


## RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Olivia Burrows  
Clerk to the Parish Council

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Signed  - Parish Clerk

**The next Ridgmont Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th September 2025  
at the Rose & Crown starting at 7:30pm.**

### MINUTES

**Present:** M Dray, A Warne, J Graham, T Pick, R Yexley, Ward Cllrs S Clark, S Bongo and Clerk O Burrows

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

Apologies received by M Spearing, S Bland, & ward Cllr R Morris.

#### **2. 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 raises parking issues in Segenhoe Close. There have been one or two trucks parked on the pavement obstructing the use of the pavement. The Rose & Crown has offered the vehicles to park in their carpark.

- The PC will send a polite letter to the owner of the van.

Another resident mentions that there is a build-up of rubbish in the garden of one of council owned houses. Some residents feel this will cause issues with rodents. The housing association have been informed.

- If things don't improve and an increase in rodents becomes apparent, the PC could write a letter regarding the build-up of rubbish.

Another resident present asked about the overgrown footpath between the High Street and Mount Pleasant and if it could be cut back. A discussion ensued about who was responsible for this path. Cllr J Graham mentions he can investigate this using the land registry.

A resident thanks ward Cllr Saverio about his help with trying to get the speed limit reduced on Station Road. Saverio mentions that traffic counters have been placed on Station Road and the results will determine if this matter needs to be explored further by CBC.

**3. 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 declarations.

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

All parish councillors approve the minutes from previous meeting.

**5. To discuss matters arising:**

Cllr MD asked Ward Cllr SC about the collapsed drains in Mount Pleasant. SC confirms that the drains were cleared outside 62-63. SC explains that there is an annual battle to get them cleaned and that the highways officer knows about Mount Pleasant but hasn't provided an update.

**6. To receive reports:**

Ward Cllr SC reported on the Government's Plans for the creation of 12 new towns. One of these is proposed as Tempsford near Biggleswade.

SC gives an update about the city plans for Milton Keynes. There will be redevelopment of the centre, expanding out to north and east of the city. There is a proposal for 5000 houses to be built off J14 of the M1, with additional housing proposed in the future. One of the developers, Hallam, has already promoted a site towards Salford. Part of this land would cross the boundary into Bedfordshire. The Ward cllrs are keeping a close eye on these plans and will continue to update residents.

SC reports about the Universal consultation over the summer. It was apparent in the report that the traffic survey was poorly executed and there is major concern that J13 is not fit for purpose. The survey surface area was minuscule and not adequate for the scale of this development, however the department for transport have given the green light. SC wrote a 10-page response to the report with the backing from all the local parish councils highlighting the inadequacies of the report. The consultation has now closed.

O&H have submitted additional material for the 5000 houses. The additional material is mainly about traffic. The last time material was submitted in the consultation of 2022, the data provided was from 2016 and was out of date. The stake holding group objected principally on highways ground. The trip measurements were redeveloped into a new model in 2022. They are proposing some improvements to J13. SC is writing response on behalf of Parish Councils.

Marshalls are no longer coming to Cranfield airport. Engineering jobs will be affected.

Cllr MD provides an update on the Commonwealth commission – War memorial trust. It is apparent that there is a lot of red tape, however if the village still want a memorial plaque, then it will have to be funded ourselves. This is something to discuss further.

## 7. To receive correspondence:

Allison Jakes – Headteacher of Ridgmont Lower School has written a report.

TP reads out the report. There was a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September about moving from 3 to 2 tier system. Several headteachers in the area have cited poor communication from CBC. There have been 4 new pupils at the school.

## 8. To accept payments:

**Total Income for year: £38,411**

**Expenditure. Since April: £18,115**

**Total bank September 2025: £20,494**

| Date       | Month/Year   | Transaction Description                                  | Category                    | Cost: OUT   | IN          |
|------------|--------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 01/04/2025 | April 25     | Bedfordshire Rural - Defib contribution Ridgmont Station | Contingency/Reserves        | £ 250.00    |             |
| 01/04/2025 | April 25     | Clerk allowance Feb 25 - OB037                           | Clerks Allowance            | £ 28.99     |             |
| 01/04/2025 | April 25     | Clerk allowance March 25 - OB038                         | Clerks Allowance            | £ 28.99     |             |
| 01/04/2025 | April 25     | Central Bedfordshire Council - Ward Cllr Grant           |                             |             | £2,500      |
| 02/04/2025 | April 25     | Reids Playground Invoice 6873 - Playground upgrades      | Play Equipment              | £ 8,670.00  |             |
| 02/04/2025 | April 25     | Amazon supplies - Printer                                | Clerks Expenses             | £ 61.68     |             |
| 04/04/2025 | April 25     | HMRC VAT reclaim   | VAT                         |             | £2,001.34   |
| 10/04/2025 | April 25     | Central Bedfordshire Council - Precept 25/26             |                             |             | £ 20,000.00 |
| 22/04/2025 | April 25     | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 263.64    |             |
| 19/05/2025 | May 25       | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 263.64    |             |
| 21/05/2025 | May 25       | Playsafety Ltd Invoice 88105                             | Safety Inspection           | £ 115.20    |             |
| 27/05/2025 | May 25       | Clerk Salary increase                                    | Clerks Salary               | £ 21.84     |             |
| 06/06/2025 | June 25      | Andy Muskett Invoice 5996 1st qtr                        | Street Lighting Maintenance | £ 114.90    |             |
| 06/06/2025 | June 25      | Richard Hexton Invoice 3659                              | Audit                       | £ 145.20    |             |
| 09/06/2025 | June 25      | Yexley Catering - Street party Invoice 001               | Contingency/Reserves        | £ 1,000.00  |             |
| 09/06/2025 | June 25      | A Downie - Fence painting Invoice 002                    | Contingency/Reserves        | £ 240.00    |             |
| 10/06/2025 | June 25      | Simon Whiting Invoice 001                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 11/06/2025 | June 25      | Simon Whiting Invoice 002                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 11/06/2025 | June 25      | Simon Whiting Invoice 003                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 16/06/2025 | June 25      | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 274.56    |             |
| 23/06/2025 | June 25      | Bedfordshire Association Invoice AFF079                  | Membership Fees             | £ 103.00    |             |
| 21/07/2025 | July 25      | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 274.56    |             |
| 18/08/2025 | August 25    | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 274.56    |             |
| 27/08/2025 | August 25    | Aspley Guise Parish Council - 7 parish map contribution  | Contingency/Reserves        | £ 50.00     |             |
| 04/09/2025 | September 25 | Clear Insurance Invoice LCO02710                         | Insurance                   | £ 731.11    |             |
| 12/09/2025 | September 25 | Npower energy  | Energy                      | £ 991.03    |             |
| 15/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Salary   | Clerks Salary               | £ 274.56    |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Simon Whiting Invoice 004                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Simon Whiting Invoice 005                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Simon Whiting Invoice 006                                | Grasscutting                | £ 600.00    |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance April Invoice OB039                      | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance May Invoice OB040                        | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance June Invoice OB041                       | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance July Invoice OB042                       | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance August Invoice OB043                     | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 16/09/2025 | September 25 | Clerk Allowance September Invoice OB044                  | Clerks Allowance            | £ 29.49     |             |
| 25/09/2025 | September 25 | Npower energy  | Energy                      | £ 160.88    |             |
| 30/09/2025 | September 25 | Central Bedfordshire Council - grasscutting contribution | Grasscutting                |             | £198.23     |
|            |              |  |                             | £ 18,115.28 |             |

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>INCOME:</b>     |  |  |
| <b>£ 20,000.00</b> | <b>2025/2026 Precept</b>                                 |  |
| <b>£ 13,909.67</b> | <b>Bank Balance bought forward from FY 23/24</b>         |  |
| <b>£ 2,001.34</b>  | <b>VAT Refund 24/25</b>                                  |  |
| <b>£ 2,500.00</b>  | <b>Ward Councillor grant</b>                             |  |
|                    | <b>CBC Grasscutting contribution</b>                     |  |
| <b>£ 38,411.01</b> | <b>Total Income</b>                                      |  |
|                    |  |  |
|                    |  |  |
| <b>£ 20,598.00</b> | <b>Total Budget</b>                                      |  |
| <b>£ 18,115</b>    | <b>Total Expenditure YTD</b>                             |  |
| <b>£ -</b>         | <b>Deficit / Surplus (deficit will show in red font)</b> |  |
| <b>£ 20,494</b>    | <b>TOTAL BANK</b>  |  |

All cllrs present accepted payments.

**9. Village gates & parking issues**

New gates and signs needed in the village. TP will look into the cost and the PC will put forward a proposal for ward cllrs grant if possible.

**10. Segenhoe Old Church**

Several residents have asked about the fencing at the Segenhoe Old Church. The PC have chased CBC for a response to no avail as of yet.

**11. Date of Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 10th February 2026**

**Meeting ended at 20:30pm**