

Minutes of the Ridgmont Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2018 at Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont following the Annual Parish Meeting which started at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs P Fewings, H Francis, P Francis, J O'Hara & M Spearing, Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 1 resident.

235. To appoint Chairman

Cllr M Spearing was nominated by Cllr P Francis. This was seconded Cllr O'Hara with all in agreement. There being no further nominations Cllr Spearing accepted, signed the form of declaration and took the chair.

236. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Kemeny, CB Cllrs Clark, Matthews & Morris.

237. To appoint Vice Chairman

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

238. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

- a) *Planning:* Cllrs P Francis
- b) *Communication & Consultation:* Cllrs P Francis & J O'Hara
- c) *Village Environment:* Cllrs Kemeny, O'Hara & Spearing
- d) *Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting:* Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
- e) *Play/Recreation/Cenotaph:* Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
- f) *Ridgmont Village Charity:* Cllr H Francis
(Cllr H Francis represents the Parish Council and Cllr P Francis is a trustee).
- g) *Development and Strategy:* inc Parish Plan. All Cllrs as a group
- h) *School Governor:* It is no longer a requirement for the Parish Council to be represented on the School Governing Body but it would be good to open a channel of communication. Cllr P Francis would be interested in this so Cllr Spearing is to contact the Headmistress.
- i) *All Saints Church* Cllr H Francis / Peter Fewings
- j) *War Memorial:* Cllr spearing
- k) *Website:* The Clerk

239. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

Due to the resignation of Cllr Phillips, there is now a vacancy for a Parish Cllr. CBC has been advised and the required notice has been duly put on the notice board.

240. **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 Raised.

241. **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, Ridgmont Village Charity and Greensand Ridge Country Partnership.

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th March 2018, which were duly signed.

243. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

Cllr Spearing continues to chase CBC Highways about the state of the paving slabs in Station Road. The contact is now Mark MacDonald. . **Action: MS**

The drains in High Street were also one of our priorities, but nothing has been done, despite there being problems for some two year. CB Cllr Morris said he would follow this up on our behalf. The annual village Liaison Walk Round is being arranged where these things can be discussed again.

Action: MS / RM

177 The footpath going to old church needs to be scraped. Cllr Spearing has spoken to the local farmer who pointed out that the tarmac is a bit thin so he is going to have another think as to what he can do. **Action: MS**

181 The bench on the footpath to the old church has been renovated and an excellent job has been done of it.

The music evening went ahead with Woburn Sands Band and raised £600 towards church funds.

Local Plan update: Cllr Spearing said that she attended the CBC meeting and put forward residents concerns but CBC Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the Local Plan as it is and it has now been sent to the Inspector. The Enquiry should take place in the Autumn. Some 8 letters of objection/comment were received by CBC from residents and 4 (from developers) in support.

Prologis have approached the PC to come and talk informally about our objections. The original consensus was not to invite them. But on re-thinking it could be an idea for a couple of Cllrs to meet them but only say that all our objections are available and there are no changes. Or this could all be done via e.mail. Cllr Spearing will go back to Prologis and come back to Cllrs when she knows more.

Parish Plan: A village meeting has been arranged for Thursday 7th June to discuss Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan and the way forward.

Facebook: the following are to be put on Facebook: The Greensands Ridge walk and the Village Meeting on 7th June.

244a. To receive Correspondence:

The next Bedfordshire Police Neighbourhood Priority Setting Meeting is being held on Wednesday 16th May at Kempston. No Cllrs were free to attend on that night. The Priority setting form was duly completed.

The recent G & T incursion in Station Road was reported to the Police but they have now gone. Ian Cotterell (CBC) has agreed to put a concrete Barrier to stop any further incursions. Cllr Spearing is meeting Ian on Monday. CBC have asked if the PC would make a statement of events which would strengthen our case. This was agreed and Cllr Spearing will do. **Action: MS**

RoSPA Play Safety Team will be carrying out the safety inspection on the play equipment in May/June.

CBC has received complaints about the noise from the bottle bank located at the Rose & Crown and they may well take the facility away. Cllr Spearing has visited the Rose & Crown and the issue has been resolved. The bottle bank is to be moved to the rear of the site.

There is a temporary publican at the Rose & Crown at the moment. Planning permission to refurbish the pub has been granted but Charles Wells Brewery has not put this into action Cllr Spearing agreed to write to Charles Wells Brewery asking when this will take place. **Action: MS**

A walk has been arranged for Saturday 2nd June starting at 1.30 so see the effects of the new warehouse possible proposal. This will be a 5 mile circular walk lead by John Le Warne of the North Beds Ramblers.

Inconsiderable parking in the High Street re emergency vehicles: It was agreed to write to residents asking them to ensure they park considerately as the Community Police have advised that emergency vehicles may well not be able to get through. This being the case the emergency vehicles are at liberty to move such vehicles by pushing them out of the way with their vehicles and any damage caused by this cannot be claimed back from the emergency service concerned.

244b. To receive Reports:

Planning: Cllr P Francis said that the Pc has put in their comments regarding planning application for 101 High Street. ie not in keeping etc.

PCC/Church: Unfortunately Peter Garrett died recently and his memorial service is tomorrow.

Ridgmont Charity: Nothing to report.

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 quote for safety surfacing under some of the existing equipment has been received at the cost of £19,875. The Clerk has advised the figure of the Section. 106 funding and asked if the supplier could possibly reduce the cost to nearer that figure. They have come back asking if we could get

someone to remove and dispose of the current rubber saver matting in advance to Broxap commencing work. It was agreed that Cllr Spearing should speak to Tony Geddes. **Action: MS**

CB Cllr Clark: No report available.

CB Cllr Morris: No report available.

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

245. **To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 9th April 2018 is £3,989.43

A cheque has been received from the Ridgmont Charity towards the cost of the defibrillator.

Precept of £12,632 has been received from CBC.

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

NAB Landscapes Grasscutting (completion 201)	530.00	100668
NAB Landscapes Grasscutting - March	530.00	100669
Tony Geddes Maintenance	335.00	100670
Mrs Spearing Stationery & Conference	145.00	100671
Defibrillator Box		100672
BATPC Affiliation Fees	92.00	100673
NAB Landscapes Grasscutting - April	530.00	100674
Mrs Lyman Clerks Allowance Apr/May	66.68	s/o
Mrs Lyman April Salary	341.20	s/o
Mrs Lyman May Salary	341.20	s/o
e,on Monthly energy charge - April	122.70	s/o

e.on	130.63	S/O
Monthly Energy Charge – May	<u> </u>	
	3,164.41	

Nalc have agreed the Clerks National Salary Award for 2018 – 2019 and 2019 – 2020, to be implemented from 1st April. (The new pay scale for 2019 – 2020 will be issued later this year).

After discussion it was agreed the Clerks salary should be increased by one scale point to take into consideration of the extra work involved with GDPR.

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

246. **GDPR:**

GDPR comes in to force on 25th May 2018.

There is a possibility that the Parish Council will not need to appoint a Data Protection Officer but until this has been agreed by Government, CB Cllr Morris has agreed to act as DPO for Ridgmont Paris Council. If and when there is no need to appoint a DPO, he is happy to relinquish the position.

The Clerk is carrying out a Data Audit and a number of basic policies were circulated and accepted.

247. **War Memorial:**

Work starts on the war memorial on 14th – 17th May.

248. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Open Meeting regarding the Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan – Thursday 7th June starting at 7.30pm in the School. This had to be cancelled.

Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 12th July 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm.