

RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Olivia Burrows
Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: ridgmontparishclerk@gmail.com
Signed *Olivia Burrows* - Parish Clerk
4th May 2026

**The Ridgmont Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at Rose & Crown.
The meeting started at 7:30pm.**

Present: M Spearing, T Pick, J Graham, M Dray, Ward Cllrs S Bongo, S Clark, R Morris and Clerk O Burrows.

MINUTES

1. To elect Chairperson

All Councillors unanimously agreed for M Spearing to be elected as Chair. T Pick proposed, seconded by M Dray.

2. To Receive apologies for absence

Apologies received by R Yexley, A Warne and S Bland.

3. To elect Vice Chairperson

Unanimously agreed for T Pick to be re-elected as vice chairperson.

4. To nominate Portfolio Holders:

It was unanimously agreed to take on the responsibilities as a team and that Chair Maria Spearing would continue with the responsibilities of the Ridgmont Charity. Cllr J Graham mentions he wants to become a trustee for the Ridgmont Charity.

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| a) Planning: | b) Communication & Consultation: |
| c) Village Environment: | d) Traffic & Highways/Street Lighting: |
| e) Play/Recreation/Cenotaph: | f) Ridgmont Village Charity: |
| g) Development and Strategy: | h) Policies |

i) School Governor:

j) All Saints Church:

j) Website – The Clerk

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.

- A resident mentions the overgrown verges on Eversholt road footpath and if they could be cut back.
- Residents say road surface in Mount Pleasant is getting worse. S Clark mentions there is a new highways officer. M Spearing reminds residents to raise pot hole concerns on 'fixmystreet'.

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).

Maria Spearing – Ridgmont Charity, All Saints PCC

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

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

Maria Spearing – Land owner.

7. To Approve Minutes of the previous meeting:

All Cllrs present approved the minutes from the previous meeting. J Graham proposed, M Dray seconded.

8. To discuss Matters Arising:

No Matters arising.

9. To receive correspondence:

The PC were awarded the Ward Cllr grant totalling £915. All 3 ward Cllrs contributed to the grant to help fund new village gates and signs. The total cost of the project was £2556.00. The new gates and signs have arrived and volunteers plan to install them in the coming weeks/months.

10. To accept Budget and Payments:

Total Income for financial year 2026/2027: £33,716

Expenditure Since April 2026: £1,498

Total in bank May 2026: £32,020

Date	Month/Year	Transaction Description	Category	Cost: OUT	IN	Notes:
01/04/2026	April 26	Jeremy Graham - Village litter pick purchase, bags and pickers	Contingency/Reserves	£ 40.48		
07/04/2026	April 26	HMRC VAT back	VAT		£756.81	VAT back for 25/26
13/04/2026	April 26	CBC Precept for 2026/2027			£20,000.00	Precept
20/04/2026	April 26	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 274.56		
21/04/2026	April 26	Simon Whiting - March 2026	Grasscutting	£ 600.00		
23/04/2026	April 26	Energy Npower	Energy	£ 207.10		
23/04/2026	April 26	Maria Spearing - Paid cash to T Giddons	Maintenance	£ 101.00		
12/05/2026	May 26	CBC Ward Cllr grant			£915.00	Awarded Ward Cllr grant
18/05/2026	May 26	Clerk Salary	Clerks Salary	£ 274.56		
				£ 1,497.70		

The budget and payments were unanimously approved by all Cllrs present.

Proposed by T Pick, Seconded by J Graham.

11. To Receive Reports:

Ridgmont Lower School – Allison Jakes sent a report to the PC. The 3-2 tier awaits further news. There are increasing pupil numbers, 3 new this term and 3 joining in next 6 months. The school is actively updating the curriculum to enhance children's learning experience and running regular school trips each term. They are re-establishing an allotment and doing roof repairs (scaffolding up; remedial work ongoing).

Ward Cllr R Morris, Governor to Ridgmont school mentions that the school had improvements to their Ofsted report.

- A Jakes got in touch with PC about changing the gate in the Rec as the timber is rotten and is very difficult to open and close. The school need access for emergencies etc. via this gate and asked if the PC could look into getting the posts replaced.

The Clerk contacted local contractors and obtained a quote to replace the rotten timbers. The Cllrs present felt the quote was a little high but agreed for the work to be carried out.

The clerk mentions that several wooden benches are rotten or have fallen off in the rec. Cllr T Pick says he'll ask a carpenter in the village to look at the slats and see if he can replace them.

Ward Councillor reports:

S Clark provides an update in East-West Rail consultation. She mentions proposals would move Ridgmont Station across the M1, increase trains to **up to 5 per hour each way**, and close the current station crossing requiring footbridge/underpass and car-park relocation. Deadline for public response **9 June**. Chair M Spearing responded to east/west rail on the PC's behalf.

S Clark have an update on O & H application. The Marston Valley outline application heard and approved with conditions; council secured many improved conditions through stakeholder lobbying; even though outline consent was granted, conditions will shape future detailed proposals.

Regarding the Milton Keynes expansion. Large hostile proposals from Milton Keynes crossing into Central Beds (e.g 3000 + houses) were objected by Ward Cllrs S Clark and R Morris. S Clark will continue to campaign and monitor the proposal.

Ward Cllr S Bongo provided an update. Station Road speed reduction proposal (to reduce speed) likely not approved by highways based on initial indications; traffic counts showed 95th percentile 35 mph, making formal reduction difficult. Evidence gathering requested to challenge the decision if needed. S bongo will continue to pursue this issue but it will likely not be approved.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 8th September 7.30pm at the Stables

Meeting ended at 20:10pm

Ridgmont Parish Council Minutes – 19/05/26

The above is considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Chairperson

Signed.....Dated.....