



## Ripley Parish Council

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### MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2016 at 1930HRS at THE CHURCH ROOM, ST MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH.

**Present:** Cllr Jennie Cliff (Chairperson)  
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

#### 190/15 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) A representative of Newark Lane Residents' Association (NLRA) noted that posts on Newark Lane opposite pedestrian access to Papercourt Lake were apparently being removed.

**RESPONSE: Members thanked the NLRA representative for bringing the issue to the parish council's attention. It was suggested that a more permanent solution could be sought.**

b) A local resident raised a question over results of the recent bus service consultation.

**RESPONSE: Members thanked the local resident for the question. The results from the bus service consultation had been published, but no information on proposed changes had been published.**

#### 191/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Ayears.

#### 192/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Cross declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 9: Cllr Cross owned a property on The Green.

Cllr Hancock declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 13: Cllr Hancock represented the Youth Club on the Village Hall board of trustees.

Cllr Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 13: Cllr Wood represented the Bonfire Association on the Village Hall board of trustees.

#### 193/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

#### 194/15 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the Chairperson. Many positive comments had been received for the posts & rails replacement which had taken place around the cricket outfield. The project would be continued as funds were available, and the work had made the remaining posts & rails seem to be in very poor condition. Local resident Ted Strange was thanked for his work painting the gate on The Green.

Cllr Cross, Ripley Parish Councillor and Lovelace Ward representative at GBC was congratulated on the recent outcome of the Three Farms Meadows Planning Application. Cllr Cross had worked particularly hard to ensure that all GBC councillors could see the inherent problems of development at the site.

Thanks were offered to Mr Gough, the Head of Ripley Court School, for the invitation to the recent opening of the school's memorial garden. Cllrs Cliff, Cross, Mealing, and Wood had attended the opening, and the Duke of Kent had also been in attendance.

The Chairperson asked that all available councillors attend an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the parish council, to be held ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report by the Parish Council Chairperson be noted. A donation of £50 to Ted Strange was approved.**

#### **195/15** PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

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

- s106
- Community Governance Review
- Poo bags
- 515 bus service
- Flowerbed sponsorship

The Half Pipe on The Green had received s106 funding and had the supplier had been remunerated.

Further information on increasing the number of parish councillors was given. A Community Governance Review (CGR) would need to be undertaken, if a demonstrable need could be established. A process of consultation would be explored, beginning with an article on the next 'Parish Review' newsletter. Ripley may have a good case for increasing the number of parish councillors due to having had two contested elections out of the most recent three.

Members resolved to continue providing free poo bags at two locations on The Green.

Following a question from a parishioner at the previous meeting regarding the 515 bus service, further information had been sought. The service was not included in the recent consultation, but the general service interval had been widened from every 60 minutes to every 75 minutes following a consultation held some time ago.

Members resolved to offer sponsorship of one flowerbed to each potential sponsor.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report by the Parish Clerk be noted.**

#### **196/15** CORRESPONDENCE

i) An email from Grove Heath Court Residents' Association regarding issues with the highway (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email be noted. Members agreed that the highway in question was in a particularly poor state. The Clerk would liaise with Surrey County Council (SCC) and the Residents' Association in order to seek an agreeable outcome.**

ii) A letter from a local resident regarding issues with footpaths (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter be noted. The Clerk had replied to the letter and had raised the issue with SCC. Members noted the poor condition of several footpaths around the village.**

iii) An email from a local resident regarding issues with highways and footpaths (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the email be noted. Members suggested a reply asking the resident to report incidences of anti-social parking to both Guildford Borough Council (GBC) and 101 be drafted.**

iv) A letter from the Forestry Commission regarding issues with Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillars (copy attached to record minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter be responded to and referred to SCC. Members were concerned at the apparent discrepancies within the letter and the assertion of liability to the parish council.**

v) An email from Ripley Cricket Club thanking the parish council (copy attached to record minutes).

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

vi) A letter from SATRO thanking the parish council

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.**

#### **197/15** SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS, CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL & FINANCE GROUP

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, totaling £16,002.44 (copy attached to the record minutes). Cheques were presented by the Parish Clerk

for authorisation and signing. Members received and considered a report from Cllrs Cross and Mealing on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED: That the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, totaling £16,002.44 be noted. Cheques presented were authorised and signed. The report on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group was noted. A budget surplus of around £7,000 had been made in 2015-16.**

#### 198/15 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the remit of the Planning & Environment Committee, including the minutes of the recent Planning & Environment Committee meetings (copies attached to record minutes).

GBC had published the new draft Local Plan. Several local sites had been earmarked for development and many villages, including Ripley, were to be inset from the green belt. Consultation was due to open in June.

It was **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 be noted.**

#### 199/15 LEISURE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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

- Email regarding access to Ripley Farmers' Market winter market site (copy attached to record Minutes)
- Planters
- Offer of equipment to increase accessibility in the Burial Ground
- Burial Ground Extension treeworks application
- Allotment field trip

It was **RESOLVED: that,**

**a) The option of installing a new gate would not be pursued. The Clerk was asked to research the possibility of providing a track which could be laid on Farmers' Market days and removed after the event.**

**b) Potential provision of further planters would be considered in future years, as budget allowed. The purchase of 6 plaques for the existing planters was approved.**

**c) The offer of a railway for the Burial Ground would not be pursued. A local resident had been keen to offer a train track and rolling stock to the parish council, but issues with Environmental Health, health & safety, and parish council finances were identified.**

**d) The Clerk would seek advice on carrying out emergency treeworks within the Conservation Area.**

**e) Members would provide The Clerk with some potential dates for a field trip to the Allotments.**

#### 200/15 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Members received and considered a report on the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting. A budget of £100 had been allocated for refreshments. Speakers had been lined up to provide information on the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan process.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report on the Annual Parish Meeting be noted.**

#### 201/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from a member of the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan Group (LNPG), Jan Jewers, on progress with the Plan. A meeting was due to take place to discuss how the differing elements were coming along. Further consultation and promotion of the Plan was due to occur.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report on the LNPG be noted. Members thanked Jan Jewers for the update.**

#### 202/15 NATURE RESERVE

Members received a report from Cllr Powell-Cullingford on progress with the Parish Council's Nature Reserve. Pre-Application Advice from GBC had been frustrating, with the suggestion that special circumstances would need to be demonstrated in order to carry out development in the green belt. A subsequent meeting with Cllr Cross and Surrey Community Action had proposed some actions to be undertaken, including getting letters of support from interested parties. The use of the site as a local amenity rather than a visitor attraction would be highlighted. The Planning Application was due to be ready for validation within the forthcoming weeks.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from Cllr Powell-Cullingford be noted. Preparation of the Nature Reserve Planning Application would be undertaken by the Clerk with help from Cllr Cross, and was approved for entering with GBC at the earliest convenience.**

#### **203/15 VILLAGE HALL AGM**

Members received a report on the Village Hall Trustees' forthcoming AGM, which was due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Any resident of the Village Hall's Area of Benefit, aged 18 or over, was able to stand for election to the board of trustees, and members had been gratified to hear that there was growing interest in the AGM. Some background on recent meetings between trustees and developers which had seemingly taken place in secret was discussed.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

#### **204/15 APPROVED CONTRACTORS**

Members received and considered a report from The Clerk on parish council approved contractors.

Cllrs Cliff and Wood both declared an interest in this Agenda item. It became apparent that both had family members on the proposed list of approved contractors.

It was **RESOLVED: That the list of approved contractors be agreed and approved.**

#### **205/15 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES**

Members considered two parish council policies. Copies of the parish council's Data Protection Policy and Policy Regarding Requests for Multiple Deeds of Grant of the Exclusive Right of Burial had been circulated with the Agenda (copies attached to record Minutes).

It was **RESOLVED: That the reviewed council policies be adopted. The Data Protection Policy would be updated to reflect the current Data Protection Act. No alterations were made to the Policy Regarding Requests for Multiple Deeds of Grant of the Exclusive Right of Burial.**

#### **206/15 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Newsletter, and fixed asset register were suggested.

#### **207/15 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next full meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at the Church Room.

The meeting closed at 2125hrs.

Date:

Chairperson