

**Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at  
Ridgmont Lower School, Ridgmont which started at 7.30pm.**

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

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

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

Apologies were received from: CB Cllr S Clark.

**338. Parish Councillor Vacancies (2):**

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

The two residents present were invited to consider putting themselves forward.

**339. Ridgmont Lower School:**

Patricia Holding – Ridgmont Lower School Governing Body – Chair attended the meeting to explain the situation regarding CBC's proposed new scheme 'Schools for the Future' scheme.

This is a scheme where CBC is considering moving from the three tier school system to the two tier school system. Ridgmont, Husborne Crawley and Woburn Lower Schools would combine in one building and become a primary school rather than stay as a lower school. They would still be part of the Leighton/Linslade Cluster.

Discussions regarding this have been going on for some months within the pyramid regarding the three schools combining. No proper conversation has taken place about becoming a confederation (CBC). Want to keep the schools open until 2024.

A Feasibility Study is to be carried out to see if Ridgmont School could be enlarged and used for all 3 schools or whether they would have another site in Woburn. The school team work very hard and want to stay in the village and all the staff are very invested in this. Ultimately the feasibility study shows up. major saving if the schools federate.

Children may have to be bused to the school which would involve payment.

The consultation started this week with consultation documents to complete. Comments should be very clear reasoning. Mrs Holding wanted to know whether the PC would support the school in continuing to make this a thriving village.

The school is leased from Bedford Estates for educational purposes.

Ridgmont School are having a meeting next Monday to advice parents as much as possible and to gauge what parents are feeling. Parents and residents have been invited. Maybe facilitate a further meeting if necessary.

The PC confirmed they do support the school and said there needs to be close co-operation between the school and pc.

Building repairs to the school roof are being carried out at present. CBC pays for structural work but not cosmetic works.

340. **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.*

**Station Road – by the Station.** Network rail had the yellow lines put down by CBC, these are now fading and in places have disappeared altogether. Recently a crew cut hedges upto A507 and litter picked but they haven't done the other side of the road. CB Cllr Matthews said there is a plan to install a footpath. Prologis say they have adopted this area – from the roundabout up A507 DC10 new warehouse. Urgent repair to the pavement has been requested and Cllr Kemeny has the report reference number.

The 7.5 ton ban through Brogborough is not yet legally enforceable. Traffic regulation order consultation has just started. The signs are in place but are not legally enforceable at present.

Since the dualing work began on the A421, HGVs have moved on from there and are parking on A507 and C94. On any planning applications submitted CBC are asking for provision to be made for HGV parking.

341. **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):

Cllr H Francis: PCC Secretary & Treasurer, Representative on All Saints Church and Trustee on Ridgmont Charity;

Cllr P Fewings: Parish Council Representative on Ridgmont Charity;

Cllr M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC;

Cllr 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.

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which were duly signed.

343. **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. CBC has agreed to forward maps and attend a site meeting which is to be arranged in possibly 3 weeks' time. Cllr Spearing agreed to arrange a meeting to be attended by The Chair the Clerk and CBC.

*Action: MS / LL*

Cllr Spearing is still to take action about the hedge on Station Road. **Action: MS**

331: New website: Jed Gibson handed over the new website to the Clerk last Sunday. The costs was £86.40 for year 1, year 2 should be around £10-15 more as the domain is free for the first year. (Ridgmontparishcouncil.org).

As Jed has not charged for setting up the website and has offered backup whenever required, the Clerk suggested the Parish Council make a payment or give him a voucher. The Chair and Clerk agreed to discuss this further.

344. **To receive correspondence:**

Highways England M1 Junctions 13 to 16 Smart Motorway Scheme – 1<sup>st</sup> edition of their newsletter.

CBC Budget Consultation 2020 ends on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

345. **To accept Payments:**

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

HMRC 3 <sup>rd</sup> ¼ PAYE		168.20	100720
NAB Grasscutting		530.00	100721
Mrs Lyman Wix.Com new website hosting cost		86.40	100722
Andy Muskett Ltd 2 <sup>nd</sup> ¼ st ltg maintenance 110.10 3 <sup>rd</sup> ¼ st ltg maintenance 110.10		220.20	100723
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary December	371.25	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary January	371.25	357.55	s/o
Eon Monthly Energy Charge December		166.62	d/d
E.on Monthly Energy Charge January		172.18	d/d
		<hr/>	
		2,058.70	

**346. To receive Reports:**

**CB Cllr Matthews:** Local Plan still awaiting for the Inspectors acceptance. The Inspector asked for a time table which he has been supplied with, he also asked for more information about a couple of items which may result in a further consultation taking place. Hopefully the plan should be adopted by the end of this year. There has been criticism as to why it is taking so long but it had been confirmed that it is in line with other Local Plans.

Oxford/Cambridge Expressway – the route is not known as yet. The desired route appears to be A421.

Within MKC plans they have aspirations to cross boundary so that they can include Cranfield Airfield.

**CB Cllr Clark:** No report available.

**CB Cllr Morris:** Nothing further to add.

**Planning Applications:** Cllr P Francis:

CB/19/04222/LDCE Segenhoe Manor Farm. Lawful Development Certificate Existing: The lawful use of Segenhoe Manor Farm in breach of an agricultural occupancy condition and use of ancillary/agricultural land as garden land. The Parish Council had No Objections.

CB/20/00131/LB 61 High Street. Listed Building: Demolition of existing utility room, external WC and garage. Construction of single storey rear extension with pitched roof and new garage, minor internal alterations. The Parish Council had No Objections.

Old pallet area, Station Road: a load of containers have appeared. Cllr Spearing agreed to contact the Enforcement Officer.

**Action: MS**

**PCC: Cllr H Francis:** said the meeting took place towards the end of November. The funds stand at £4,000 which is very worrying. They are relying heavily on fund raising efforts. The cinema event in December was well attended and raised appr £500. They will be arranging VE Day Celebrations during the Spring Bank Holiday.

**347. Section 106 Play Equipment:**

Lapsett/Redlynch quote for safety surfacing is £8,936 + VAT.

The cable on the walkway could do with being replaced - the cost of the cable is £350 and £175.00 for fitting.

We have Section 106 funding of £7,603.63. Lapsett/Redlynch have suggested the payments could be paid in two halves.

There is a possibility of £200 from the Ward Cllrs Fund and Cllr Spearing agreed to look at Lottery Funding to see if we could be eligible for funding. It was agreed to discuss this all further at the next meeting.

**348. Date of Next Meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9pm.