

# RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Olivia Burrows  
Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: ridgmontparishclerk@gmail.com

Signed  - Parish Clerk

20th September 2023

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20th September at The Stables

**Present:** Chairperson M Spearing, Cllrs – T Pick, A Warne, M Dray, and Clerk O Burrows.

**In attendance: Ward Cllrs** Sue Clark & Savario Bongo

### MINUTES

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

Apologies were received by P Francis, H Francis, R Yexley & CB Cllr R Morris

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522. **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.

No residents present at the meeting.

523. **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, School governor to Eversholt.

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

**Cllr Spearing:** Land Owner

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

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th June 2023. Proposed by Mike Dray and seconded by Tim Pick.

*Chairperson Signature*

**Resolved:** Minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

**525. To discuss matters arising:**

Notice boards for the village have arrived.

**526. To receive reports:**

No reports

**527. To receive correspondence:**

Letter from the Chair of Governors for Ridgmont Lower School:  
Chairperson MS was asked to read out the letter to all in attendance. The letter can be found on the school consultation documents on the CBC website.

Chairperson M Spearing invited comments from Cllrs. A discussion ensued between the Parish Cllrs and one resident present. Chair MS said that the 'Save our School' group is looking at various options to keep the school open and that the group is trying to prepare a business plan.

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**528. To accept payments:**

12/06/2023	June 23	CBC 106 funding reimbursement	Play Equipment	
19/06/2023	June 23	Npower electricity	Energy	£ 119.10
19/06/2023	June 23	Clerks Salary 20th May - 19th June 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28
03/07/2023	July 23	Clerk allowance & expenses Invoice OB015	Clerks Allowance	£ 76.92
03/07/2023	July 23	Clerk allowance & expenses Invoice OB016	Clerks Allowance	£ 50.96
03/07/2023	July 23	Clerk allowance & expenses Invoice OB017	Clerks Allowance	£ 25.00
06/07/2023	July 23	Andy Muskett Inv5505 1st Qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90
10/07/2023	July 23	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2760	Grasscutting	£ 580.00
17/07/2023	July 23	Clerks Salary 20th June - 19th July 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28
18/07/2023	July 23	Playsafety Limited Invoice 72762 - Playground safety inspection	Safety Inspection	£ 98.40
19/07/2023	July 23	Npower electricity	Energy	£ 94.11
25/07/2023	July 23	Print cellar - Invoice 2231 - <b>£146.00</b>	distribution (Printing, newsletter)	
31/07/2023	July 23	Clerk allowance & expenses Invoice OB018	Clerks Allowance	£ 25.00
31/07/2023	July 23	Central Bedfordshire election red 1800165613	Election	£ 58.05
07/08/2023	August 23	Ridgmont Church Print cellar - Invoice 2231	Distribution (Printing, newsletter)	
07/08/2023	August 23	Nab Landscapes Invoice INV2763	Grasscutting	£ 580.00
08/08/2023	August 23	Reids playground 106 rec upgrades part 1 - <b>£6,591.60</b>	Play Equipment	
08/08/2023	August 23	Reids playground 106 rec upgrades part 2 - <b>£6,591.60</b>	Play Equipment	
17/08/2023	August 23	Npower electricity	Energy	£ 108.17
21/08/2023	August 23	Clerks Salary 20th July - 19th Aug 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28
24/08/2023	August 23	CBC 106 funding reimbursement	Play Equipment	
18/09/2023	September 23	Clerks Salary 20th Aug - 19th Sept 2023	Clerks Salary	£ 241.28
				<b>£ 2,895.73</b>

**INCOME:**

**£ 20,000.00 - 2022/2023 Precept**

**£ 3,649.25 - Bank Balance bought forward from FY 22/23**

**£ 500.00 - VAT Refund Estimate**

**£ 24,149.25 Total**

**Balance as of. 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023: £16,033.26**

***Chairperson Signature***

- It was unanimously agreed to accept payments. Proposed by Tim Pick and seconded by Anna Warne.

<b><u>INCOME 22/23:</u></b>	<b><u>SPEND TO DATE:</u></b>	<b><u>BANK BALANCE Oct 2022</u></b>
£ 22,638.35	£ 11,856.21	£ 10,422.14
		<b><u>Bank Estimate End of Financial Year</u></b>
		£ 4,900.00
<b><u>INCOME 23/24:</u></b>	<b><u>SPEND TO DATE:</u></b>	<b><u>BANK BALANCE Sep 2023</u></b>
£ 24,149.00	£ 5,568.40	£ 15,792.00
		<b><u>Bank Estimate End of Financial Year</u></b>
		£ 8,300.00

The clerk reviewed the accounts and budget and has estimated that the Parish Council will have around 8k of funds left at the end of the financial year March 2024. The Clerk explained this is an estimation and may be less or more depending on additional or unaccounted for expenses.

The Parish Council's 'Spend to Date' for September 2023 compared with October 2022 is significant lower. Getting the lampposts upgrades has almost halved the monthly energy bill and costs have been saved in other places.

The Parish Council are responsible for the burial ground, war memorial, recreational ground, Insurance, village maintenance, street Lighting, clerks' salary plus other adhoc expenses.

#### 529. **Ridgmont Lower School**

The school was discussed in the correspondence above.

#### 530. **Ward Councillor grants**

There were no Ward Cllrs present to discuss the grants during this point in the meeting.

#### 531. **Prologis**

##### ***Prologis: Marston Gate expansion CB/22/02213/OUT:***

The application was submitted in 2018 and the council asked for more work and information. The revised application was submitted in 2022. The new application with adjustments has now been submitted this September 2023. The Highways agency have now removed their objection to the Prologis warehousing. After reviewing the new application, the Parish Council will be writing a letter of objection once again, and asking for the support from local residents in objecting to this application.

***Chairperson Signature***

Chairperson MS explains that this has been an ongoing battle over the last couple of years. It was discussed the Parish Council would benefit greatly from a professional consultant to look over the application in detail. This application is substantial and requires a trained eye to scrutinise it professionally.

Chair MS proposed to all Cllrs present that the Parish Council engage the consultant Francis Caldwell from Aragon Land & Planning Ltd to help with the objection letter and to review the planning application in fine detail. Cllrs asked the clerk the position with the budget. The clerk advised that there were sufficient funds for a consultant.

It was unanimously agreed by all Cllrs present. Proposed by Chairperson Maria Spearing and seconded by Mike Dray and Tim Pick.

**532. Date of Next Meeting:**

Date of next meeting Tuesday 14th January 2024. Rose and Crown

Meeting closed at 21:00pm

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***Chairperson Signature***