

**Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at All Saints Church, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.**

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

In attendance: CB Cllrs R Morris.

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

Apologies were received from: CB Cllrs S Clark & K Matthews

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

Andy Downing showed an interest in a vacancy. He gave a short resume saying he had lived in the village for 9 years. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Spearing that Andy Downing take up the vacancy. This was seconded by Cllr Fewings with all in agreement.

This leaves one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. An article is to be put on the Whats App Group and Facebook.

**Action: MS**

**424. 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.*

Bedford Estates will be opening the Husborne Crawley gate on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**425. 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

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. They were duly signed.

**427. To discuss Matters Arising:**

State of the gates at both ends of the village: The gates need cleaning and re-painting so volunteers are to be requested. *Action: MS*

A resident has taken over the responsibility for looking after the defibrillator.

**428. To receive correspondence:**

A resident had shown concern about the motor cycle accident on A507 by the Flying Horse Farm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April and the condition of the road. The Clerk had forwarded this to CBC Highways who have assigned the report number 356708 to it.

BMK News (Bletchley Waterway Park) July Edition.

Magpas Air Ambulance has given an update on their invaluable service and is inviting donations to be able to continue running their service. It was agreed, as before, individual residents were free to donate.

Victoria Smith CBC has advised that there is £457.42 of unspent Community and Village Hall Section 106 funds available for Ridgmont. As we don't have a village hall, the Clerk had asked if there was any alternative the money could be spent on. *Action: LL*

**429. To accept Payments:**

Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021: £16,573.40

**Expenditure:**

NAB Grasscutting 2663	530.00	100756
Mrs M Spearing Photocopying for circulation	100.00	100757
NAB Grasscutting 2668	530.00	100758
HMRC PAYE 1 <sup>st</sup> 1/4	256.20	100759
Mrs M Spearing Defib Parts	225.60	100760
NAB Grasscutting 2683	530.00	100761
Mrs Lyman Annual SLCC Membership	95.00	100762
BATPC Annual Subscription	93.00	100763

Mrs K Severs Internal Audit		25.00	100764
Playsafety Limited Safety Inspection		111.60	100765
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – May	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – June	371.05	357.55	s/o
Eon – May Monthly Energy Charge		166.62	d/d
Eon – June Monthly Energy Charge		172.18	d/d
Eon – July Monthly Energy Charge		166.62	d/d
		<u>3,716.84</u>	

Payment of the above invoices was accepted unanimously.

430. **To receive Reports:**

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

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

**CB Cllr Morris:**

East West Rail – CBC have made a strongly worded response.

Local plan still waiting for the Inspectors Report before a further decision can be made.

**Councillor Reports:**

**Planning Applications:** No applications.

**PCC: Cllr H Francis** said they are trying to maintain a congregation, normally averaging 15 with services every second Sunday. The next PCC meeting should be held in August. The finances are not great but there is going to be a meeting with the Arch Deacon of Bedford and they will be looking at what grants may be obtained.

**Ridgmont Charity: Cllr H Francis** said the AGM was held last week. People have been elected and re-adopted.

**School Relocation:** no update. If they wish to build a larger school the area is within greenbelt. It is our wish that they remain as they are. The main issues being buses for the very young children.

431. **Local Plan Update:**

Covered above.

432. **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 although confirmation has not been received ((Victoria Smith at CBC)). CBC does need evidence of invoice – it has been explained that without this funding we cannot go forward as we don't have enough funding. I have asked if a copy of the proposed suppliers quote is sufficient and am awaiting a response. *Action: MS*

The Rospa safety inspection was carried out in May so we will check the report to finalise what needs prioritising. *Action: MS*

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

433. **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.

A resident in the village may be interested and her decision is awaited. Failing this, Cllr Spearing will speak to Brian Dunleavy at CBC. *Action: MS*

434. **Date of Next Meeting:**

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in All Saints Church and will start at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8pm.