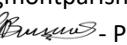


# RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Olivia Burrows  
Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: ridgmontparishclerk@gmail.com  
Signed  - Parish Clerk

**The next Ridgmont Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 13th February 2025 at The Stables, Rose & Crown starting at 7:30pm.**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs T Pick (V Chair), M Dray, S Bland, J Graham, R Yexley, CBC Ward Cllrs S Clark and S Bongo & O Burrows (Clerk)

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

Apologies were received by A Warne, M Spearing and Ward Cllr R Morris,

**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 from Lydds Hill mentions that the top of Lydds Hill doesn't have a road name sign and that the road is full of pot holes. The resident wants to know if it is possible to have a road name sign reinstated. TP suggests that the PC raise these issues with CBC and that the resident can also raise the issues on 'Fix my street'. The Clerk will get in touch with CBC about the road name sign.

**ACTION: Clerk**

There were a few residents present to raise further concerns about cars parking on Station Road. They mention that there are still a number of vehicles parking on the bend which are causing ongoing issues and near misses. Recent issues on the M1 have exacerbated the problem. Many residents in Station Road would like to see the speed limit reduced to 30.

Ward Cllr SC says she would speak to highways officer to seek advice. She mentions that it has been extra difficult with highways to get double yellows and speed reductions in recent years. Ward Cllr SB also mentions he can follow up the issues with Station Road parking with CBC and highways. Sue Clark recommends that residents start a simple petition that can be sent to the traffic management committee. She says that these can be effective as not many signatures are needed. SC is happy to provide a petition template if needed.

**2. 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).

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

No declaration

**3. To approve minutes of the previous meeting:**

Minutes were unanimously approved. Proposed by MD, seconded by TP.

**4. To discuss matters arising:**

Vice Chair TP raises the ongoing issues with dog fouling in the village. Ward Cllr SB and the PC will get in touch with CBC to ask for advice.

**ACTION: Clerk**

TP mention's that the street gullies in mount pleasant are flooding even with a mild downpour. Cllrs MD says that he raised this with CBC last year on 'Fix my street' and was told that they were fine. Ward Cllr SC suggests the report is reregistered on fix my street and that the precise location and photos are added to the case.

Parish councillor MD updates all present about getting the names of the Canadian crew that died in 1944 added to the War memorial in the village. A Lancaster bomber came down in the village in 1944, and the crew perished. MD approached the war grave commission about this and received a response saying that they hold the records for the 6 service men, and mentioned that 5 are commemorated at Cambridge City cemetery. The war grave commission suggested the PC got in touch with the war memorial trust for further guidance. MD confirms he'll approach the trust.

**ACTION: MD**

There was a discussion about residents recording/retailing stories about the village. MD tells all present that he has been transcribing an extract of a handwritten document from a gentleman who wrote about his youth in the village pre wartime.

There was a discussion about residents receiving some training on the village defibrillator. The Clerk will discuss this with the Chair MS.

**ACTION: Clerk & Chair**

**5. To receive reports:**

Ward Cllr Sue Clark gives a report about devolution in the local area. The government have been promoting devolution where they want local authorities to gather together and form combined authorities and have an elective mayor. This has been debated at CBC, it was agreed that it was better to try and form a gang and be in the tent as part of the conversation. The first gang that was suggested was the 2 Northamptonshire authorities and 3 Bedfordshire authorities and Milton Keynes. Therefore 3 rural and 3 urban authorities, which is a good balance. However, Pete Marland, leader at Milton Keynes declared with Luton that they want to be in their own gang of 4. Currently neither scheme have been taken forward, due to no consensus.

SC explains that the governments idea is to get rid of big districts and have the big counties divided up into unitary authorities. At present, whatever happens Central Bedfordshire won't be part of the first wave. SC expresses her concerns over this scheme and explains that the mayor would be able to raise their own precept, have power of veto over planning application and have a strong role in strategic planning. Ward Cllr SC will continue to update the PC on this topic.

Ward Cllr SC updates the PC on an update on Milton Keynes housing. She explains that MK have allocated a huge area called eastern city strategic expansion site for 16,000 houses, across from J14 sweeping up to Cranfield. Part of this expansion would include a cross boundary development, which are complicated and impractical. Ward Cllr SC will continue to update the PC on this as it progresses.

**6. To receive correspondence:**

No correspondence.

## 8. To accept payments:

Date	Month/Year	Transaction Description	Category	Cost: OUT	IN	Notes:
02/04/2024	April 24	Bedford Estates Rec rent WE593/001	Rec Rent	£ 20.00		
04/04/2024	April 24	Andy Muskett Invoice 5715 - 4th qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
08/04/2024	April 24	Central Bedfordshire Council - Precept 2024/2025			£ 20,000.00	
15/04/2024	April 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28		
16/04/2024	April 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 22.36		
16/04/2024	April 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 207.47		
26/04/2024	April 24	Aragon planning Invoice - Ref- 20240307-1646	Contingency/Reserves	£ 811.20		
17/05/2024	May 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 185.60		
20/05/2024	May 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
21/05/2024	May 24	Richard Hexton Invoice 3475	Audit	£ 70.80		
28/05/2024	May 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2781	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
12/06/2024	June 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2782	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
17/06/2024	June 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
18/06/2024	June 24	HMRC VAT reclaim	VAT		£2,885.92	
19/06/2024	June 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 173.00		
24/06/2024	June 24	Aragon planning Invoice - Ref- 20240419-1661	Contingency/Reserves	£ 561.60		
01/07/2024	July 24	Andy Muskett Invoice 5766 - 4th qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
01/07/2024	July 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2783	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
11/07/2024	July 24	Aragon planning Invoice - Ref- 20240528-1674	Contingency/Reserves	£ 617.76		
12/07/2024	July 24	Richard Hexton Invoice 3521	Audit	£ 74.40		
15/07/2024	July 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
17/07/2024	July 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 152.50		
02/08/2024	August 24	Playsafety LTD 80854 - Playground inspection	Safety Inspection	£ 112.80		
08/08/2024	August 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2784	Grasscutting	£ 620.00		
19/08/2024	August 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 156.83		
19/08/2024	August 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
28/08/2024	August 24	Clerk Insurance ref LCO02710	Insurance	£ 630.17		
05/09/2024	September 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2785	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
16/09/2024	September 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
18/09/2024	September 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 159.03		
30/09/2024	September 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2786	Grasscutting	£ 960.00		
03/10/2024	October 24	Clerk allowance March - Sep	Clerks Allowance	£ 205.93		
03/10/2024	October 24	Andy Muskett Invoice 5824 - 2nd qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
07/10/2024	October 24	Amazon supplies - printing paper	Clerks Expenses	£ 15.98		
17/10/2024	October 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 171.27		
21/10/2024	October 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
23/10/2024	October 24	Poppy wreath - Poppy shop	Poppy Wreath	£ 29.49		
11/11/2024	November 24	Nab Landscapes Invoice 2787	Grasscutting	£ 650.00		
12/11/2024	November 24	Bedfordshire Association - BATPC invoice AFF51	Affiliate Fees	£ 100.00		
18/11/2024	November 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
19/11/2024	November 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 185.91		
16/12/2024	December 24	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
18/12/2024	December 24	Npower bill	Energy	£ 216.32		
23/12/2024	December 24	Nab Landscapes invoice 2788	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
23/12/2024	December 24	Wix domain renewal	Website	£ 12.46		
06/01/2025	January 25	Wix website subscription	Website	£ 108.00		
09/01/2025	January 25	Andy Muskett Invoice 5886 - 3rd qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
20/01/2025	January 25	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
20/01/2025	January 25	Npower bill	Energy	£ 228.61		
30/01/2025	January 25	Clerk allowance Oct 24 - OB033	Clerks Allowance	£ 28.99		
30/01/2025	January 25	Clerk allowance Nov 24 - OB034	Clerks Allowance	£ 28.99		
30/01/2025	January 25	Clerk allowance Dec 24 - OB035	Clerks Allowance	£ 28.99		
30/01/2025	January 25	Clerk allowance Jan 25 - OB036	Clerks Allowance	£ 28.99		
07/02/2025	February 25	First rescue training - Order 162362 - Paediatric pads for Defibrillator	Defibrillator parts	£ 125.94		
11/02/2025	February 25	Central Bedfordshire Council - Grasscutting contribution			£198.23	CBC grasscutting contribution
				£ 13,775.03		

Total expenditure since April 2024: £13,775, total in bank £15,426

Bank Statements:	INCOME:		
1st - 30th April 2024 - £24,699.46	£ 20,000.00	2024/2025 Precept	
1st - 31st May 2024 - £23,579.42	£ 6,116.67	Bank Balance bought forward from FY 23/24	
1st - 28th June 2024 - £24,867.10	£ 2,885.92	VAT Refund 23/24	
29th June - 31st Jul 2024 - £23,043.90	£ 29,003	Total Income	
1st - 30th Aug 2024 - £21,260.46			
31st Aug - 30th Sep 2024 - £19,277.79			
1st - 31st Oct 2024 - £18,476.58	£ 20,598.00	Total Budget	
1st - 29th Nov 2024 - £17,277.03	£ 13,775	Total Expenditure YTD	
30th - 21st Dec 2024 - £16,184.61	£ -	Deficit / Surplus (deficit will show in red font)	
01st - 31st Jan 2025 - £15,353.50	£ 15,426	TOTAL BANK	

Resolved – It was unanimously agreed to accept payments.

**9. Treeplanting**

There will be a number of trees being planted in the village in March. The Chair M Spearing was unable to attend the meeting and give a further update on the treeplanting.

**10. Stolen street lighting lanterns**

The Clerk updates the councillors on the stolen street lanterns. There were 4 lanterns stolen from the village. Many other villages in the area have experienced the same and recently there has been an arrest in connection with this stolen street furniture. The 4 lanterns from Ridgmont have been identified and Andy Muskett who maintains the street furniture for the Parish Council will fix them up and reinstall them in the next few weeks.

**11. Parking on Station Road**

This was discussed in the open forum.

**12. Contribution of £250 to Ridgmont Station – Defibrillator**

It was unanimously agreed that the PC will contribute £250 to the defibrillator at the Ridgmont Station.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:**

AGM proposed 08.05.25

**Meeting closed at 20:25pm**

Ridgmont Parish Council Minutes – 13/02/25

The above is considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Chairperson Signed.....Dated.....