



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES OF RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH ROOM, RIPLEY PARISH CHURCH.

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

Alison Jones Clerk of the Council

Also present: 5 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Richard Ayears Cllr Colin Cross

218/13 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) Cllr Jennie Cliff gave the crime statistics provided by PCSO Gregor Culross. There were 5 cases of fly tipping, 1 theft of fuel and 1 burglary of a shed.

b) Peter Wadham, commodore of Papercourt Sailing Club gave a report on the activities of the sailing club which included an invitation to their open day on Saturday 17th May and confirmation that planning permission had been given for the work to the safety boat huts. Disruption to walkers would be kept to a minimum but some paths would be improved. Membership is buoyant and sailing for the disabled begins on 25th April.

RESPONSE: The Chairman thanked the Commodore for his report.

c) A member of the Green working parties reported that wildflower seeds were being sown on the new topsoil on the Dunsborough boundary and asked that the remaining areas were not mown in the spring in order to preserve wild flowers appearing where the brambles have been cleared.
Cllr Wood

Cllr Wood expressed his opinion that the area of grass closest to Dunsborough Lodge should be mown in the spring to keep the brambles down and the entrance to the Green tidy.

RESPONSE: The Chairman confirmed that the matter would be discussed later on the agenda.

d) a resident of West End enquired about any plans for the land owned by the parish council behind West End Cottages.

RESPONSE: The Clerk gave an update. Quotes were being obtained for the clearance of the tree roots, rubbish and general levelling of the land adjacent to the church yard. There were no plans for the remainder of the site.

219/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

220/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Jennie Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17 The Allotments: Cllr Cliff's husband is an allotment holder.

221/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2014

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

222/13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the first homes in White Hart Court were becoming available for private sale and that, if interested in the affordable dwellings, it is important to register an interest with Guildford Borough Council.

Superfast broadband is now available in the village and the download speeds are noticeably faster.

The advertisement for the new clerk will be in the Surrey Advertiser on Friday 25th April with interviews planned for 3rd June.

Mrs R. Wallis had written to thank the parish council for her nomination for the Mayors award. All 3 nominations had been successful.

The Chairman thanked those who took part in the recent working party on the Green and in the village Clean up.

223/13 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Clean up day
- Burial ground boundary fence
- White Hart Court car park
- Borough Council Liaison
- Superfast Broadband connection
- VAT reclaim
- Surrey Local Councils Forum 1st May in Dorking
- Ripley and Send Matters AGM 8pm 14th May in the Church Room

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) a letter be written by Cllr Powell-Cullingford and the Clerk and sent to A2 Dominion asking for the name Marlborough Place to be reconsidered for the new development at White Hart Court;
- b) A2 Dominion be contacted to ask for the height barrier at the car park to be installed.

224/13 CORRESPONDENCE

a) a letter dated 31st March 2014 from the Ripley Event Committee formally requesting to hold the Ripley Event on Ripley Green on Saturday 19th July 2014. A letter of approval has been sent with the usual recommendations to take rubbish away and to keep off the wildflower meadow. (Copy attached to record minutes)

It was RESOLVED: That the formal application to hold the Ripley Event on the Green on Saturday 19th July be approved

b) a letter dated 31st March 2014 from Skanska in reply to the parish council letter of 24th March asking for compensation for the disruption to the festive lights caused by their engineers. A reply has been sent with a copy of the invoice from the Borough Council. (Copy attached record minutes). A reply dated 22nd April had been received which offered £500 compensation for the disruption to the festive lighting display.

It was RESOLVED: That the offer of £500 compensation from Skanska for the disruption to the Christmas lighting display be accepted

c) an e-mail dated 16th April from Tasty Tuckers requesting permission to park for one evening a week for about 2 hours serving fish and chips.

It was RESOLVED: That Tasty Tuckers be informed that there is a planning application currently being considered by Guildford Borough Council for a fish and chips in the village.

225/13 2013/14 BUDGET REVIEW

Members received and considered a report from the Parish Clerk comparing income and expenditure for the financial year to 31st March 2014 with the budget allocations for 2013-14. (Copy attached record minutes).

It was RESOLVED: That the unspent monies of £9295 allocated for the land adjacent to West End be designated as earmarked reserves for upgrading the land in 2014-15.

226/13 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st March to 31st March 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 March to 31st March 2014 and the total receipts and payments to date be noted.

227/13 SCHEDULE OF CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

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

Cheque number	Payee details	Gross £	VAT
101156	Track repair on Green	185.00	
101157	A. Jones March salary		
101158	Tractor insurance renewal	162.18	
101159	Fred Cutler Ltd t/a Inksticks Xerox 8570 printer ink	268.20	44.70
101160	Contractor – March –April maintenance, posts, Green	693.00	
101161	Send Marsh Tractors hacksaw and oil for strimmers	34.42	5.74
101162	Surrey ALC and NALC subscription 2014-15	507.72	
101163	JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog glove dispenser and supplies	365.22	60.87
101164	Designer Metal (Suffolk) Ltd – tree guard	65.40	10.90
101165	Viking Envelopes and stamps	92.78	6.63
101166	R & S Community Publishing Association subscription	7.00	
101167	Ripley Village Hall – March office rent	281.00	
101168	Hedleys Solicitors – track transfer	672.00	112.00
101169	Ripley PCC – donation re use of Church Room	90.00	
Direct Debits	EDF Energy - monthly charge	8.00	0.38
	Alliance Trust Pension		
	BT – telephone and broadband quarterly charges	178.78	29.79

Accordingly the above cheques for payment were approved and signed.

228/13 SECTION 106 MONIES AVAILABLE

Money available to be used in Lovelace Ward from the development of the Suzuki Garage (£17,345.63) and Stansfield (£13,282.82) sites will be no longer available early in 2015. The parish council has considered using s.106 money to contribute towards making a nature reserve at West End but this is not viable in the near future

until the drainage has been improved. Additional equipment and/ or refurbishment of the existing equipment in the playground could be a good way to spend this money.

It was RESOLVED: That

- a) Cllr Hancock will contact the Youth Club members to ascertain if a skate park was still wanted;**
- b) the Puttenham clerk be contacted to find the manufacturer of their playground equipment;**
- c) Cllr Hancock and Cllr Powell-Cullingford and the clerk meet with playground reps to obtain quotes for a playground upgrade and/or small skate board park.**

229/13 WOODEN BUS SHELTER

Members received and considered the response of the Ripley and Send Rotary Club to the request for assistance in repairing the roof of the wooden bus shelter in the High Street. £500 has been offered as a minimum from the proceeds of the Ripley Event but an application for a further £500 may be made to the Rotary Club District funds by the end of April. The quote to replace the bus shelter roof was £2100. A repair was quoted as £624 but with the proviso that further costs may arise if the shingles are in poor condition under the moss. £300 is in the budget for bus shelters.

If Rotary Club funding is accepted, a permanent acknowledgement to the Rotary Club i.e. a plaque on the bus shelter would be required. An article in Ripley and Send Matters on the history of the bus shelter might be interesting.

It was RESOLVED: That

- a) the offer of assistance by the Send and Ripley Rotary Club for the complete replacement of the wooden roof shingles on the bus shelter roof be accepted;**
- b) the application form for district level funding be filled in by the clerk as appropriate and forwarded to the Rotary Club by the end of April;**
- c) the contribution of the parish council and the Rotary Club to the repair be acknowledged in a plaque on the bus shelter.**

230/13 PLANNING GROUP

Members received and considered the minutes from the planning meeting held on Monday 7th April 2014. (Copy attached to record minutes). Members noted that a revised audit of services and facilities in Ripley had been submitted to the Borough Council to inform the Settlement Hierarchy document for the Local Plan.

Borough Councillor Stephen Mansbridge had invited the Chairman and Vice Chairman to meet with him and Borough Councillor Monica Juneja at Millmead on Friday 2nd May at 10.00am to discuss the Local Plan. Cllr Cliff was able to attend with the clerk. Local issues of flooding and the level of development that has already occurred in Ripley would be raised and the impact of a large development at the former Wisley Airfield on traffic.

It was RESOLVED: That

- a) the minutes of the planning committee held on Monday 7th April 2014 be noted;**
- b) the revised audit of services and facilities in Ripley submitted to the Borough Council be noted;**
- c) the meeting with Borough Cllrs Mansbridge and Juneja on Friday 2nd May with Cllr Cliff and the clerk be noted**

231/13 VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT

Members received and considered an update from Cllr Mealing on the plans to redevelop the village hall. The Village Hall Redevelopment Committee are still considering various options having contacted some developers and a property firm. There are 3 major options:

- To rebuild the village hall plus some houses on the current site
- To sell all the village hall land, rebuild the hall and retain some proceeds
- To find some alternative site elsewhere

There is no longer any fundraising arm to the Committee. The Committee is keen to work with the parish council to find the best solution.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report on the Village Hall Redevelopment Committee be noted.**

232/13 RAISED BED MAINTENANCE

Members noted that one of the raised beds had been completely cleared of plants including the bulbs by an unknown person. This turned out to have been an employee of Hoebridge Cars. The Farmers Market Committee had decided not to sponsor a Scout to maintain the raised beds and were happy to cease planting and maintaining the beds.

It was **RESOLVED: That Hoebridge Cars be contacted to confirm that they now had responsibility for planting and maintaining the raised beds. The situation would be reviewed in 6 months' time.**

233/13 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:

- Topsoil on Dunsborough boundary
- Mowing of Dunsborough boundary
- Exposed drainage pipe in the woods
- Unsavoury activities
- Crumbling concrete posts
- Oil drums and bread baskets in the stream alongside Ripley Green

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the Dunsborough boundary be inspected by all available councillors to agree how far from the Newark Lane entrance the boundary should be mown;**
- b) the quote for mowing the Dunsborough boundary (not including the wildflower meadow) be accepted**
- c) the drainage pipe in the woods be inspected by all available councillors at 5pm on Friday 25th April to ascertain the level of risk to animals and how it may be mitigated;**
- d) the proposed meeting with the crime prevention officer be arranged as soon as possible;**
- e) the 3 crumbling concrete posts behind the High Street be replaced with wooden posts;**
- f) the Environment Agency be contacted regarding the oil drums and bread baskets dumped in the stream alongside Ripley Green**

234/13 PARKING ON THE GREEN

Members noted that most of the area in front of Ryde Cottage has been strimmed following a meeting with Mr and Mrs Nokes, Cllr Wood and Cllr Powell-Cullingford together with the parish clerk outside Ryde Cottage on Monday 31st March. Further work needs to be done to strim over the hard core so that it can be removed and to strim the strip left close to the house. The owners of Ryde Cottage have been asked to move the untaxed vehicle and put both their other vehicles nearer to the house cutting back vegetation as necessary.

Members considered 2 quotes for 14 wooden posts to be put in to restrict parking on the Green near Ryde House. The lower quote of £250 was accepted

Members noted the intention of Surrey County Council Estates and Management to write to properties along the Milk Road concerning encroachment on the Green Following the creation of a gravel parking area.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the remaining overgrown area be strimmed down and the hard core removed as soon as possible. Cllr Wood will attend;**
- b) a quote of £260 for 14 wooden posts to be put in beside the track to Ryde Cottage be accepted;**
- c) the action of Surrey County Council Estates and Management to curb encroachment onto the Green by parking along the Milk Road be noted.**

235/13 ALLOTMENTS

Members received and considered a report from the parish clerk on the allotment site. The ground near the gate is very wet and rutted and a request has been received for some measures to be taken to improve the

access. 2 full size and 1 half plot are currently available with no-one willing to take them on. 6 allotment holders have not yet paid so reminder letters will be sent out shortly.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) a bag of scalpings be added to the ruts near the gate to improve access once the ground has dried out;**
- b) the rent of overgrown plots be reduced appropriately to encourage new tenants.**

236/13 BURIAL GROUND

Members noted that grants are available from the Parks for People programme run by the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery funds for cemeteries. £25.5 million has been distributed in the last year. However this money is not available for new cemeteries but rather to preserve the heritage of old cemeteries.

It was **RESOLVED: That the fact that the Parks for People grants are not available for new burial grounds be noted.**

237/13 WEST END LAND

Members received and considered an updated quote for the removal of tree stumps, fallen trees, and rubbish and to level the ground on the land adjacent to the burial ground. Grass can then be sown and native hedges planted in the autumn and possibly trees in the future.

It was **RESOLVED: That**

- a) the quote from countryside Contracts for preparing the land for grass seeding be accepted;**
- b) Countryside Contracts be asked to seed the area after levelling.**

238/13 RECRUITMENT

Members noted that the position of clerk and responsible financial officer is being advertised in the Surrey Advertiser this week with 2 weeks on the fish4jobs website at a cost of £749 plus VAT. This is £99 cheaper than the first quote. The position is also advertised on the Surrey County Association website and on our own parish council website. The closing date for applications is May 16th and Anne Bott from Surrey ALC will assist at the interviews on 3rd June.

It was **RESOLVED: That the cost of advertising for a new clerk in the Surrey Advertiser be approved.**

239/13 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Playground equipment

240/13 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 CO11/13**

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Date:

Chairman