



Ripley Parish Council

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MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY 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 Lisanne Mealing
Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
Cllr Vernon Wood
Jim Morris, Clerk of the Council

Also present: 6 members of the public

154/15 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) Surrey County Councillor Bill Barker asked whether the council would be considering the Bus Service Consultation. The County Council were considering several alterations to bus services in Ripley. Cllr Barker also posited that the proposed hospital merger would be an appropriate development in local healthcare provision.

RESPONSE: The parish council was due to discuss the proposed changes to Ripley bus services at the forthcoming meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee. Cllrs thanked Cllr Barker for the information on the proposed hospital merger.

b) A local resident brought up the damaged Village sign, reporting of potholes at the corner of Newark Lane, anti-social parking practices, the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan business questionnaire, and lights at the Lutidine House development.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the local resident for raising local issues. The damaged sign was due to be discussed in the Clerk's report. Members thanked the local resident for reporting the emergence of potholes to the relevant authority. Members suggested that anti-social parking was a matter for Guildford Borough Council (GBC), but that particularly bad instances should be reported by calling 101. Members were interested in the findings of the Lovelace business survey. Cllr Cross replied that the lights at Lutidine House were a matter for GBC's Environmental Health Department, and that a report should be forthcoming.

c) A local resident, speaking on behalf of Newark Lane Residents' Association (NLRA), thanked the parish council for installing small posts on Newark Lane to halt anti-social parking on the grass verges. The NLRA representative also brought up the poor state of the footpath onto The Green from the village.

RESPONSE: Members were gratified that the installed posts had been appreciated. The footpath in question was due to be discussed in the meeting.

d) A tenant farmer had contacted the parish council ahead of the meeting, and addressed members with regard to his business at the former Wisley Airfield. Local land had been farmed by his family company since 1979, and land at the former airfield had recently been taken over. The tenant farmer had been shocked by the reception afforded him by local residents, and had had to remove employees from the site following disturbances. The complexities of the local situation had not been fully explained when the contract had been offered, and it was felt that the proposition may have been turned down had the potential unpleasantness been more clearly elucidated.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the tenant farmer for the contribution. Cllrs expressed sympathy for the farmer and his unfortunate predicament. Cllr Bill Barker posited that it seemed to be a gross misunderstanding. Elm Corner had been used by GBC for parking for the recent Armed Forces Day

held in Guildford. It was recommended that the tenant farmer visit the next meeting of Ockham Parish Council.

e) A local resident raised the issue of anti-social parking around the village. A broken wrist had been suffered when trying to negotiate a safe egress around a car parked on the pavement. Several problem areas were identified.

RESPONSE: Members agreed that a letter should be written to businesses outside which anti-social parking was a problem.

155/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

156/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in correspondence item 6i: Cllr Cliff's spouse was an allotment plot holder.

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

Cllr Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9ii 'Leisure & Facilities Committee - potholes': Cllr Wood had a family member involved in providing estimates for work to the parish council.

157/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2016 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

158/15 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the Chairperson. Congratulations were offered to Cllr Hancock for his recent wedding. Some residents had recently asked the Chairperson whether the development behind Budgens was progressing. It was apparent that the applicant for Planning Approval had changed their mind regarding developing the site. The Chairperson and the Clerk were due to visit the Guildhall as guests of the Mayor.

The Chairperson, in her capacity as parish council representative to the Village Hall Redevelopment Committee, had been troubled by a suggestion in the Minutes of their meeting that new members were being sought without recourse to advertising the available positions more widely. It was posited that the Committee was acting as though it were a closed shop. The date of the Village Hall trustees AGM was to be set, and this would provide an opportunity for members of the public to attend.

The subject of the Ripley Conservation Area was due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee, and there had been communications to suggest that a Conservation Area report would soon become available. This development was eagerly anticipated.

159/15 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Village millennium sign
- A visit from The Mayor

Information on the village millennium sign, which had been hit by a vehicle, was discussed. The bricklayer who originally installed the sign would be contacted to arrange rebuilding the sign.

The Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith, had visited the Clerk and members of Ockham WI to discuss arrangements for her forthcoming garden party in aid of SATRO at Dunsborough Park. A date had been set for April 21st and the parish council discussed helping the event.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report by the Parish Clerk be noted. Members agreed to send the proposed letter to local businesses and to donate £25 to SATRO.**

160/15 CORRESPONDENCE

i) An email regarding Allotment fees (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the parish council would consider revising out-of-parish Allotment fees ahead of the next Allotment Agreement being sent.**

ii) A press release regarding the proposed merger of local hospitals (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the press release be noted. Members thanked Cllr Bill Barker for providing extra information on the subject.**

iii) A letter detailing the RHS Wisley 'History in the Making' plan review (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That Cllrs Cliff and Powell-Cullingford would visit the exhibition.**

iv) An email from Guildford Borough Council's (GBC) Policy and Partnerships Officer regarding lighting fires for The Queen (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the Bonfire Association would be granted permission to permanently install the beacon on The Green at a site mutually agreed with the parish council.**

v) An email from GBC regarding Walkfest 2016 (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the History Society be contacted to provide information on historic local walks.**

vi) A letter regarding our ageing monarch's birthday party (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That permission be granted to use The Green for a celebratory picnic. The usual fee was waived and a donation of £150 was agreed towards music at the event. The organiser was thanked for their efforts.**

vii) A press release from GBC regarding tax and spend (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the press release be noted. The parish council's 0% precept increase was noted.**

viii) An email from a local resident regarding a potential danger found on The Green (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email be noted. The local resident was thanked for bringing this issue to the attention of the council and would be asked to keep any evidence of animal traps in future instances. A letter would be drafted to both the Cricket Club and Football Club to warn their players and staff of the potential hazard.**

162/15 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS and CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1st to 31st January 2016, totaling £2,846.31 (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 to 31st January 2016, totaling £2,846.31 be noted. Cheques presented were authorised and signed. A full report on income and expenditure would be prepared for the next meeting of the Christmas Event Committee.**

163/15 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received and considered the minutes of the recent Planning & Environment Committee meeting (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 11th January 2016 be noted.**

164/15 LEISURE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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

- Posts & rails
- Potholes
- Wildflower areas

It was **RESOLVED: that,**

a) The progression of the posts & rails project was noted.

b) Further information and estimates be prepared in time for the March meeting.

c) Areas for mowing would be demarcated by the Clerk, in close consultation with the parish council. Areas on The Green had suffered from vehicles parking in inappropriate areas at some events. Clear instructions would be disseminated with booking information in future. Clear instructions would also be given to maintenance contractors regarding the extent of mowing to be carried out.

165/15 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

- Newsletter

It was **RESOLVED: That the subjects Bus Service consultation, Birthday Party, parking, Village Hall, and Annual Parish Meeting be added to the forthcoming Newsletter.**

166/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from Cllr Ayears on progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. Six working groups were focussing on developing particular elements of the Plan. The 'call for sites' had been extended in some areas and a business survey had been produced. The Plan would not be able to over-reach into areas already the subject of substantial legislation, such as green belt development. There was considerable support from other areas within Lovelace and Ockham Parish Council. Cllr Ayears asked members for help with the 'infrastructure' element of the Plan.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from Cllr Ayears be noted. Members agreed to consider availability to help with elements of the Plan.**

167/15 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Members considered buildings appropriate for proposing as Assets of Community Value (ACVs).

It was **RESOLVED: That Ripley Village Hall and its associated land be nominated for ACV status.**

168/15 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members considered two parish council policies. Copies of the parish council's Financial Regulations, Policy for Charges for Use of The Green and Flowerbed Sponsorship, and Complaints Procedure had been circulated with the Agenda (copies attached to record Minutes). It was expected that Financial Regulations would need updating in 2017 to take into account new pensions legislation. A charge of £125 per sign per annum was approved for sponsorship of the flowerbeds.

It was **RESOLVED: That the reviewed council policies be adopted. It was resolved that members would be appointed by the Clerk to review a policy ahead of each meeting and that the Clerk provide support where necessary.**

169/15 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

West End Cottages potholes, Wisley exhibition, and number of parish councillors were suggested.

170/15 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next full meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 17th March 2016, at the Church Room.

The meeting closed at 2155hrs.

Date:

Chairperson