

Minutes of the Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th November 2021 at All Saints Church, Ridgmont starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs M Spearing – Chairman, A Downing, M Dray and Lyn Lyman – Clerk and 2 residents.

In attendance: CB Cllrs K Matthews & R Morris.

448. To Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from: Cllrs H Francis, P Francis, P Fewings, R Kemeny and CB Cllrs S Clark.

449. Parish Councillor Vacancy:

As Mike Dray had shown interest in the vacancy at the last meeting, it had been unanimously agreed by e.mail mid meetings that he takes up the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. He has been sent the link to CBC to be able to complete the relevant Declaration form electronically.

450. 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.

The Landlord of The Rose & Crown introduced himself saying they refer to themselves as the home of the sausage makers and offered The Stables as a venue for Parish Council meetings.

He would like to broaden his services to the community. He is looking at using the land to the rear possibly for dog shows etc. He would need public liability insurance for any events he puts on.

He wants to get the view of the planning office for change of use, although if he keeps a few animals there, he would not need change of use. He has been trying to chat to the planning officers but he had come up against a brick wall unless he has a pre-app. CB Cllr Matthews said he may be able to point him in the right direction.

A partially sighted resident is having trouble negotiating the pavement which is in poor condition outside the pub but is not on pub land. Cllr Spearing will contact John Chandler at CBC Highways.

Action: MS

It was noted that there has been a theft in Eversholt Road where 7 tyres taken. A reminder that there are thefts taking place in the area is to be put on Facebook.

Action: MS

451. 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 H Francis: PCC Secretary & Treasurer, Representative on All Saints Church and Trustee on Ridgmont Charity;

Cllr P Francis: PCC and Trustee on Ridgmont Charity.

Cllr M Spearing: Trustee of The Greensand Trust; PCC; Governor of Aspley Guise School 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.

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

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2021. They were duly signed.

453. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

State of the gates at both ends of the village: The gates need cleaning and re-painting so volunteers are to be requested. Cllr Spearing will circulate a Whats App request. This is ongoing. **Action: MS**

437b Lydds Hill: the surface of Lydds Hill is in a poor state and needs re-tarmacing. There is a major water leak. Anglian Water have found the water leak so it should be fine now. Lydds Hill is an unclassified road so is unlikely to be tarmacked and is not considered to be a priority. Cllr Spearing agreed to speak to John Chandler at CBC. **Action: MS**

440b Victoria Smith CBC has advised that there is £457.42 of unspent Community and Village Hall Section 106 funds available for Ridgmont. As we don't have a village hall, the Clerk had asked if there was any alternative the money could be spent on. Victoria has advised that: If we submit details of what we would like to spend it on, it can be considered. Cllr Spearing confirmed it cannot be used on the Recreational Ground.

437a Cones: The cones have now been taken away but could be used again if the situation arises again.

443 Regarding the query concerning the CBC regulations on PVC widows in a listed building/conservation area: CBC have advised there is no direct answer as the building, its level of protection, location and history are all taken into consideration. They usually refer to guidance provided by Historic England.

The car racing in the village: Cllr Spearing has spoken to Giovanna who advised it should be reported using 111 if it re-occurs.

454. **To receive Reports:**

CB Cllr Clark: No report available.

CB Cllr Matthews: No issues.

CB Cllr Morris: said he is now Governor at Ridgmont School

Councillor Reports:

Planning: CB/TCS/21/00533 The Vicarage, 67 High Street, Ridgmont. Works to trees within a Conservation Area: reduce front Ash and Sycamore by 3-4m. Reduce remaining self sets by approx 12-15ft.

Cllr Spearing said she has left a message for Andy Jones at CBC for his opinion.

PCC: Cllr Spearing said there had been 50 adults and children at the Halloween event which went well.

Cllr Spearing said she has a meeting next week to talk about funding and lead repair, the church is a Grade 2 property. Historic England being asked for funding.

Ridgmont Charity: Cllr H Francis: No Report available.

455. To receive correspondence:

CBC is again supplying free bags of salt with strict ruling. It was agreed not to take this offer up.

456. To accept Payments:

Balance as at 31st October 2021: £11,698.57

Expenditure:

Andy Muskett ST Ltg Maintenance	110.10	100770
HMRC 2 nd ¼ PAYE	256.20	100771
NAB Grasscutting 2683, 2701, 2707	1884.00	100772
Mrs Spearing Poppy Wreath 25.00 Newsletter 110	135.00	100773
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary – September	341.85	s/o
Mrs Lyman Clerks Salary – October	341.85	s/o
Eon – October Monthly Energy Charge	191.50	d/d
Eon – November Monthly Energy Charge	197.88	d/d
	3,148.38	

It was unanimously agreed the above invoices should be paid.

457. To agree the Budget / Precept:

Last year the precept was decreased by 3%.

Copies of the accounts up to 31st October 2021 were circulated.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to keep the Precept request the same as last year - £17,018.00. We really need to build up our reserves as we are spending virtually all of our money. Reserves need to be allocated for projects.

458. **Section 106 Play Equipment Update:**

We have Section 106 funding of £7,603.63. Ward Cllr Funding of £1,500 has also been awarded. The closing date for claims for the Section 106 applications is April 2023. *Action: MS*

Cllr Spearing had obtained 3 quotes to be able to bring the play area up to standard according to the safety report. Reads Playground Maintenance of Kettering is the preferred company. It was agreed to go forward and Cllr Spearing will organise. *Action: MS*

459. **Date of Next Meeting:**

20th January 2022 in All Saints Church starting at 7.30pm.

As Lyn Lyman finishes on 31st December 2021, this will be her last Parish Council meeting. She was thanked for all she had done and the assistance she had provided.

Olivia Burrows was welcomed as she will be taking over from Lyn on 1st January 2022.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.