



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES OF RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RIPLEY PARISH CHURCH.

Present: Cllr Jennie Cliff (Chairman)
 Cllr Richard Ayears
 Cllr Vernon Wood
 Cllr Caspar Hancock
 Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
 Cllr Lisanne Mealing

Alison Jones Clerk of the Council

Also present: 1 member of the public, PCSO Lisa Clarke

Apologies: Cllr Colin Cross

105/12 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, members of the public were invited to speak. No comments were received.

106/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Councillor Colin Cross were received and accepted.

107/12 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The parish clerk explained the need for a written dispensation if a Councillor wishes to speak on a matter where he or she has a pecuniary interest. All councillors had completed the register of pecuniary interest forms. No disclosures of non-pecuniary interests were made.

108/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2012

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 13th September were received, confirmed and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman, Councillor Jennie Cliff.

109/12 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the Clerk, (copy attached to record minutes), which included:

- Submission of pre-application advice information re burial ground to GBC
- Reseeding of the re-instated land behind Newark Lane following patchy germination of the grass
- Footballs for ball court replaced in new net
- Pre-application advice sought re 34 Newark Lane
- Guildford Borough Liaison meeting held on 21st September
- Surrey Police Crime Commissioner elections
- Localism – Highways Service Opportunities
- Towpath Users meeting 1st November at 7.30pm at Dapdune Wharf
- Annual River Users Meeting 7th November at 7.30pm at Dapdune Wharf

- Health Watch Surrey

It was **RESOLVED: That the report by the Parish Clerk be noted.**

110/12 CORRESPONDENCE

a) an e-mail dated 6th October 2012 from the Rev C. Elson raising issues in the closed churchyard with the Borough Council. (Copy attached to record minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the issues raised regarding the closed churchyard be noted.

In accordance with Standing Order 10 (x) and with the agreement of the meeting, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to PCSO Clarke to speak.

PCSO Clarke gave the crime figures for the last month: 2 thefts, 2 criminal damage, 3 non-payment for petrol and 1 aircraft endangerment.

Help was needed with the running of the Lovelace and Georgelands yahoo e-mail groups.

The Police had not been made aware of the closure of Newark Lane in advance but PCSO Clarke had impressed on the workmen that the need for the road to be open for the bonfire celebrations on 27th October. PCSO Clarke will speak to enforcement regarding the widening of the track up to Valentines Farm which will enable large lorries to gain access. Planning conditions had indicated the number of lorry movements appropriate for the site.

The meeting resumed.

111/12 BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Members appreciated the efforts made by Cllr Garrett to represent Ripley at the recent planning committee meeting on 16th October but noted that he was very frail.

It was RESOLVED: That, when appropriate, Cllr Garrett be consulted by Cllr Cliff to ascertain if there was someone else at the Borough Council who could help to represent Ripley.

112/12 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members received and considered an amendment to the Code of Conduct adopted on 19th July 2012. (Copy attached to record minutes). The amendment related to dispensations for pecuniary interests and made it clear that these can be dealt with by the parish council and clerk rather than the monitoring officer and standards committee.

It was RESOLVED: That the amendment to the Code of Conduct regarding dispensations be approved.

113/12 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The General Power of Competence is a power of the Localism Act 2011 empowering local authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do. It is a power of first resort, to be used even if another power is available. Benefit to the parish need not be proved and individuals or projects outside the parish can be supported.

To be eligible, parish councils must have a qualified clerk with Section 7 of CiLCA 2012. Two thirds of vacancies on the council must have been filled at the last ordinary election or by-election. The council must resolve at a full council meeting that it is an eligible council.

Restrictions on using the power include:

1. duty to consider conserving biodiversity
2. duty to act with regard to crime and disorder
3. duties regulating the governance of the council
4. the need to follow Government advice on investment

Members recognised that the general power of competence may give more control over matters in the parish but discussed the need to only take on responsibilities with which members are comfortable and capable.

It was **RESOLVED: That the eligibility of Ripley Parish Council to use the General Power of Competence be noted. The clerk is qualified with Section 7 of Cilca 2012 and more than two thirds of the council were elected at the last ordinary election held in May 2011.**

114/12 INTERNAL AUDIT

Members received and considered the internal audit report from Paul Hartley following his visit on Tuesday 9th October 2012. (Copy attached to record minutes).

Members considered the arrangements for a review of the council risk assessments.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the interim internal audit report be noted;**
- b) that the risk assessments be reviewed by Cllr Ayears and Cllr Powell-Cullingford.**

115/12 HALF YEAR BUDGET REPORT

Members received and considered a report from the Parish Clerk on the current budget for the 6 months to September 2012. (Copy attached to record minutes). 95% of the budgeted income had been received and 56% spent.

It was **RESOLVED: That the half year budget report to 30th September 2012 be noted.**

116/12 GRANT AID

Members noted that the following balances for Guildford Borough Council grant aid projects are available until 31st March 2013.

Allotments - site improvements - signage, new fencing and site clearance	£655
10 year management plan of the Green - survey costs	£500
Environmental improvements to the Green - clearance of overgrown areas	£750

Cllrs Hancock and Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in the allotment site.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) a meeting be arranged with Cllrs Wood and Cross and the parish clerk to identify improvements to the allotment site;**
- b) the proposal to allow chickens on the allotments be investigated by the parish clerk;**
- c) quotes be obtained by Cllrs Ayears and Powell-Cullingford for the clearing of the area alongside the Dunsborough boundary and the preparation of a wildflower meadow;**
- d) the 10 year management plan for the Green be abandoned;**
- e) quotes for parkland fencing and a plaque for the Jubilee oak be obtained.**

117/12 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Members reviewed the progress with the parish council aims and objectives agreed in September 2011. (Copy attached to record minutes). It was noted that much had been achieved but the new project for the burial ground extension needed to be added and some other objectives needed following up.

It was **RESOLVED: That time frames for carrying out the remaining objectives be suggested by Cllr Cliff and the parish clerk for the next meeting.**

118/12 PLANNING GROUP

Members received and considered the minutes from the planning meetings held 1st October 2012. (Copy attached to record minutes).

Members received and considered the updated Ripley Parish Council planning policy which reflects the concern of the planning committee at the number of plans in the village for the replacement of commercial property with residential properties. (Copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the minutes of the planning committee held on 1st October 2012 be noted;**
b) that the revised Ripley Parish Council planning policy be approved.

119/12 CHRISTMAS FAIR

Members received and considered the draft minutes from the Christmas Fair meeting held on Tuesday 9th October 2012 at 7pm at MDM House. (Copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the draft minutes of the Christmas Fair meeting held on Tuesday 11th September be noted;**

120/12 CHRISTMAS CARDS

Members noted that the new Christmas card is available. 25 packs had been sold at the October Farmers' Market. Cards would also be available from Lloyd's Chemist, Richardsons, Pinnocks, Ripley Court School and Wills and Smerdon.

It was **RESOLVED: That that the arrangements for the sale of the new Christmas card be noted.**

121/12 BROADBAND

Members received and considered a report from Councillor Mealing on the Surrey County Council project to supply Superfast Broadband to rural communities. BT has been chosen to carry out the project following a tendering process but there was now a delay of up to 2 years while the project is considered against E.U. rules on competitive advantage. 98.8% of Surrey will be covered by the project.

It was **RESOLVED: That the progress with the Surrey County Council broadband project be noted.**

122/12 PARKING ON THE GREEN

Members considered the management of the parking of Benson's funfair for the Bonfire Celebration during the week beginning 22nd October. A leaflet had been produced to be placed on cars parking on the Green advising them of the visit of the bonfire and requesting that the cars park elsewhere during the week.

It was **RESOLVED: That the leaflets to be placed on cars parking on the Green requesting that the cars park elsewhere during the week beginning 22nd October be noted.**

123/12 ENVIRONMENT – THE GREEN

Members received a report from Cllr Powell-Cullingford on the working party held on 30th September to clear the brambles along the Dunsborough boundary. An insufficient number of people had attended to make progress on the clearing of the brambles. Ragwort pulling had been carried out instead.

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk (copy attached to record minutes) on the following matters:

- Survey of trees
- Metal detecting
- Missing cradle swing
- New net supplied for the ball court
- Report of pollution in the stream along the boundary of the Green
- Ruts alongside the Milk Road
- Replacement gate for damaged lockable post at entrance to the Green to be provide by Bonfire and Farmers Market
- Access rights

The report concerning the exchange land application process was deferred until the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) another contractor be found if a date for the tree survey cannot be arranged;**

- b) a licence to use a metal detector for the purpose of recovering a lost earring for a limited period be approved;
- c) a replacement cradle swing be ordered to be fitted by ourselves;
- d) the ruts and posts and rails alongside the Milk Road be examined by Cllr Wood and Cllr Ayears after the Bonfire Celebration;
- e) a letter be written explaining that the parish council does not have the power to grant access or parking rights.

124/12 SURREY RURAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Members considered the invitation to the Surrey Rural Partnership conference on Thursday 29th November from 9.30 – 3pm at Dorking Halls. The themes will be the changing face of the planning regime and its impact on rural Surrey and the role of biodiversity, green space and care delivery on wellbeing in our rural communities.

It was **RESOLVED: That Ripley Parish Council be represented by Cllr Mealing at the Surrey Rural Partnership Conference.**

125/12 FINANCE

Members approved the provision of a wreath by the Royal British Legion for the annual ceremony of remembrance at the war memorial.

It was **RESOLVED: That a donation of £25 be made to the Royal British Legion.**

126/12 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Members received and noted a summary of receipts and payments circulated with the agenda for the period from 1st September to 30th September 2012. (Copy attached to the record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the summary of receipts and payments tabled for the period from 1st September to 30th September 2012 be noted.**

127/12 SCHEDULE OF CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

The following cheques were presented by the Parish Clerk for authorisation and signing:

Cheque number	Payee details	Gross £	VAT
100951	West End Drainage	640.00	
100952	Broker Network Ltd – Insurance renewal	1931.02	
100953	Ripley Bonfire Association - advert	25.00	
100954	Andy Skilton Engineers Ltd – diesel for tractor	185.00	
100955	Andy Skilton Engineers Ltd – VAT on above invoiced		9.25
100956	Christmas stall refund	15.00	
100957	A. Jones September salary		
100958	July – September PAYE /NI	715.65	
100959	GBC – pre-application planning advice	82.50	
100960	Viking – stationery	101.80	16.97
100961	GBC – re-instatement of Green	3220.99	536.83
100962	Send Marsh Tractors – repair to cutting assembly	512.64	85.44
100963	Supply and installation of post on the Green	326.00	
100964	RBS Software Solutions – software support	104.00	
100965	Transfer of website hosting to Fasthosts	36.46	6.08
100966	Elite Building Services – allotment tap	165.60	
100967	September- October maintenance	163.36	

Accordingly the above cheques for payment were approved and signed.

128/12 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Exchange land application process, Aims and objectives time frame
Projects for section.106 money 2013 Budget

129/12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED: That members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting at Part 2, Item 25 of the agenda Transfer of access track at West End Cottages. See confidential minutes C06/12.**

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Date:

Chairman