

RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Chairperson Signature.....

Olivia Burrows - Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th 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.

Chairperson welcomed newly elected Independent Councillor Saverio Bongo

510. **To elect Chairperson**

Rachel Yexley nominated M Spearing as Chair, this was seconded by Tim Pick

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

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

512. **To elect Vice Chairperson**

Parish Councillor Tim Pick was nominated by M Spearing. This was seconded by Rachel Yexley with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Tim Pick accepted the position.

513. **To nominate Portfolio Holders:**

Unanimously agreed by all present.

It was unanimously agreed to take on the responsibilities as a team and that Chair Maria Spearing would continue with the responsibilities of the Ridgmont Charity.

- a) **Planning:** All Cllrs as a group
- b) **Communication & Consultation:** All Cllrs as a group
- c) **Village Environment:** All Cllrs as a group
- d) **Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting:** All Cllrs as a group

- e) **Play/Recreation/Cenotaph:** All Cllrs as a group
- F) **Ridgmont Village Charity:** Cllr M Spearing appointed by the Parish Council.
Cllr H Francis represents the Parochial Church Council and Cllr P Francis is a trustee.
- g) **Development and Strategy:** All Cllrs as a group
- h) **Policies** All Cllrs as a group
- i) **School Governor:** All Cllrs as a group
- j) **All Saints Church:** Cllr H Francis
- i) **Website** The Clerk O Burrows

514. **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.

Resident and Parish Councillor TP asked about what can be done to help reduce speeding down Eversholt Road. Chair MS responded saying that the PC can look at speedometers and getting volunteers to do a speed check.
Ward Cllr Robert Morris mentioned that a local village built a bird box that looks like a speed camera to help reduce speed.

515. **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 M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC and Parish Council representative on Ridgmont Charity.

Cllr R Yexley: Pub and business owner

b) **Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:**
(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner)).

Cllr M Spearing: Land Owner

Cllr R Yexley: Pub and business owner

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

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2023. Proposed by RY and seconded by TP.

Resolved: Minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

517. To discuss Matters Arising:

The Parish Council will talk to the school about the parking situation and litter increase seen after a football event held at the school Playing field.

The Parish Council will try and get some more dog poo bins around the village.

A padlock has now been put on the back of the Church door – It had been opened and lights left on in the Church. This will hopefully deter people from breaking in.

There are 3 new noticeboards coming for the village and work on a few upgrades to the recreational ground will soon commence.

518. To receive correspondence:

No correspondence to report.

519. To accept Budget and Payments:

Date	Month/Year	Transaction Description	Category	Cost: OUT	IN	Notes:
17/02/2023	February 23	Npower Elec. Invoice	Energy	£ 190.05		
20/02/2023	February 23	February Clerk Salary 19th Jan - 18th Feb	Clerks Salary	£ 224.99		
23/02/2023	February 23	CBC Grasscutting contribution	Grasscutting		£198.23	
24/02/2023	February 23	Andy Muskett Invoice 5396 - Lampposts upgrade	Replacement lamposts	£ 1,670.40		
03/03/2023	March 23	Yexley Catering LTD	Contingency/Reserves	£ 50.00		
06/03/2023	March 23	Bedford Estates WE593/001 FT	Rec Rent	£ 20.00		
13/03/2023	March 23	Andy Muskett - 4th Qtr Invoice 5426	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
14/03/2023	March 23	Clerk's allowance Inv OB013 - February	Clerks Allowance	£ 154.80		
17/03/2023	March 23	Npower Elec. Invoice	Energy	£ 141.87		
20/03/2023	March 23	February Clerk Salary 19th Feb - 18th March	Clerks Salary	£ 224.99		
22/03/2023	March 23	Sylvia Woolard - Coronation donation	Contingency/Reserves	£ 400.00		
03/04/2023	April 23	Bedfordshire Association of town & council - Invoice AFF 079 FT	Affiliate Fees	£ 97.00		
03/04/2023	April 23	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2750	Grasscutting	£ 580.00		
06/04/2023	April 23	Central Bedfordshire Precept	Precept		£ 20,000.00	
14/04/2023	April 23	Clerk allowance & expenses Invoice OB014	Clerks Allowance	£ 99.90		
17/04/2023	April 23	Clerks Salary 18th March - 19th April 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28		
19/04/2023	April 23	Npower electricity	Energy	£ 93.21		
21/04/2023	April 23	British recycled plastics - Picnic benches 106 funding purchase	Play Equipment	£ 1,222.51		To be reimbursed by CBC
26/04/2023	April 23	Print Cellar - Spring newsletter printing Invoice 2184	Distribution (Printing, newsletter)	£ 100.00		
05/05/2023	May 23	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2753	Grasscutting	£ 580.00		
09/05/2023	May 23	HMRC VAT - Ref XPV126000100235	VAT		£ 922.08	VAT reclaim HMRC
15/05/2023	May 23	Clerks Salary 20th April - 19th May 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28		
17/05/2023	May 23	Parish Council Notice boards - 106 funding	Contingency/Reserves	£ 2,420.00		To be reimbursed by CBC
18/05/2023	May 23	CBC 106 funding reimbursement	Play Equipment		£1,018.76	Reimbursed CBC Transaction 8
01/06/2023	June 23	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2756	Grasscutting	£ 580.00		
06/06/2023	June 23	Richard Hexton Invoice 3269 - Internal audit	Audit	£ 60.00		

£ 3,192.00

INCOME:

£	20,000.00	2022/2023 Precept
£	3,649.25	Bank Balance bought forward from FY 21/22 VAT Refund
£	500.00	Estimate
£	24,149.25	<u>Total Income</u>

Balance as of. 31st May 2023: £19,914.91

Clerk O Burrows explained that since the lampposts have been replaced with lower wattage LEDs, the Parish Council are seeing around £100 less on energy per month.

Chair MS asks all Cllrs present if they accept the Clerk's salary increase of £16.29pm, making the new monthly salary of £241.28pm.

- All Cllrs present accepted this salary increase.

It was unanimously agreed to accept payments. Proposed by TP and seconded by RY.

520. To Receive Reports:

- Ward Cllr Saverio Bango reports that there has been a statutory consultation on schools in Central Bedfordshire moving from a 3 tier to a 2 tier.

Chairperson MS explains that at present this may or may not affect Ridgmont Lower School. The Parish Council are keeping an eye on updates and changes in the local area to see how they may affect Ridgmont. The Parish Council is in agreement that it does not want to see Ridgmont Lower school close.

A Resident asks Ward Cllr SB for an update on housing developments in the local area. Ward Cllr SB mentions the 5000 homes development planned between Marston Mortaine, Lidlington and Brogborough along the old A421.

Ward Cllr SB goes on to explain that earlier this year developers were asked to go back to the drawing board to give more realistic plans to tackle traffic management especially around M1 J13.

Chairperson MS says that 5000 homes are meant to be staggered.

521. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19th September 2023

Meeting closed at 20:20pm