

Minutes of the Ridgmont Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 22nd April 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting which started at 7.15pm.

In line with emergency Coronavirus Government Legislation, the Parish Council will not be holding face to face meetings for the foreseeable future. This virtual meeting is being held via Zoom Conference facility.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chairman, H Francis, P Francis, and Lyn Lyman – Clerk. 1 resident was present.

Cllrs H & P Francis were congratulated on birth of their son Joshua.

406. To elect Chairman:

Cllr Spearing was nominated by Cllr P Francis. This was seconded by Cllr H Francis with all in agreement. There being no further nominations Cllr Spearing accepted and took the chair.

The Declaration of acceptance form will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

407. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr P Fewings and CB Cllrs S Clark, K Matthews & R Morris.

408. To elect Vice Chairman:

Cllr P Francis was nominated by Cllr Spearing. This was seconded by Cllr H Francis with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Cllr Francis accepted.

409. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

Planning:	Cllr P Francis & Spearing
Communications & Consultation:	Cllr P Francis
Village Environment:	Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting:	Cllrs Kemeny & Spearing
Play/Recreation/Cenotaph:	Cllrs Fewings & Spearing
Ridgmont Village Charity (PC Representative): (Cllr H Francis represents the Parish Council and Cllr P Francis is a trustee)	Cllr Spearing
Development and Strategy (inc Parish plan):	All Cllrs as a group
All Saints Church:	Cllr H Francis
Webmaster:	The Clerk

It was unanimously agreed there be no change.

410. 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.

Cllr Spearing is aware that a resident has shown interest although they were not present this evening.

An article is also to be included on the Whats App group and Facebook.

Action: MS

411. **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.

No issues raised.

412. **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 Francis: PCC and Trustee on Ridgmont Charity.

Cllr M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC; Governor of Aspley Guise School and Parish Council representative 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: Land Owner

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2021. They will be signed when possible.

414. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

399c Andy Muskett thinks it is about time the remaining mercury type street lights should be upgraded as these types of lights have been obsolete for 7 years and spare parts are becoming quite rare. He will send through details of some options in the near future. Once details have been received, the way forward can be considered.

399f The woodland area behind The Firs down to Lydds Hill: there is a lot of rubbish being dumped on the hill/valley. There appears to be more there now than there has ever been. This is Bedford Estate land and they have been advised.

415. **To receive correspondence:**

BMK Waterway Park - March Newsletter.

416. **To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 31st March 2021: £2,514.93

Income: (received in April) Precept £17,018

Expenditure:

HMRC	85.80	100755
PAYE		

Mrs Lyman	357.55	s/o
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Clerks salary – April

Eon – April	172.18	d/d
Monthly Energy Charge	<hr/>	
	615.53	

417. **To receive Reports:**

CB Cllr Clark: The Development Brief regarding the Marston Vale proposal for 5,000 houses, is very light on details and has been out for consultation.

Local Plans: CB Cllr Clark is fully supporting the Parish Council in getting the warehousing proposals reduced or even taken out of the Local Plan. We are objecting to the impact of warehousing.

People are writing in from Liddlington, Marston Moretaine etc about the Ringworks and the Round House at Brogborough and the impact housing would have on these ancient sites.

An Aviation Fuel pipeline runs across the site.

Cllr Spearing will be submitting a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

CB Cllr Morris: No report available.

Councillor Reports:

Planning Applications: A planning application has been submitted for a Gypsy & Traveller site in Liddlington. (6 caravans) This is opposite the lower school and by the railway station. Cllr Spearing had been asked if Ridgmont Parish Council would support Liddlington Parish Council in objecting to this application and she asked for Cllrs agreement for her to submit objections. Apparently the Gypsy & Travellers had purchased the site and already moved caravans onto the site.

It is known that a few years ago an application had been submitted to CBC but was turned down on access issues. Cllrs Spearing and P Francis agreed to check the application.

PCC: Cllr H Francis said following the Vicar's departure All Saints Church has not yet been appointed with a permanent replacement Vicar and an interim Vicar is currently in place. The Bishop of Bedford will be holding a service on Sunday 9th May at the church, the PCC are encouraging villagers to attend the service to show the local support for the church.

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will be held by 31st May.

The '100 Club' launched in January and bought in much needed funds for the maintenance costs of the church, the funds raised cover the fixed costs for the church for the coming months. It will be a challenge to meet any unplanned expenditure relating to the maintenance of the church.

Ridgmont Charity: Cllr H Francis said the AGM for the 2019/2020 financial year will be held on 6th May 2021.

School Relocation: Still no decision has been made to date.

418. **Local Plan Update:**

Cllr Spearing had updated above.

419. **Section 106 Play Equipment:**

Lappset/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. Lappset/Redlynch has suggested the payments could be paid in two halves.

Both CB Cllrs Matthews and Morris had completed their forms to allow £1,500 from Council funding. Nothing has been received to date. We should contact Victoria Smith at CBC to find out what the delay is. They may be waiting for invoices for the work. *Action: MS*

As we need to make a decision regarding the expenditure, it was suggested that we may be able to carry out the works towards the end of the financial year and pay in two halves.

The Rospa safety inspection will be carried out in May so we will await the report to finalise what the funding needs spending on.

The closing date for claims for the Section 106 applications is April 2023.

420. **Clerk Vacancy:**

Earlier in the year, due to personal circumstances, Mrs Lyman had resigned as Clerk. She would like to carry out a successful handover to her successor. Lyn was thanked for her hard work and leadership.

The vacancy has been advertised but to date no responses have been received. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy on Ridgmont Facebook.

It was suggested that Cllr Spearing speak to surrounding Clerks to see if they may be interested in joining Ridgmont. Cllr Spearing will also speak to Brian Dunleavy at CBC as CBC may have to provide an interim clerk if there is no interest.

Cllr Spearing is still trying to resolve the issues.

Action: MS

421. **Date of Next Meeting:**

15th July 2021 in All Saints Church and will start at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8 pm.