



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2016 at 1930HRS at THE CHURCH ROOM, ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH.

Present: Cllr Jennie Cliff (Chairperson)
Cllr Richard Ayears
Cllr Colin Cross
Cllr Caspar Hancock
Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
Jim Morris, Clerk of the Council

Apologies: Cllrs Lisanne Mealing, and Vernon Wood

Also present: 3 members of the public

133/15 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) A local resident, speaking on behalf of Newark Lane Residents' Association, queried if a date had been set for the installation of a new bollard on Newark Lane.

RESPONSE: Cllr Ayears responded that, as far as the parish council was aware, Surrey County Council (SCC) was planning to carry out the work in this quarter.

b) The former Commodore of Papercourt Sailing Club thanked the Clerk for providing a letter of support for their recent grant application and explained the proposed purpose of the grant. Infrastructure was to be improved, and treeworks were also being planned in 2016. Some Ash dieback disease had been identified at the site.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the former Commodore for the update. Cllr Ayears asked that the club remind anglers not to park on the grass verge on Newark Lane. The former Commodore was happy to pass the message on.

134/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Mealing, and Cllr Wood

135/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Hancock declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14 'Village Hall': Cllr Hancock represents the Shed Youth Club on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

Cllr Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18 'Review of Council Policies': Cllr Cliff's spouse has an allotment.

136/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2015 and the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2015 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

137/15 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Christmas Event Committee was thanked for the record take that had been generated at the 2015 Fair. Thanks were also passed on from Ripley

Cricket Club for the upcoming work to the posts & rails adjacent to the outfield. Some consternation had been experienced at the club following inconsiderate parking causing deliveries to be unfulfilled, and a message from the club was to be tabled at a future meeting. Correspondence had been received from the school regarding access by fire engines in the event of an emergency. The school's Bursar was in touch with Surrey County Cllr Bill Barker, and the school had been pleased that the Chairperson had taken an interest in the issue. The developer involved in the exhibition regarding proposed development at White Horse Yard at the Talbot Hotel had visited members of the Planning & Environment Committee in order to gauge reaction to the proposals. Members had listened politely, had suggested that the brownfield areas of the site could possibly be developed and that they would wait and see an entered Planning Application before passing comment on the proposals. No response had yet been gained from enquiries into the lights at Lutidine House development. The local Estate Agent who had been asked about a Community noticeboard had recently remembered the fact that he had been asked, and therefore information on progression with the project may be posited at a future meeting. The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Powell-Cullingford back to the activities of the parish council following a spell away due to illness.

138/15 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Electoral Roll
- s.106
- Website
- ACVs
- Land at rear of West End Cottages

Information from Guildford Borough Council regarding parish councillors and the Electoral Roll was disseminated.

s.106 funding for the skateramp had been approved. The approved contractor had been appointed, and a date for the works would soon be set.

The parish council's website had been hacked at some point over the Christmas break. The new website was being developed, and would be accessible soon.

Assets of Community Value (ACVs) were discussed, with several possibilities for added protection suggested.

The owner of land at the rear of West End Cottages had been in touch since Agenda dispatch. The Clerk provided duplicate copies of a letter to the landowner setting out the conditions attached to access. The letters were signed by members.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report by the Parish Clerk be noted. Members agreed to consider potential sites for ACV listing ahead of the next meeting.**

139/15 CORRESPONDENCE

i) An email trail dated 7th December 2015 regarding a local bus shelter (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the parish council was content with the current bus shelter.**

ii) A letter dated 17th December 2015 from a local resident regarding slip road closures on the A3 (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That sympathies for the situation be sent to the author of the letter.**

iii) A letter dated 21st December 2015 from the Leader of West Sussex County Council regarding progress with the devolution bid being pursued by East and West Sussex and Surrey (copy attached to record minutes). Further information regarding a free event was also disseminated.

It was **RESOLVED: That the parish council would receive future updates on the Three Southern Counties (3SC) devolution bid from Cllr Cross.**

iv) An email dated 24th December 2015 from a local resident regarding litter and parking issues (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter from the local resident be noted. The resident had had some success regarding the issue by contacting the GBC Dog Warden.**

v) A letter dated 7th January 2016 signed by 10 local residents requesting a meeting with the Village Hall trustees (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter from local residents be noted. It was agreed that the letter could be discussed under Agenda item 14 'Village Hall'.**

vi) An email dated 10th January 2016 from a member of the farming community regarding tenant farming at the former Wisley Airfield (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter from the local farmer be noted.**

vii) An email dated 11th January 2016 from a local resident regarding the 'Clean for the Queen' weekend scheduled to take place in March (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That a date for a clean-up day in Ripley be resolved at a future meeting.**

140/15 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS and CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st November to 31st December 2015, totaling £7,347.29 (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 November to 31st December 2015, totaling £7,347.29 be noted. Cheques presented were authorised and signed.**

141/15 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received and considered the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on Mondays 16th November 2015 and 7th December 2015 (copies attached to record minutes). Planning & Environment Policy had been approved by Committee (Minute P&E 70/15) on 7th December 2015.

It was **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 16th November and 7th December 2015 be noted. Members approved the Planning & Environment Committee's adopted Planning Policy.**

142/15 LEISURE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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

- Posts & rails
- Maintenance of gates
- Groundwork hours review
- Wildflower areas
- Burial Ground trees
- Allotment agreement 2016-17 (copy attached to record Minutes)

It was **RESOLVED: that,**

a) Any extra posts ordered by the contractor would be stored by the parish council until further work to posts & rails was progressed.

b) A local handyperson would be engaged to paint a gate at the entrance to The Green.

c) A contract for maintaining the Burial Ground would be offered to local gardeners. Two visits in the months from March to October and one visit in the months from November to February would be adequate to keep the area well mown and tidy.

d) Members agreed to visit the wildflower areas on The Green ahead of the February meeting.

e) Members agreed to enter a Planning Application for all the trees at the site in order to engage a visit from the GBC Arboriculturalist. Once Planning Approval was granted, and the Arboriculturalist' report available, a decision on extent of treeworks to be carried out could be resolved. Concerns had been raised by residents with dwellings adjacent to the Burial Ground over the proposed treeworks, and a high level of engagement with local residents would be maintained.

f) The Allotment Agreement for 2016-17 be APPROVED. A charge of £50 will be invoiced to plot holders failing to upkeep their plot if the parish council has to undertake the work.

143/15 CHRISTMAS EVENT

Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Cliff, Cross, Powell-Cullingford, and Wood on recent meetings of the Christmas Event Committee. The Event had been a great success, surpassing the previous record year for turnover, 2012. There was no desire to increase the size of the Event as it worked very well and paid a large amount of the bill for the annual Christmas lights.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from Cllrs Cliff, Cross, Powell-Cullingford, and Wood be noted. The Chairperson of the Event, Chris Lee, was thanked for his hard work.**

144/15 NATURE RESERVE

Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Cliff, Hancock, and Wood on progress with the Nature Reserve and recent meetings of the Working Group. Pre-Application advice would be sought once the service reopened in early February.

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

145/15 FINANCE GROUP

Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Ayears and Cross on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group. The number of Band D properties in the parish had risen significantly, and the parish council had excellent cash reserves. There was a threat that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) would be suspended, but there was no information as to when this may occur. A 0% precept rise for financial year 2016-17 was recommended. It was proposed that the youth club finances be brought into the main parish council account as banking charges were being incurred. The youth club had always been financially self-sufficient, and this alteration would save over £80 per annum.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from Cllrs Ayears and Cross be noted. It was resolved to close parish council HSBC bank account number 2.**

146/15 BUDGET 2016-17

Members received and considered the budget proposal for 2016-17. The budget for Nature Reserve was adjusted as it was expected that any expenditure would be met from s.106 funding.

It was **RESOLVED: That a precept rise of 0% be submitted to GBC for financial year 2016-17.**

147/15 VILLAGE HALL

Members received and considered a report from Cllr Hancock on the recent meetings of the Village Hall Trustees and Village Hall Redevelopment Committee. Trustees had voted 5 – 3 to reject the parish council's offer of £100,000. The idea of a design including apartments above a new Village Hall had been rejected, and the Redevelopment Committee had been tasked with selling off the land to a private developer. Cllr Hancock had since stood down from representing the parish council at meetings of the Redevelopment Committee.

Cllr Hancock, along with nine other residents of the Village Hall's area of benefit, had written to the Chairperson of the Trustees to call a public meeting (copy attached to record Minutes). It had become apparent, however, that the relevant clause in the Trustees' Governing Document had been expunged with effect from 1st January 2016. Cllr Hancock expressed dismay at the manner in which this alteration had been carried out, and the effective disenfranchisement of residents in the Village Hall's area of benefit. Members discussed experiencing a loss of faith in the current Village Hall Trustees.

It was **RESOLVED: That Cllrs Cliff and Powell-Cullingford would share the duty of representing the parish council at meetings of the Village Hall Redevelopment Committee when availability permitted.**

148/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from Cllr Ayears on progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan, and the Ripley element of the Plan. The Plan's sub-committees had been developing elements of the Plan, and a 'call for sites' had been publicised and posted in relevant areas. Objectives would be written in the forthcoming months.

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

149/15 PARKING

Members considered improvements to White Hart car park, and the purchase of planters and disabled parking signage. A parking review would take place in 2016 in partnership with GBC and SCC in order to try and resolve issues in the village.

It was **RESOLVED: That disabled parking signage and robust planters be purchased.**

150/15 CLUSTER MEETING

Members received and considered a report from Cllr Ayears on the recent Eastern Parishes Cluster Meeting. SCC had agreed to carry out works to the drains along the High Street from Grandis Cottages towards the Church in order to mitigate flooding problems. Cllr Sarti and Cllr Bill Barker had been liaising on providing recording equipment to give indicative results on traffic speed in the village.

Members commended Cllr Ayears and Cllr Barker for their hard work in progressing the projects.

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

151/15 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members considered two parish council policies. Copies of the parish council's Anti-Bribery Policy, and Policy for the Allocation of Allotments had been circulated with the Agenda (copies attached to record Minutes).

There were no amendments to either Policy.

It was **RESOLVED: That the reviewed council policies be adopted.**

152/15 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Potholes and posts & rails were suggested.

153/15 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next full meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 18th February 2016, at the Church Room.

The meeting closed at 2225hrs.

Date:

Chairperson