

**Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020
starting at 7.30pm.**

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, P Fewings, H Francis, P Francis and Lyn Lyman – Clerk. No residents were present.

380. To Receive apologies for absence:

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

381. 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 and Mr Nicholas Spearing: Land Owner

382. 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.

An article is also to be included on the Whats App group which was set up to assist with Covid 19. This is ongoing.

Action: MS

383. 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.

384. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2020. They will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

385. To discuss Matters Arising:

The Clerk said that the notice board could benefit from a bit of maintenance. The left hand door doesn't lock properly. She had removed old notices and put WD 40 on the lock. Maintenance is required.

Action: MS

386. To receive correspondence:

Bedford/Milton Keynes Waterway October Newsletter.

387. To accept Payments and Consider Budget/Precept:

Balance as at 30th October 2020 £8,540.75

Expenditure:

ALP Local Plan Submission		1,872.00	100741
SLCC Training via webinar		36.00	100742
Mrs Lyman Poppy Wreath		17.00	100743
HMRC PAYE		256.20	100744
NAB NAB Grasscutting		530.00 530.00	100745a 100745B
Mrs K Severs Internal Audit		35.00	100746
NAB Grasscutting 2643		750.00	100740
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – Oct	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary –Nov	371.05	357.55	s/o
Eon – October Monthly Energy Charge		166.62	d/d
Eon – Nov Monthly Energy Charge		172.18	d/d
		<u>5,080.10</u>	

Budget/Precept:

Thoughts were that the budget figure should be reduced a little but there is also a need to build reserves. Street lighting columns will need to start to be replaced. Inflation must be considered.

It was suggested that the Precept should be reduced by 3% = £17,018

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Spearing to request a Precept of £17,018. This was seconded by Cllr P Francis with all in agreement. Cllr Spearing and the Clerk will work on the Budget forecast.

388. To receive Reports:

CB Cllr Matthews: No report available.

CB Cllr Clark: Footpath round Safari Park: an application has been made to reroute the footpath which goes past the elephants. The elephants used to be inside but now they have to have freedom to go outside. This will give the elephants more protection as health and safety of the animals is uppermost. The application is likely to be approved. It was agreed it would be a great shame and 45 objections had been received by CBC. An article is to be put on Facebook. **Action: HF**

Lydds Hill: A resident had asked CB Cllr Clark if Lydds Hill could be tarmacked. That was agreed to be a good idea.

CB Cllr Morris: No report available.

Planning Applications: Cllr P Francis:

CB/20/03485/Full Deerview Barn. No Objections.

CB/20/03823/Full 96 High Street. Vehicle crossover and dropped kerb. No objections.

CB/20/03956/VOC New Wood Farm: Variation of Condition11 of planning permission CB/17/05993/Full (Replacement of office and agricultural building with a new dwelling). Look out for previous objections and re-send.

Ridgmont School: Cllr Spearing has not been advised as to whether a new school site has been recommended as yet.

PCC: Cllr H Francis said a meeting had taken place in early September. There is £900 in the bank account and unfortunately the church remains closed due to Covid regulations. There will be no Christmas services or fund raising yet. A 100 Club may be set up.

Ridgmont Charity: The next meeting should be held in the Autumn.

389. Local Plan Update:

Cllr Spearing advised that the objections went in, and the next thing is the hearing sessions. Matters and questions arising from questions went in, Landscape and heritage assets. Cllrs Spearing and Francis Caldwell will be attending 3 sessions starting on 8th December. 2 residents and Greensand Trust will also be representing the village.

Expressway is in abeyance and railway will not be electrified.

- 390: **Street Lighting:** The 3 lights along Lydds Hill are old mercury and could be improved by upgrading to LED. In fact there are still 9 mercury type lamps in the village, bearing in mind mercury lamps became obsolete in 2014 maybe the future of these nine should be considered??

Unfortunately, the columns along Lydds Hill are old concrete which means for them to be able to accept a modern day LED lantern they have to have a galvanised sleeve fitted first therefore pushing the cost up a little.

To supply and install a sleeve and new LED lantern, including rewire of street light would cost £365.00each + vat. Total for all three = £1095.00 + vat. Provision should be made on the Precept request.

As some of our columns are very old, it would be a good idea to update them. LED would be appreciated.

391. **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 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. CB Cllr Morris agreed to follow up. **Action: RM**

At present Lottery funding has been re-directed towards Covid 19. The next application date on 19th October. **Action: MS**

Cllr Spearing will check the Ward Cllrs allowance with CB Cllrs.

392. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 11th March 2021. Format will be through Zoom facilities until further notice.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.