

## **RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL – AGM Meeting**

**Olivia Burrows - Clerk to the Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at All Saints Church, Ridgmont starting at 7.15pm.**

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

**In attendance:** CB Cllr S Clarke.

### **1. Apologies**

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

### **2. Chairperson Report**

The chair thanked all Councillors and all Ward Councillors for giving up their time as volunteers and for their continued support and hard work over the years. The Chair also thanked the new Clerk for taking on the role.

Chair Report

‘Now the pandemic is over, hopefully we are able to return to a new normal. It is great to be holding meetings again in public and to fulfil matters left outstanding during the pandemic. Over the past year we have been working towards improving communication within the village, continued the maintenance of the village. We also monitor and comment on planning applications and recently the play equipment in the recreation ground was repaired.

Our priorities for 2022/2023 are:

- Continue to object to planning application on MG expansion.
- Replacing some of the lampposts in the village.
- Allocation of 106 monies to improve the playground.
- Continuing to improve communication within the village.
- Managing the budget effectively and take into consideration the rising costs.’

Chairperson

### **3. Portfolio Holders Reports**

**Planning** – Cllr P Francis – RE: 69B & 59 High Street planning application – Cllr Mike mentioned that he didn't see any reason for an objection. The intention to build in the same style as existing would be the preferable approach for the village.

Cllr M Spearing says that the Parish Council try and be impartial when looking at planning applications and make sure they are in keeping with the village. The PC does take an interest and sometimes it's useful for people to come and discuss it with the PC and let us know what their thoughts are.

Cllr P Francis added that in general the parish councils can have a say in planning applications but it is the planning officers at Central Bedfordshire who make the final decision.

### **4. Un-Audited Accounts for y/e 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

The accounts were circulated to councillors and no comments were made.

Cllr M Spearing mentioned that we are trying to keep within budget and make economies where we can.

Accounts were proposed by P Francis and seconded by Peter Fewings.

### **5. Open Forum**

#### **Resident**

The resident present at the meeting is disabled and has a mobility scooter. They are struggling to get around easily in the village due to curbs and lack of many drop curbs.

#### **The resident's question - *how can they apply for a drop curb?***

This resident cannot go from their house to the garage easily as the drop curb is much further away from their residence. This is preventing the resident from being independent and having a negative effect on her daily life.

Chairperson

Cllr Spearing asked the resident to send all the details about this and she'll find out who the resident needs to get in touch with. As the parish council representative M Spearing will come and have a look at where the resident lives. Pictures will need to be provided. M spearing will meet with resident and might have a walk around the village to see where the other drop curbs are located. M Spearing added that she knows that when people in the High Street have applied for drop curbs in the past, they have been refused, but it wasn't due to a mobility issue. Equality of access may be on the resident's side.

Cllrs M Spearing and Sue Clarke suggested contacting Jethro, the Highways development management officer, to come and have a look a walk about in the village. And see if he can provide some advice on the rules and regulations and what could be done. Cllr Sue Clarke also suggested contacting the access & equalities officer for some advice on this matter.

**MEETING CLOSED 19:34pm**

Chairperson