



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES OF RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RIPLEY PARISH CHURCH.

Present: Cllr Lisanne Mealing (Chairman)
Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
Cllr Colin Cross
Cllr Caspar Hancock
Cllr Vernon Wood

Alison Jones Clerk of the Council

Also present: Surrey County Councillor Bill Barker, 7 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Richard Ayears Cllr Jennie Cliff

195/13 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, members of the public were invited to speak.

a) A local resident enquired as to when Superfast Broadband would be available in the village.

RESPONSE: The Chairman confirmed that the network should go live at the beginning of April. Residents will need to contact their internet service provider to arrange an upgrade to the new superfast broadband. A range of packages are likely to be available.

b) The Chairman of Ripley Cricket Club referred to the council's intention to tidy the overgrown area in front of Ryde Cottage. He explained that the temporary fence was put up to stop cricket balls becoming lost. Time wasted at League matches could not be made up. The Cricket Club made every effort to keep the area by the pavilion tidy with a twice yearly clear up in April and October but was not the only user of the area. The Cricket Club used the access onto the Green which leads to Ryde Cottage.

RESPONSE: The Chairman thanked the Cricket Club Chairman for his comments.

c) A local resident living in Ryde Cottage expressed the need for more consideration by the Cricket Club for the needs of those living close to the cricket pitch. She was concerned that wildlife would be adversely affected by the cutting down of the vegetation in front of Ryde Cottage.

RESPONSE: The Chairman thanked the resident of Ryde Cottage for her comments which would inform the discussion later in the meeting.

196/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor Ayears and Councillor Cliff were received and accepted.

197/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Colin Cross declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15 The Green and item 16 Parking on the Green: Cllr Cross owns a property adjacent to the Green.

198/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2014

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2014 were received, confirmed and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman, Councillor Lisanne Mealing

199/13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

200/13 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

- White Hart Court Car park lease
- Drainage ditches
- Playground car park
- Rural Exception sites
- Street lighting
- Burial ground boundary fence
- Licensing consultation on sexual entertainment venues
- Review of Surrey Rights of Way improvement plan
- Notification of a meeting of Surrey ALC with the Chief Constable and Commissioner to highlight concerns of parish councils
- Review of Surrey County Council policy on Road Safety outside Schools
- Maintenance of raised bed at junction of Newark Lane
- Clean Up Sat 5th April 10.00 – 12.00

It was **RESOLVED: That the Farmers Market be informed of the volunteer wishing to tend the raised beds to raise funds for a Scouting jamboree.**

In accordance with Standing Order 10x, the meeting was adjourned to allow PCSO Damon Young to give the crime figures for the last month.

Most of the statistics related to the Petrol Station on the A3: 6 thefts of fuel and 1 drugs offence. In Ripley village there had been 1 damage to a car and 1 theft from a doorstep.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Damon Young for his report.

The meeting resumed.

201/13 CORRESPONDENCE

a) a letter dated 10th March 2014 from a resident on the Green asking that the parish council reconsiders its intention to cut down overgrown vegetation area near Ryde Cottage. (Copy attached to record minutes).

Members noted that the vegetation on the Green near Ryde Cottage had not always been so high. It has grown up in recent years resulting in the necessity for a temporary fence erected by the Cricket Club to prevent lost balls. Any wildlife using this area could move to the brambles alongside Ryde House. A wildflower meadow to encourage insects and birds could be sown once the area is cleared. The unroadworthy car parked on the Green must be removed.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the Cricket Club be asked to remove the temporary fence by the overgrown area of the Green;**
- b) the overgrown area be strimmed down at the earliest opportunity;**
- c) a letter be written to Ryde Cottage explaining the council's intentions including the request for the removal of the unroadworthy car.**

202/13 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st February to 28th February 2014 and the total receipts and payments to date. Both were circulated with the agenda. (Copies attached to the record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st February to 28th February 2014 and the total receipts and payments to date be noted.**

203/13 SCHEDULE OF CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

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

Cheque number	Payee details	Gross £	VAT
101147	A. Jones – February salary		
101148	Petty cash	100.00	
101149	Hire Services Southern – chain saw sharpen	15.60	2.60
101150	Contractor – clearance of fallen trees on Green	360.00	
101151	GBC – erection and maintenance of Christmas lights	7314.00	1219.00
101152	GBC - clearance of various ditches	3630.00	605.00
101153	Jan to March Tax and NI	681.80	
101154	Ripley Village Hall – March office rent	281.00	
101155	Contractor – Feb /March maintenance, car park surface	960.49	
Direct Debits	EDF Energy - monthly charge	8.00	0.38
	Alliance Trust Pension		
	GBC – White Hart Court car park rent		

Accordingly the above cheques for payment were approved and signed.

204/13 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Members received and considered the report from the Finance Committee who met with the Clerk on 10th March to review the effectiveness of our internal audit. No concerns were raised. (Copy attached to record minutes)

Members considered the following audit plan for the coming financial year:

1. To review financial controls to ensure comprehensiveness and effective implementation
2. To identify and review risks to the Council and to act accordingly. Monitor effectiveness of actions

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the Internal audit review carried out on 10th March 2014 be approved:
- b) the audit plan for 2014-15 be approved.

205/13 RIDE LONDON CYCLE RACES Sunday 10th AUGUST 2014

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk on the meeting held with James Taylor and Claire Larbey of the Prudential Ride London team and Cllr Cliff on Wednesday 5th March at the parish council office. (Copy attached to record minutes). Grants are available to Sports Clubs along the race route from the profits of the races.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the reduced road closure times i.e. 5.00am to 12.00noon and 2.20 until 2.40 approximately be noted;
- b) the need for volunteers to assist the stewards be noted;
- c) a letter be written to the Bowling Club informing them of the availability of grants and of the offer of help with grant applications from the Papercourt Sailing Club.

206/13 STREET LIGHTING

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk on the meeting held with Andy Rogers of Skanska and Cllr Hancock on Tuesday 18th March at 2.00pm to discuss the refurbishment of wall lights in the village. (Copy attached to record minutes). Wall lights near Budgens, on Seymours, on Wills and Smerdon, on the Bakery and the Old Fire Station will be retained and refurbished. Wall lights on the Anchor, Cedar House, the Post Office and Richardsons will be removed.

It was **RESOLVED: That the agreed proposals for the refurbishment or removal of wall lights in the village be noted.**

207/13 WOODEN BUS SHELTER

Members received and considered a quote of £2100 for the complete renewal of the roof of the wooden bus shelter. Cllr Hancock reported that the Rotary Club considered renewal or repair of the roof of the bus shelter to be a suitable project for their support but finance will not be available until September or October.

It was **RESOLVED: That the quote be passed on to the Rotary Club by Cllr Hancock for consideration at their next committee meeting.**

208/13 PLANNING GROUP

Members received and considered the minutes from the planning meeting held on Monday 10th March 2014. (Copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the planning committee held on Monday 10th March 2014 be noted.**

209/13 THE GUILDFORD LOCAL PLAN

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk on the work of Guildford Greenbelt Group following the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) consultation deadline. (Copy attached to record minutes). An open letter had been drawn up and sent to all Guildford Borough Councillors and several MPs on 12th March. It highlighted various recent appeal decisions and other information regarding the protection of the Greenbelt.

Cllr Cross had attended a meeting of the Guildford Residents Association who were addressing the various issues around the proposed figure in the SHMA of 800 houses per annum. Student accommodation was a factor that contributed to the inflation of housing need.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report on the work of the Guildford Greenbelt Group be noted.**

210/13 ENVIRONMENT GROUP – THE GREEN

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

- Litterbins – lack of emptying
- Dog gloves/bags
- Potholes in the track towards Acacia Villas
- Bridleway – parking causing an obstruction
- Unsavoury activities
- Parking Request
- Low level branches near Dunsborough

It was **RESOLVED: That**

a) a letter be written asking for regular emptying of the litter and dog bins on The Green because of the popularity of the area;

b) a second dog bag dispenser to be sited at the Newark Lane entrance to the Green be purchased together with 10 boxes of bags @ £20.40 per box;

- c) a cheque for £180 be provided to the residents to reimburse them for the costs of materials used in the emergency repair of the track towards Acacia Villas;
- d) 4 posts be put in to stop parking on the edge of the bridleway by Avon House;
- e) the increase of unsavoury litter on the Green be noted and the matter raised with the Police;
- f) the request for use of the overflow car park for a wedding in 12th July be approved at a cost of £60. The padlock must be kept safe and the car park locked at the end of the evening;
- g) the trees near Dunsborough be inspected by the parish clerk.

211/13 PARKING ON THE GREEN

Members discussed how best to restrict vehicular access and parking on the Green to the rear of Ryde House. Access is required to Ryde Cottage and Cricket Club. A lockable barrier would be expensive and inconvenient to use. As a first step, wooden posts alongside the track will be used to restrict parking.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) wooden posts be used to mark the boundary of the track leading to Ryde Cottage to limit the area of the Green that can be damaged by vehicles;
- b) a site meeting be held by Cllrs Powell-Cullingford, Hancock and Wood at 3pm on Friday 21st March to determine the exact number and location of the wooden posts and to meet the supervisor at White Hart Court to discuss the work force parking;
- c) a letter be written to the owners of Ryde Cottage explaining the actions the parish council has agreed to restrict parking.

212/13 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 29th MAY 2014

The parish clerk confirmed that Tim Harrold of Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is confirmed as the speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on the topic of the Local Plan.

It was **RESOLVED: That the booking of Tim Harrold (CPRE) to speak on the Local Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting be noted.**

213/13 NEWSLETTER

Members considered the timing and content of the Spring Newsletter. The following topics were suggested: Cycle Races, Broadband, Allotments, Annual Parish Meeting, and Good Neighbours.

It was **RESOLVED: That the spring newsletter be prepared for distribution before Easter.**

214/13 ALLOTMENTS

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk on the allotment site. The rent accounts and contracts have been sent out. There are several plots being handed back this year, some of which are full size. Tenants have been found for the full size plots but the waiting list is not very long.

It was noted that the ground at the gate is very wet and rutted. It will need to dry out before any measures are taken to improve the track. The boundary with the bowling club needs to be marked. Fallen silver birch logs from the Green could be used.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the track be allowed to dry out before any remedial action is considered;
- b) the possibility of using logs from the Green to mark the boundary with the Bowls Club be noted.

215/13 WEST END LAND

Members considered a report from the parish clerk on the next steps for the improvement of the land at West End. (Copy attached to record minutes). Grant aid funding of £3349 towards costs of £8000 is available from the Borough Council until March 2015.

The land adjacent to the burial ground needs to be cleared of tree roots, levelled and the ground elder killed before grass can be sown and a native hedgerow and specimen trees planted. After this work has been

carried out a planning application could be submitted for change of use to a memorial garden with the burial of ashes.

The Borough Council may be able to assist in improving the drainage of the West End Land but are busy dealing with the flood problems from the new year at present.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

a) a new quote be obtained from Countryside Contracts Ltd for the land adjacent to the burial ground be cleared of rubbish, tree stumps, ground elder and levelled;

b) the Borough Council be chased by Cllr Cross regarding improving the drainage of the West End land.

216/13 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

No suggestions were made.

217/13 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 23 of the agenda Access track at West End Cottages. See confidential minute CO10/13**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Date:

Chairman