

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 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, P Francis and Lyn Lyman – Clerk. No residents were present.

In attendance: CB Cllrs K Matthews & R Morris.

367. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllr H Francis, CB Cllr S Clark,

368. 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

369. 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.

Action: MS

370. 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.

A resident raised the following issues:

Travellers on the bypass - The resident was informed that the Gypsy and Traveller Officer at CBC was aware of the caravans and the matter was in hand.

Parish Council funding Planning Consultants

The resident acknowledged the PC role in the campaign against the local plan and that using zoom for meetings was positive. However, the resident questioned the powers to spend money on the Local Plan objection. It was explained that Ridgmont along with other parish councils are doing the same, which is legally correct. The PC is an elected body representing the best interest of the village. The PC has always informed the village of commissioning Planning Consultants. There is nothing untowards with using money for consultants. Under goods and services the money can be used in this way.

The resident clarified that he wanted the precise legal law which permits this money to be used. It was agreed to contact the Monitoring Officer at CBC and inform the resident.

A resident raised the fact there were Gypsy & Travellers encamped on the bypass but it was pointed out that CBC are aware of this now. The resident feels that using Zoom facilities is an excellent idea. He was a little concerned that out of date notices have been left on the noticeboard. Whilst residents are concerned about the proposed extension of Marston Gate, he applauded the Parish Council for spearheading the campaign to oppose it, he was concerned as to what legislation the Parish Council has to spend not inconsiderable amounts of its Precept and reserves in employing expensive consultants to assist with the opposition.

The Chairman confirmed that the parish council has the legal power to spend under Goods and services. She said the Parish Council is an elected body representing the best interest within the village. The Parish Council have always informed the village of what has been intended. There is nothing untoward with the Parish Council using money for consultants. Other Parish Councils are in fact doing similar. The Chairman had spoken to the CBC Monitoring Officer and has obtained the true situation.

371. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 2nd June 2020. They will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

372. 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.

373. To receive correspondence:

BMK News June 2020 edition.

Magpas Air Ambulance Service has requested a donation towards their very worthwhile service. For the last two year it was decided that residents could make their own individual donations if they wanted to and it was agreed so stay the same this year.

374. To accept Payments & accept the 2019/2020 Unaudited Accounts:

Balance as at 28th August 2020: £12,818.85

Expenditure:

BATPC	93.00	100731
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Annual Fees

Repayment		1,000.00	100732
NAB Grasscutting 2594		530.00	100733
Playsafety Safety Inspection		111.60	100734
Cancelled			100735
NAB Grasscutting 2606		530.00	100736
Came & Company Annual Insurance		901.18	100737
HMRC PAYE		256.20	100738
Andy Muskett LTD St Ltg		73.40	100739
NAB Grasscutting 2583		530.00	100740
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – June	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – July	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – August	371.05	357.55	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks salary – September	371.05	357.55	s/o
		<u>5,455.58</u>	

It was proposed by Cllr Fewings that the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Cllr P Francis with all in agreement.

375. To receive Reports:

CB Cllr Matthews: Said he is attending a meeting tomorrow at Chicksands to see if the Council can get back to social distancing face to face meetings. He thinks virtual meetings take too long.

Local Plan updates: the consultation has now closed and there have been a total of 446 responses which will be submitted to The Inspector. Over half was about the housing, then transport and sustainability. It is anticipated that The Inspector will call a further consultation.

CB Cllr Clark: Reiterated the parking situation around the temporary closure of the Safari Park car park. And spoke about the Local Plan.

CB Cllr Morris: Nothing to add.

Planning Applications: Cllr P Francis: Objections had been submitted regarding the Pallet Yard application for maintenance shed etc.

64 High Street, no objection

Ridgmont School: Cllr Spearing has been liaising with Governors at Ridgmont School who believe there will be a further consultation after having found a site for the three schools.

CB Cllr Matthews had asked CBC not to dismiss out of hand the Ridgmont Site for siting of all three schools.

PCC: Cllr H Francis: No report available.

Ridgmont Charity: The next meeting would be in the Autumn.

376. Local Plan Update:

Cllr Spearing reported that our submission had been sent in and was supported by the Landscape Consultant. Dates for the enquiry are awaited. Many objections have been received from resident in Ridgmont so stop the warehousing. Cllr Spearing will put an article on Facebook to keep residents informed.

377: 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. It was agreed this should be a future agenda item. Provision could be made on the next Precept request.

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

The environment: do we want to have all the street lights on or possibly cut some out. It was agreed we could enquire with residents. How would we make the communication: ask various questions

and ascertain what we can do. Cllr Spearing agreed to circulate and talk about it and it can be discussed again at a future meeting. *Action: MS*

378. 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 £2,000 from Council funding. CB Cllr Morris agreed to follow up.

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

379. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 12th November 2020. Format to be confirmed.

(The school do not want us using the school for meetings at present so Zoom looks as though it will be the way forward for the time being.)

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.