

# RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL – AGM Meeting

Chairperson Signature.....

**Olivia Burrows - Clerk to the Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at The Stables, Rose & crown Pub starting at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, T Pick, R Yexley and Clerk O Burrows

**In attendance:** CB Ward Cllr R Morris & Cllr S Bongo.

## 1. Apologies

Apologies were received by H Francis, P Francis, M Dray, A Warne & CB Cllr S Clark.

## 2. Chairperson Report

Chairperson M Spearing welcomes newly elected local Ward Councillor Saverio Bongo and all residents present to the Annual General meeting.

Chairperson M Spearing addresses what the Parish Council have been doing and working on over the last year to help residents and to make improvements to the village. The Parish Council after many years have had 9 lampposts in the village upgraded and low energy LEDs installed. This has already lowered the monthly energy bill be over £100, considering the electricity bills had almost doubled in the last few years, it is great to see the bill reducing.

M Spearing explains that there are some issues that are raised by residents that are not within the remit of the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council will endeavour to help out where and if possible. One example of this, is last year the PC helped residents in Church Street get Grand Union to take action on dealing with mould and other issues that were having some detrimental effects to these residents' health and quality of life.

Recently scaffolding has gone up and work has commenced to the rented garage roofs to make them safe and fix structural problems.

Chairperson M Spearing gives an update on the issues with Station Road dangerous parking. M Spearing met up with a community officer and did a walkabout so they could see where the issues are. The police have been informed, but as of yet nothing is resolved.

- Ward Cllr R Morris explains that the highway code is not the law, it is there to act as guidance. So, any dangerous parking issues should be reported to the Council and Police.

With the help of the Clerk, the Parish Council have applied and been granted 3 different 106 funding for different projects within the village. Some of the funding helped buy some new picnic benches

for the recreation ground, other funding has been spent on new noticeboards for the village which will replace the ones by the Church. The rest of the funding is going towards some upgrades to the recreation ground, and there is about £400 left over to spend on a community bench.

Looking forward to this next year, the Parish Council are hoping to look at getting new entrance gates for the village. The existing ones were starting to show signs of decay, however, the Council have recently painted them, so the PC will review them by the end of the year and see what condition they are in.

### **3. Portfolio Holders Reports**

Chairperson M Spearing explains that on this Parish Council we work as a team, so we don't split the portfolios.

- Village maintenance report:

A few months back, the clerk, Chairperson MS and Cllr met with a footpath officer from CBC to discuss the overgrown footpaths and people walking through the caravan park at the pub thinking it is a public footpath. It was confirmed by the footpath officer that the path people have been using is not a public footpath and that the publicans are allowed to put up a fence if they wish to. The footpath officer informed the PC that there are not enough funds in the budget this year to deal with overgrown footpaths in Ridgmont. Chairperson MS has spoken the Farmer John Francis about helping out with the overgrown footpath between Church Street and Segenhoe.

- Planning applications:

Planning applications get circulated to all PC Cllrs, and Cllrs can provide comments to CBC.

Chairperson M Spearing mentions, the Parish Council might have a look at doing an updated neighbourhood plan, these are a lot of work and aren't cheap to produce, but there are many changes coming to this area and planning applications getting approved. So, it would be good to ask residents what they would like to see for the future of the village.

- Ward Cllr RM mentions that there are grants available. They are a lot of work to get one done, the PC must make sure the committee is behind it for the outcome to be a success.

Chairperson MS says, the last one was done in 2014, so even if one doesn't fully get done it would still be beneficial to see what residents have to say.

#### **4. Un-Audited Accounts for y/e 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The accounts ending March 2023 were unanimously approved. Proposed by R Yexley,  
Seconded by T Pick.

#### **5. Open Forum**

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed at 7:30pm, next AGM will be in May 2024.

DRAFT