



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2015 at 1930HRS at THE CHURCH ROOM, RIPLEY PARISH CHURCH.

Present: Cllr Jennie Cliff (Chairperson)
Cllr Richard Ayears
Cllr Colin Cross
Cllr Caspar Hancock
Cllr Lisanne Mealing
Cllr Vernon Wood
Jim Morris, Clerk of the Council

Apologies: Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford

Also present: 13 members of the public

86/15 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) A local resident raised concerns over parking on the footpath outside nos. 5-8 Church Row. Anti-social parking was a constant problem and incidences were increasing.

RESPONSE: Members agreed that pavement parking in the area was of concern. Surrey County Councillor Bill Barker was unable to be present at the meeting, but was known to be looking into the possibility of installing bollards on the footpath.

b) A local resident raised further concerns over anti-social parking, particularly outside West End Cottages and the Toby Cottage.

RESPONSE: Members agreed that anti-social parking was becoming an increasing problem in many areas of the village. It was recommended that incidences should be reported to the police.

c) PCSO Lisa Clarke provided the meeting with the monthly crime report. There had been 7 reported crimes of various descriptions. PCSO Clarke advised the meeting that the 101 website was a quick and efficient resource when reporting incidences of anti-social parking.

RESPONSE: Members thanked PCSO Clarke for attending the meeting.

d) A local resident raised further concerns over anti-social parking, in the area around Wentworth Close and Dorton Way. The footpath near the Seven Stars PH was also reported to be very overgrown.

RESPONSE: Members agreed that anti-social parking incidences were apparently increasingly problematic in many areas of the village and that they should be reported to the police. The overgrown footpath near the Seven Stars PH had been mentioned to an officer of Surrey County Council (SCC) at a previous meeting, but was thought to be appropriate for Lengthsman Scheme funding to alleviate the problem.

e) Cllr Mealing, on behalf of a local resident, raised a written representation to the parish council. The letter concerned the junctions of both Rose Lane and Newark Lane with the High Street. Several accidents had been witnessed, and officers of both SCC and Surrey Police had arranged to visit the site on 20th October 2015 at 0800hrs.

RESPONSE: Members thanked Cllr Mealing for passing on the comments of the local resident, and noted the date and time of the forthcoming meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Ayears would attend the site visit.

87/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Powell-Cullingford.

88/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Cross declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 'Leisure & Facilities Committee': Cllr Cross has a dwelling on The Green.

Cllr Hancock declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 'Village Hall': Cllr Hancock represents the Parish Council on the Village Hall Development Committee and represents the Shed Youth Club on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

Cllr Mealing declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 'Village Hall': Cllr Mealing represents the Parish Council on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

Cllr Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 'Village Hall': Cllr Wood represents the Bonfire Committee on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

89/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th July and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 20th August 2015 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

90/15 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the Chairperson. Two events run by the Surrey & Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC) had been attended since the last meeting of the parish council. Both the Chairpersons' Briefing Day and the Surrey Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting had been enlightening on several different aspects of local government.

Lottery funding could be available for Village Halls "in the right postcode", although which postcodes were considered 'right' had not been discussed. Village Halls were a place of safety for the community and parish councils were well placed to promote them, help raise their profile, and support them where possible.

Central government was engaging in a process of 'cascading devolution', but Local Authorities powers to raise taxes were capped whereas parish councils' powers were not. As a consequence of this, it was expected that responsibilities would be passed on to local councils and the onus would be on the countries parishes to ensure that decisions that may have to be made were safeguarded.

It was noted that Ripley Parish Council was lacking a Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure Policy, and that this should be rectified at the earliest opportunity.

The Surrey ALC AGM had illuminated Surrey Wildlife Trust's loss of future funding. It would be receiving no financial support from SCC by 2021. Neighbourhood Plans were becoming an increasingly important tool. Moves were being made to declutter the streetscene from having too much signage, but an infrastructure deficit was leading to rising congestion. Problems with police liaison had been reported from other areas of the county, along with issues with the 101 service and response to fly tipping. Cyclists, however, had voted Box Hill the 3rd most popular bike route in the world.

91/15 CORRESPONDENCE

i) A letter dated 14th August 2015 from a local resident regarding access to the Burial Ground (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That a letter responding to the resident's concerns be drafted, and that a letter to the probation service explaining access to the Burial Ground on future occasions be sent.**

ii) An email dated 18th August 2015 from the Environmental Health Manager at GBC regarding the Statement of Principles (Gambling Act 2005) consultation (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email regarding the consultation be noted.**

iii) An email dated 25th September 2015 from SCC regarding the upcoming Eastern Parishes Cluster Meeting (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email from SCC be noted.**

iv) A letter, undated, from the Democratic Services Acting Lead Manager at SCC regarding events aimed at residents considering standing for election as a County Councillor (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email from SCC be noted.**

v) A press release from GBC detailing measures taken to control dog fouling (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email from GBC be noted. It was agreed that several copies would be printed and added to parish council noticeboards and placed at appropriate sites around The Green.**

vi) A press release, undated, from Thames Water regarding responsibility for sewage stations (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the press release from Thames Water be noted**

92/15 VILLAGE HALL

Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Hancock and Mealing on The Parish Council's Consultation with the village over funding a new Village Hall. Members were disappointed with the final turnout level of 15.2%, and felt that, coupled with the indecisive end result, a clear plan of action regarding Village Hall funding had not been delivered by the consultation. The Parish Clerk's consultation report offered suggestions rather than recommendations, which were discussed, with "Work towards finding a different solution" the favoured option. The result had given scope to explore other avenues of partly funding Village Hall redevelopment and collaboration with the Village Hall Trustees. It was felt that the Village Hall had at least 10 years of useful life before needing to be replaced, and that a more moderate offer could be made. Cllrs did not want to dismiss the support for Village Hall funding.

It was **RESOLVED: That parish councillors would attend the forthcoming meeting with Village Hall Trustees in order to discuss the result of the consultation and offer to work with the Trustees.**

In accordance with Ripley Parish Council Standing Order 10f, the agenda item 'Nature Reserve' was brought forward for reasons of expedience.

93/15 NATURE RESERVE

Members received and considered a report from Cllr Cliff on progress with the Nature Reserve and recent meetings of the Working Group. The Working Group favoured Heathsend in collaboration with Land & Water as preferred contractor for the ongoing Nature Reserve project. All members had studied the estimates provided by potential contractors and were content to follow the recommendation of the Working Group. Pre-Application advice from GBC would be sought to clarify change of use of the land.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The report from Cllr Cliff be noted.

b) Heathsend with Land & Water be appointed as the parish council's preferred contractor.

94/15 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS and CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st July to 30th September 2015, totaling £26,284.52 (copy attached to the record minutes). Cheques were presented by the Parish Clerk for authorisation and signing.

It was **RESOLVED: That the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st July to 30th September 2015, totaling £26,284.52 be noted. Cheques presented by the Parish Clerk were authorised and signed.**

95/15 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received and considered the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on Mondays 13th July, 3rd and 24th August, and 14th September 2015, and a letter regarding the parish council's Planning Application for a skateramp on The Green (copies attached to record minutes).

Members considered a date for the proposed visit by Guildford Borough Councillors Billington, Furniss, and Spooner.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 13th July, 3rd and 24th August, and 14th September 2015, and a letter regarding the parish council's Planning Application be noted.

b) Either 3rd or 10th December be offered to GBC Cllrs as potential dates for a meeting.

96/15 LEISURE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the remit of the Leisure & Facilities Committee, which included:

- Posts & rails quote
- Flowerbed quote
- Email regarding Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars (copy attached to record minutes)
- Letter from Ripley Green Volunteers (copy attached to record minutes)
- Burial Ground treeworks quote
- Burial Ground letter

It was **RESOLVED**: that,

- a) A further quote be sought for the adjacent posts & rails along the cricket outfield boundary. Up to £2,000 was still available in the current year's budget.
- b) The flowerbed quote be approved. Cllr Wood declared an interest and took no part in discussions.
- c) The email regarding Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars be noted.
- d) The letter from Ripley Green Volunteers be approved. The proposal fitted in with concerns over bramble encroachment.
- e) Further quotes for treeworks in the Burial Ground be sought.
- f) The letter to a holder of Exclusive Right of Burial be approved and signed.

97/15 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON COMMITTEE

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the remit of the Communication & Liaison Committee, which included:

- Website brief

It was **RESOLVED**: That the brief be sent to potential contractors.

98/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from Cllr Ayears on progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. 581 responses to the initial survey had been received, the analysis of which had begun. The survey results would be used to form a more detailed questionnaire. One objection had been received to the designation of Lovelace as a Neighbourhood Planning Area, from a potential local developer. It was expected that the developer would now be involved in discussions in some capacity.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the report from Cllr Ayears be noted.

99/15 CHRISTMAS EVENT

Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Cliff and Wood on recent meetings of the Christmas Event Committee. Preparations were at a similar stage to previous years. There would not be a new card design for this year, but visits to local businesses to raise funds for the Christmas Lights had been productive.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the report from Cllrs Cliff and Wood be noted.

100/15 PARKING

Members received a report from Cllrs Hancock and Wood on the recent meeting with representatives of both GBC and SCC, which involved a site visit around the village to look at parking issues. Parking bays in the High Street would be altered to '4 hour no return', which would present an opportunity to mailshot local businesses. It was deemed important to log accidents and complaints about anti-social parking with 101 and other relevant authorities, particularly concerning the area around the entrance to Georgelands.

It was **RESOLVED**: That the report from Cllrs Hancock and Wood be noted.

101/15 PUBLIC LOO

Members considered a monthly rate for locking the public loos on The Green. The parish council were receiving £2,000 annually from GBC for carrying out the task.

It was **RESOLVED**: That £165 per month be approved for the task.

102/15 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Traffic around Budgen's entrance, deteriorating tracks on The Green, cycle sculpture, and tree survey were suggested.

103/15 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next full meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 19th November, at the Church Room. An Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was scheduled to take place on either Thursday 3rd or 10th December, at a venue to be confirmed, if Guildford Borough Cllrs Billington, Furniss, and Spooner would be able to attend.

The meeting closed at 2155hrs.

Date:

Chairperson