

RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Olivia Burrows
Clerk to the Parish Council

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Signed  - Parish Clerk

8th May 2025

The Ridgmont Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at The Stables, Rose & Crown. The meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Minutes

Present: Chairperson M Spearing, T Pick, R Yexley, J Graham, A Warne, Ward Cllrs S Bongo & R Morris and Clerk O Burrows

1. To elect Chairperson

Maria Spearing put herself forward for re-election as Chair, no one else wished to stand. It was unanimously agreed by all present that Maria Spearing continue as Chair. Proposed by Cllr RY and seconded by Cllr TP.

Resolved: Maria Spearing re-elected as Chair.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies. Received by Councillors M Dray, S Bland and Ward Cllr Sue Clark.

3. To elect Vice Chairperson

Cllr Tim Pick re-elected as vice chairperson.

4. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a) Planning | b) Communication & Consultation |
| c) Village Environment | d) Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting |
| e) Recreation/Cenotaph | f) Ridgmont Village Charity (Trustee) |
| g) Policies | h) All Saints Church (PCC member) |
| i) Website – The Clerk | |

The Parish Councils work as a team on all portfolios.

5. **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.

Nothing raised.

6. **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).

Chair MS – re-elected appointed trustee on charity and PCC.

b) **Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:**

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner)).

Land owner: Maria Spearing

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

Proposed by Cllr TP, seconded by Cllr JB.

Resolved: Minutes approved.

8. **To discuss Matters Arising:**

No Matters arising.

9. **To receive correspondence:**

- Chair MS reads an update sent from Allison Jakes, head of Ridgmont Lower school.
- MS also reported a discussion with Dan Newbolt regarding the potential for Ridgmont Lower to transition into a primary school. Of the three schools considered, only Ridgmont has the capability of becoming a primary. Challenges remain, including its location on greenbelt land and other issues to be resolved.

Ward Cllr RM noted that Husband Crawley Lower school move to join an academy has fallen through.

Going forward MS will maintain contact with Dan Newbolt for further updates and the Headteacher of Ridgmont Lower will provide a written update for each Parish Council meeting.

A resident present mentioned that the school has made progress and the teaching staff continue to show commitment and hard work.

10. To accept Budget and Payments:

Year ending accounts 24/25

Total income: £29,200.82

Total expenditure: £15,291.15

Total Bank March 31st 2025: £13,909.67

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
17/02/2025	February 25	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
19/02/2025	February 25	Npower bill	Energy	£ 243.94		
11/03/2025	March 25	Andy Muskett Invoice 5951 4th Qtr	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 114.90		
11/03/2025	March 25	Andy Muskett Invoice 5929	Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 630.00		
17/03/2025	March 25	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 263.64		
				£ 15,291.15		

INCOME:		
£ 20,000.00	2024/2025 Precept	
£ 6,116.67	Bank Balance bought forward from FY 23/24	
£ 2,885.92	VAT Refund 23/24	
£ 198.23	CBC Grasscutting contribution	
£ 29,200.82	Total Income	
£ 20,598.00	Total Budget	
£ 15,291	Total Expenditure YTD	
£ -	Deficit / Surplus (deficit will show in red font)	
£ 13,910	TOTAL BANK	

Expenditure April 2025

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	
				£ 9,039.66	

INCOME:		
£ 20,000.00	2025/2026 Precept	
£ 13,909.67	Bank Balance bought forward from FY 23/24	
£ 2,001.34	VAT Refund 24/25	
£ 2,500.00	Ward Councillor grant	
	CBC Grasscutting contribution	
£ 38,411.01	Total Income	

**The budget and expenditure was unanimously agreed by all the councillors present.
Proposed by Cllr RY and seconded by Cllr TP.**

11. To Receive Reports:

Ward councillor RM confirmed the ward councillor grant is available and open for applications.

RM discusses the possibility of traffic/surveying cameras in the village to monitor areas where drivers are not obeying road rules or where dangerous driving occurs. Councillors and residents to suggest potential sites.

The Ward Councillors are monitoring closely the Universal Studio application and will provide an update when they know more.

Chair MS gives an update on All Saints Church. The service attendance continues to grow, there were over 40 people at the easter service. The Church needs new heating and maintenance work completing and the PCC are exploring ideas to raise funds. There will be a village fete in September to help raise funds. The PCC are applying for a grant, the proposal to the National Lottery fund was not successful.

12. To appoint a new bank signatory

Tim Pick will be new bank signatory. He will be set up on the banking mandate.

13. **Village issues:**

Dog fouling, fly tipping & boundary Changes

MS noted an increase in fly tipping in recent months especially since changes have been made to recycling centre.

MS mentions that there is a consultation going on about parish boundaries.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:**

30th September 2025

Meeting closed at 20:30pm