



Ripley Parish Council Office
 4 Rio House
 High Street
 Ripley
 Surrey
 GU23 6AE
 Phone: 01483 224847
clerk@ripleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.ripleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

**MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 16th MARCH 2017
 at 1930HRS at THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE.**

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: 2 members of the public

159/16 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 had returned from holiday and was interested in recent developments on parish matters.

RESPONSE: Members thanked Cllr Barker for attending the meeting. Prospective County Councillor for the Horsleys electoral division, Julie Iles, had been instrumental in arranging a meeting with representatives of Surrey County Council (SCC), although a date had yet to be set.

b) A local resident praised the parish council for the current vista of The Green. The new maintenance regime was paying dividends. Near misses between vehicles at the entrance to Wentworth Close were reported, and a query was raised over the lack of pollarding to the London Plane at the entrance to the Co-op store.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the resident for raising the issues. The new maintenance regime was clearly beneficial. The sightlines issue experienced at Wentworth Close was not something the parish council had any control over, but the Clerk was asked to raise a question with SCC over proposed works. Pollarding of the London Plane was to be discussed in the Clerk's Report.

160/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Richard Ayears.

161/16 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 'Village Hall': Cllr Cliff represented the Over 60s Club on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

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

Cllr Mealing declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 'Village Hall': Cllr Mealing represented the Parish Council on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

Cllr Powell-Cullingford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 'Village Hall': Cllr Powell-Cullingford was an elected representative on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

Cllr Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 'Village Hall': Cllr Wood represented the Bonfire Committee on the Village Hall board of Trustees.

162/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th February 2017 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

163/16 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Chairperson. The Bonfire Association was thanked for its recent event at which cheques had been distributed to many local organisations, including to the parish council for its annual Christmas lights. The Ripley Bonfire Association had also provided funds towards the completion of the Nature Reserve. The school had been visited to tell young people about the development of the Nature Reserve and a visit to the Cubs was also due to take place. Julie Iles was thanked for her work on facilitating a meeting with representatives from SCC. The parish council's newsletter was due to be ready for delivery within the coming weeks.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from the parish council Chairperson be noted.**

164/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Clerk:

- Pollarding
- Ripley Event

Information on SCC's refusal to pollard the London Plane was disseminated. Horsleys Cllr Bill Barker asked for the contact details of SCC's Arboricultural Team Leader. Cllr Wood agreed to visit The Green with the Clerk and clearly delineate the area to be mown for overspill parking.

It was **RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.**

165/16 CORRESPONDENCE (copies attached to record Minutes)

i) Grant request from Send & Ripley History Society (SRHS)

Councillors Cliff, Hancock, and Powell-Cullingford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6i. All were members of SRHS. It was RESOLVED: That a grant of £250 be sent to SRHS.

ii) Grant request from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Trust (KSAAT)

It was **RESOLVED: That a grant of £50 be sent to KSSAAT**

iii) Email regarding adverse weather outcomes

It was **RESOLVED: That the email be noted. A local resident would be asked for advice.**

iv) Letter regarding RideLondon [sic]

It was **RESOLVED: That the letter be noted. The event's detrimental effect on local businesses was noted.**

v) Nomination form for Guildford Roll of Honour

It was **RESOLVED: That the nomination form be noted.**

166/16 FINANCE

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1/2/17 to 28/2/17, totalling £17,897.30 (copy attached to record minutes).

Cheques presented by the Parish Clerk were authorised and signed.

A report on the recent meeting of the parish council's Finance Working Group was considered.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 1/2/17 to 28/2/17, totalling £17,897.30 be approved.

b) Cheques presented for authorisation be approved and signed.

c) The report be noted. Cllrs Cliff and Powell-Cullingford had joined the FWG meeting alongside members of the Working Group. Discussions on parish council cash reserves and the budget for financial year 2017/18 had been held. The draft budget was approved without alteration by the Working Group. An amount equivalent to 6 month's Precept would always be left in general reserves. Despite a lot of spending having taken place, the parish council's financial situation would begin to look much better once the 6 monthly VAT reclaim had been received. The meeting had discussed Legal Topic Note (LTN) 21 and other objectives surrounding offering help to Ripley Village Hall. It had been considered a responsibility to help the Village Hall and a suggestion had been made to seek advice from SSALC over how much it would be possible to raise a loan for. The Clerk's pension scheme was close to completion. The Chairperson signed forms to be sent to Standard Life. Changes to the parish council's NatWest bank account were enacted.

167/16 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the remit of the Planning & Environment Committee:

- Minutes of the P&E Committee meeting held on 30/1/17 (copy attached to record Minutes)
- FRED schedule and results to date (copy attached to record Minutes)
- Restrictive covenants
- Three Farms Meadows (TFM) Planning Inquiry

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 30/1/17 be noted.

b) The speed indicator unit results be noted.

c) The report on restrictive covenants be noted. Further legal advice was being sought to analyse the covenants and their implications for the parish council. It was proposed that GBC might also find information on the restrictive covenants useful. An upper limit of £3,000 spending was approved.

d) Cllr Cross would attempt to enact a meeting with other local Rule 6(6) participants. The item would be included on all future Agendas for the foreseeable future.

168/16 LEISURE & FACILITIES

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

- Horse riding on The Green
- Schedule for posts & rails replacement

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) Following information on Bridleways and Permissive Horserides provided to the horse-riders by Cllr Hancock, who had chanced upon the apparent culprits, the issue would be monitored.

b) A price for areas 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 would be sought from the parish council's approved contractor. Up to 5 tonnes of scalplings would also be purchased to carry out maintenance of the playground car park.

169/16 VILLAGE HALL

No meetings of the Village Hall Trustees had taken place recently.

Cllr Mealing proposed a motion that: "Council members who are also Ripley Village Hall Trustees with non-pecuniary interest may partake in discussions and vote on Ripley Village Hall matters."

A comprehensive discussion ensued, with reference to NALC's Legal Topic Notes 21 and 28, with particular focus on LTN 28 paragraph 21. It was put forward that there could be a conflict of interest if matters discussed at Trustees' meetings were then voted on by a majority of parish council members. A potential vulnerability over contentious decisions was identified. Cllr Hancock proposed a further motion, that: "Ripley Parish Councillors who are also Ripley Village Hall Trustees, with the exception of Ripley Parish Council's representative Trustee, should not have voting rights on the current issue of a potential grant from Ripley Parish Council to Ripley Village Hall, but may participate in discussions." It was posited that every possible measure ought to be taken in order to ensure correct parish council procedures were followed.

It was **RESOLVED: That the motion "Ripley Parish Councillors who are also Ripley Village Hall Trustees, with the exception of Ripley Parish Council's representative Trustee, should not have voting rights on the current issue of a potential grant from Ripley Parish Council to Ripley Village Hall, but may participate in discussions" be passed.**

Following the report of the recent meeting of the Parish Council's Finance Working Group, which had suggested seeking guidance from Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils (SSALC) on raising a Public Works Loans Board loan, members discussed borrowing up to £600,000 in order to help Village Hall redevelopment. The parish council agreed to help fund redevelopment if it was possible to do so.

It was **RESOLVED: That guidance on borrowing up to £600,000 be sought from SSALC.**

170/16 NATURE RESERVE

Members received and considered a report on progress with the Parish Council's Nature Reserve. A recent meeting at the site had noted recent developments and had chosen spots for recreational furniture. The proposed Byelaws had been finalised by the Working Group. The Working Group had proposed asking Lovelace Ward Councillor Cross to officially open the Nature Reserve.

It was **RESOLVED: That report be noted. The Byelaws would be proposed to Natural England and advice sought on the consultation process. Cllr Cross was able to officially open the Nature Reserve site on Friday 23rd June 2017.**

171/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from Cllr Cross on recent progress of the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan Group (LNPG) with developing the Plan. The published roadmap (attached to record Minutes) was deemed to be succinct. Once the Plan had progressed through stages of statutory consultation it would begin to carry significant weight when deciding planning matters.

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

172/16 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Members received a report on the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Cllr Powell-Cullingford would put together a presentation for the evening regarding Village Hall funding. Ripley Bowling Club had offered use of its premises free of charge.

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

173/16 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Village 20mph speed limit was suggested.

174/16 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next full meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 20th April 2017, at the Parish Council Office.

The meeting closed at 2135hrs.

Date:

Chairperson