

RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Olivia Burrows - Clerk to the Parish Council

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2022 at All Saints Church, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chair, M Dray, P Fewings, P Francis and O Burrows – Clerk.

In attendance: CB Cllr S Clarke.

470. To elect a Chairperson

Cllr P Francis nominated M Spearing as Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Fewings.

471. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received by A Downie, H Francis, CB Cllr K Matthews, CB Cllr R Morris & R Kemeny.

472. To elect a Vice Chairperson

Cllr P Francis was nominated by Cllr Spearing. This was seconded by P Fewings with all in agreement. There being no further nominations, Cllr P Francis accepted the position.

473. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

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

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|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 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. |

Chairperson

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

474. **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 – What are the PC doing towards Jubilee?

The Parish Council said they would donate a small sum of money towards the street party. The Parish Council has already paid for the printing of the leaflets and can pay for additional printing, if necessary, but the PC hasn't heard from the jubilee committee.

The Parish council are able to give a small donation under 1972 act – which governs what the Parish Council can do to support events and activities.

The position of the yearly budget also governs financial priorities and where the money needs to be spent. Electricity has gone up considerably and so have other fixed costs like grass cutting etc.

Cllr P Francis reported the Parish Council has a marginal amount left in the budget as reserves at the end of each year. Therefore, this restricts where the money is spent, to ensure the Council keeps within budget. The Parish Council would need to review the budget to see if a contribution could be made towards the jubilee street party.

475. **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 P Francis – Ridgmont charity and PCC

Cllr M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust and PCC 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: Land Owner

Chairperson

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

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2021. Proposed by P Francis and seconded by P Fewings.

Resolved: Minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

477. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

No matters arising.

478. **To receive correspondence:**

No correspondence.

479. **To accept Budget and Payments:**

Date	Transaction Description	Category	Cost
15/03/2022	NAB Landscapes Nov invoice - Cheque 100779	Grasscutting	£ 530.00
31/03/2022	Bedford Estates Invoice 81114 - Cheque 100780	Rent	£ 20.00
04/04/2022	February Salary 18th Jan - 18th Feb	Clerks Salary	£ 224.99
04/04/2022	March Salary 19th Feb - 18th March	Clerks Salary	£ 224.99
04/04/2022	Clerk's allowance Inv OB001 - Feb	Clerks Allowance	£ 25.00
04/04/2022	Clerk's allowance Inv OB002 - March	Clerks Allowance	£ 25.00
04/04/2022	Andy Muskett - 4th Qtrl Invoice 5147	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 110.10
04/04/2022	Queen Jubilee Leaflets - 200 copies	Distribution (Printing, newsletter)	£ 19.92
11/04/2022	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2720	Grasscutting	£ 580.00
19/04/2022	April Salary 19th March - 18th April	Clerks Salary	£ 224.99
19/04/2022	Npower Elec. invoices IN03164998, IN03162414 & IN03162456	Energy	£ 854.86
24/04/2022	Clerk's allowance Inv OB002 - April	Clerks Allowance	£ 89.90
			<u>£ 2,929.75</u>

INCOME:

£ 17,018.00 – 2022/2023 Precept

£ 5120.35 – Bank Balance bought forward from 2020/2021

£ 500.00 – VAT Refund Estimate

£ 22,638.00 TOTAL

Chairperson

Balance as of 31st April 2022 : £19,758.60

It was unanimously agreed to accept payments. Proposed by P Francis and seconded by M Spearing.

480. To Receive Reports:

CB Cllr Clarke: Major planning applications are in the pipeline across the board; Prologis Marston Gate expansion & O&H Marston Vale application. We are waiting for O&H to confirm when the consultations will start.

Sue Clarke, M Spearing and other councillors from local parishes met with Jethro Punter (Highways officer) at Junction 13, to witness the level of traffic and discuss concerns regarding the possible traffic issues that could arise from Prologis, Marston valley & Marshall's planning applications.

Cllr M Spearing said she found it beneficial to meet with the highway's officers face to face.

Cllr Sue Clarke – There is a consultation out on community involvement. The Statement of community involvement i.e how communities will be consulted & engaged through the planning process is currently out for consultation.

481. Local Plan Update:

Expansion of Marston Gate – an imminent planning application from Prologis is expected. When the application is submitted the parish council will inform villagers and let people know how to comment/object. The PC will also be looking closely at the planning application to see what the changes are from the first application and the application submitted along with the local plan.

Cllr S Clarke mentioned that the Planning application is due soon. She walked the whole site with the landscape and planning officer to see all the viewpoints and to see if they are sufficiently representative. The Landscapes officer have requested a number of adjustments to the viewpoints.

Jethro Punter and Kevin Archard mentioned that the warehousing would be 24/7. It was very useful to have them realise this will be an issue for the village. Traffic and lighting will significantly affect villagers.

Chairperson

482. Street Lighting:

Cllr M Spearing mentioned the need for updated lamps in the village. This has been an ongoing issue for many years and this year it is in the budget. There are 9 lampposts in the village still with the old mercury lamps, which have parts that are no longer manufactured.

The Clerk has received a quote to get these lampposts replaced which will be between 3k 4k. It was discussed to get half done now and then consider the budget later in the year. The replacement lampposts will be much more economical which makes it even more necessary as year on year the Parish Council is seeing rising energy bills which eats into the annual budget.

Cllrs questions – *Could we have solar or sensors?*

Do we need as many street lights or low lighters?

Cllr M Spearing agreed to ask residents for their say/opinions on the lampposts in the next newsletter due out June.

All councillors agreed to get the villagers views before proceeding any further.

483. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 8th September 2022

Meeting Closed at 20:15pm

Chairperson