know what the street lighting assets are and if we own/maintain the street lighting. If we own them, would we consider putting these up for adoption by CBC? That would mean we would have no say in how they are maintained etc but we would not have the expense of insuring and maintaining them. (Last year it cost £269.40 to maintain them). It is not known who would be paying for the energy charge which was £1,582.89 last year if they were to adopt them. The Clerk agreed to enquire what would be involved if CBC adopted them.

Action: LL

Bedford/Milton Keynes Waterway Newsletter – August 2019.

BATPC AGM is being held on Thursday 17th October at Cople Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. **Tell Maria.**

318. **To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 9th August 2019 £8,029.91

Invoices for representation at the Local Plan Review has been received. The larger invoice has been paid by a resident leaving the invoice for £1,590 to be paid. The Go Fund Me has £500 so could the Parish Council fund the balance, this was agreed.

When the Precept is discussed in November, expenditure similar to this need to be considered and the Precept increased.

Balance as at 9th August 2019 is £8,029.91

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

Expenditure:

July:

HMRC	254.60	100704
1 st ¼ PAYE		
NAB	1,590.00	100705
Grasscutting 2484	£530.00	
2501	£530.00	
2510	£530.00	
Mrs Lyman	69.70	100706
Salary Underpayment		
Due to tax code change		
Kirkham Landscape Planning Ltd	1,572.00	100707
Re proposed pre-submission		
Local Plan 2015 – 2035		

Mrs Lyman Clerks allowance June	33.34	s/o
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*Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance July	33.34	s/o
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Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary June	357.55	s/o
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*Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary July	(427.25)	s/o
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Eon Monthly Energy Charge June	172.18	d/d
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e.on Monthly Energy Charge July	166.62	d/d
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3,034.88

September:

Came & Company Annual Insurance Premium	876.39	100708
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Playsafety Ltd Safety Inspection	111.60	100709
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CBC Uncontested Election charges	58.03	100710
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BATPC Affiliation Fees	93.00	100711
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NAB Grasscutting	530.00	100712
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Mrs Lyman SLCC Training	63.00	100713
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HMRC 2 nd 1/4 PAYE	80.40	100714
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Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary August	371.25	357.55	s/o
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Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary September	371.25	357.55	s/o
Eon Monthly Energy Charge August		172.18	d/d
E.on Monthly Energy Charge September		172.18	d/d
		<hr/> 2,871.88	

319. To receive Reports:

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

CB Cllr Clark: No report available.

CB Cllr Morris: A rumour had been spreading that Woburn, Husborne Crawley and & Ridgmont Schools were amalgamating and relocating into a new building – is this correct? CB Cllr Morris said he has heard rumours but nothing was confirmed. It helps to keep the schools open if they if they are used for other village purposes too. The headmistress of Ridgmont Lower School is actively fighting to keep the school open.

CBC are in the process of providing 3 forms of funding starting in the Autumn: 1) Ward Cllrs has £2,000 allowances which they can spend to help projects get off the ground. 2) Grants of upto £25,000 for local usage ie new village hall roof – this would be on a match funding basis for significant infrastructure. 3) Keep Britain Tidy type – litter picks, gate painting etc to improve local environment.

Local Plan: it appears that the Inspector is happy with the legal side of it but there will be amendments which may require re-consultation. The outcome will probably be known towards the end of this year.

It is understood that the Vandyke/Cedars bus is being stopped – is this correct? Some school buses have been cut but CB Cllr Morris couldn't confirm.

Cllr P Francis:

Planning Applications:

CB/TCA/19/00345 55/57 High Street: Works to trees in a Conservation Area etc has been withdrawn.

Cllr H Francis:

PCC: There has been no meeting since last PC, the next meeting is being held on Monday. Approx balance £4,000 but outgoings are high and expenses have been cut to an absolute minimum. A fund raising event is to be organised for December. A Structural survey is being carried out at the moment which is needed if Lottery Grant Funding is to be requested.

Section 106 Play Equipment update:

Cllr Fewings and The Clerk met Neil from Lapsett/Redlynch who provided a quote for renewing the safety surfaces (£8,936 + VAT). We have Section 106 funding in the region of

£7,603.63 allocated to the village. Some of the funding we had included cannot be used for the Recreation Ground area unfortunately.

The cable on the walkway could do with being replaced, the cost of the cable is £350 and £175.00 for fitting. There is a possibility of £200 from the Ward Cllrs Fund. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Cllr Spearing: had forwarded a report on the Local Plan Enquiry which she had attended. 3 representatives from Historic England were present who raised some very important points. There was concern that no cumulative report had been carried out regarding M1 Junction 13 taking into consideration all the proposed housing for the area and the increase of traffic. Greensands Ridge / footpaths etc were of major concern.

320. Update Regulations & Policies:

The Clerk agreed to circulate all Regulations & Policies which the Parish Council have in place so that they can be reviewed and agreed at a future meeting.

321. Date of Next Meeting: 21st November 2019 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

DRAFT