



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 20th APRIL 2017
 at 1930HRS at THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE.**

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

Apologies: Cllr Richard Ayears, Cllr Colin Cross, and Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford

Also present: 8 members of the public

175/16 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, the Chairperson reassured members of the public that the meeting was quorate and decisions made by the council were binding. Two parish councillors were attending a Committee meeting at Millmead. Members of the public were invited to speak.

a) A resident of Heath Mews spoke in support of correspondence which was to be discussed at Agenda item 6. The speed indicator device (SID) results had been forwarded by the Clerk, and would be used to inform a forthcoming residents' meeting at Heath Mews, at which an action plan was due to be decided upon.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the resident for attending the meeting. The lack of enforcement of speed limits at all village locations was noted. Grove Heath North also had similar issues when exiting, and it was suggested that a strong residents' campaign would gain the support of the parish council and be noticed by the relevant authorities.

b) A local resident stated admiration for the work of the parish council and asked for advice as to who they should vote for in the forthcoming County Council and General Elections.

RESPONSE: The Chairperson thanked the resident for their contribution to the meeting. The parish council was non-party political, however, and it was suggested that the debate might be better held in one of the local public houses.

c) The former Commodore of Papercourt Sailing Club gave the meeting information on a recent Schools' Regatta event held at the Club, which had been a great success. The Club had renewed its training fleet and had completed fundraising for a vessel suitable for disabled participants. An Open Day was scheduled to be held on 13th May 2017. It was due to be social event, with opportunities for members of the public to try their hand at sailing.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the former Commodore for his positive report and evident indefatigable enthusiasm for the Papercourt Sailing Club.

d) Outgoing Surrey County Councillor Bill Barker reminded the meeting that the Surrey County Council election was forthcoming. Cllr Barker had represented the Horsleys division for 20 years.

RESPONSE: Members thanked Cllr Barker for his long service as the elected member for the Horsleys Division and for working tirelessly for the benefit of Ripley Parish.

176/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Ayears, Cross, and Powell-Cullingford.

177/16 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6 'Correspondence': Cllr Cliff's spouse was an Allotment plot holder

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 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

178/16 MINUTES

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

179/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Chairman. The recent meeting of the Ripley & Send Matters Committee had been attended, and the previous issue had been successful and well-received. The Chairman had taken Cllr Wood to the recent *Visit Surrey* event held at Brooklands. The over-riding message from speakers had been to promote our own areas and, as such, the Chairman had been in discussion with a local resident to create some "Visit Ripley" text for the parish council's website detailing activities and places to eat and drink, for example.

The Chairman, and several councillors, had been busy supporting the Primary School. A meeting with representatives of Surrey County Council had been held and had resulted in positive outcomes. The governing body had been pressed to hold a public meeting, although this seemed a distant possibility. A strong public show of strength was called for.

The Chairman of the new Interim Executive Board (IEB) identified himself as being in the public gallery. The IEB was newly formed and had written to all parents. Dialogue with the community was being positively sought. A short discussion was held over the lack of identified secondary school provision for young people in Ripley. Members agreed that having a designated secondary school would be of great benefit to local parents and guardians.

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

180/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Clerk (attached to record Minutes):

- Findings of the Planning Committee Review Group
- Highway Safety Awareness training
- Social media
- #GBspringclean
- Use of The Green 22/4/17

Further information in support of Agenda item 8iv was provided in the form of the Leader of Guildford Borough Council's response a recent communication from the Clerk.

The Clerk had attended a recent training course on the correct use of the speed indicator device (SID), and Ripley Parish Council had been one of three parishes represented.

A recent Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) conference had been attended by the Clerk and Cllr Powell-Cullingford. A talk regarding use of social media had been particularly informative and a further training day had been arranged for 12th May 2017.

A local resident, who had raised a query over the possibility of having a clean-up day at a previous meeting, had been in liaison with the Clerk over a possible date for the event. Saturday 20th May 2017 had been chosen for Ripley's "Clean the Scene" day, which was part of a wider campaign promoted by *Keep Britain Tidy*.

A local engineering firm, recently installed in the village, had arranged to use The Green on Saturday 22nd April 2017. Some Aston Martin cars were expected to turn up.

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

181/16 CORRESPONDENCE (copies attached to record Minutes)

i) Polytunnel request from an Allotment plot holder

It was **RESOLVED: To investigate possible insurance issues ahead of issuing a decision**

ii) Request for a new dog waste bin

It was **RESOLVED: To seek the advice of the GBC Dog Warden regarding further possible dog bin provision. A further site at the top of the Milk Road was suggested**

iii) Letter of thanks from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Trust

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

iv) Email regarding traffic issues on Portsmouth Road

It was **RESOLVED: That the email be noted. The issues had been broadly covered by the discussion ahead of the formal meeting**

v) Letter of thanks from the Chairman of Ripley Cricket Club

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

vi) Correspondence regarding the installation of a footpath at the Allotments site

It was **RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted. The council had not previously been made aware of any theft issues at the site, and was content with the works being carried out**

182/16 FINANCE

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1/3/17 to 31/3/17, totalling £19,959.39 (copy attached to record minutes).

Cheques for authorisation were presented by the Parish Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 1/3/17 to 31/3/17, totalling £19,959.39 be approved

b) Cheques presented for authorisation be approved and signed

183/16 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

- Minutes of the P&E Committee meetings held on 20/2/17 & 13/3/17 (attached to record Minutes)
- SID schedule and results to date (attached to record Minutes)
- 20mph speed limit
- Restrictive covenants
- Three Farms Meadows (TFM) Planning Inquiry
- GBC's "Findings of the Planning Committee Review Group" report and correspondence regarding the matter (attached to record Minutes)
- GBC draft Local Plan (attached to record Minutes)

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 20/2/17 & 13/3/17 be noted

b) The speed indicator unit results be noted

c) The item would be deferred to a future meeting. The concept of having a 20mph village speed limit had been posited by Cllr Cross at a previous meeting

d) A decision on writing to local landowners regarding the parish council's restrictive covenants be deferred to a future meeting

e) The report on the TFM Planning Inquiry be noted. No further information on the forthcoming Inquiry was available. The item would be included on all future Agendas for the foreseeable future

f) The report from the Parish Clerk and associated supporting information be noted. The Clerk raised a series of points regarding GBC's recent decision to reduce the number of members sitting on its Planning Committee. Borough Councillors had voted to reduce the representation from their wards, yet no consultation had taken place with Guildford Borough's Parish Councils. At least two opportunities to promote the idea to representatives of parish councils had been missed. The Clerk had been disappointed with the seeming disdain towards its parishes displayed by the leadership of GBC. It was further **RESOLVED: that Ripley Parish Council would write to the Leader of Guildford Borough Council to express its disappointment over the recent developments. Members were troubled by GBC's lack of a response to the Clerk's clearly expressed genuine concerns and the lack of consultation**

g) The Press Release regarding GBC's next iteration of its draft Local Plan be noted. Despite receiving over 30,000 responses to its first draft, GBC were continuing to place strategic site allocations at both Garlick's Arch and the former Wisley Airfield. Burnt Common was also now due to receive extra industrial development

184/16 LEISURE & FACILITIES

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

- Request for use of The Green from 8/7/17 – 11/7/17 (Appendix N)
- Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillar (OPM) information

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

- a) The request for use of The Green be approved once the applicant had provided extra information on insurance and the expected extent of the activities. The Green would not be available for use until at least 2pm on Saturday 8th July
- b) Correspondence regarding OPM caterpillar removal be noted

185/16 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received and considered a written report from Cllr Cross regarding a potential Community Governance Review: "Although Suzie and I will both attend GBC's BEAB meeting tonight to protest at the latest Local Plan, I would very much appreciate you all still considering this item in our absence as it may yet form part of our continuing resistance to the unacceptably high level of development being planned by GBC for Ripley and Lovelace.

"Essentially, I have made enquiries to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) regarding the process for requesting that a local Ward be transferred between Borough Councils. In our case that would be Lovelace leaving the GBC borough and joining either Elmbridge or Woking Boroughs. To do this, there would have to be a general agreement at Parish and Borough Council levels and a joint approach to LGBC from Guildford, Surrey County Council and either Woking or Elmbridge Councils. The LGBC would then consider a number of issues before progressing to a review, including the levels of local support for a boundary change, the financial viability of future arrangements and the service provision for affected residents.

"I have consulted privately with Ockham Parish Council and they agree with attempting to start this process. I have not approached either GBC or SCC on this however, as we at RPC need to agree on our actions first.

"I am seeking RPC agreement to initiate formal discussions with the said parties as outlined above. Prior to that, however, I propose we issue a press release explaining why we are doing this, what is involved and clarifying to our residents that once we have concluded discussions and if we have a firm transfer proposal on the table, we will then have a referendum in Lovelace as to whether we make a transfer or not. (Yes folks, its "LOVEXIT"!).

"In summary, I hope we all realise that the likelihood of GBC going along with this is very low indeed. However, it does offer us a powerful PR weapon with which to thoroughly embarrass them and might even make the national press. GBC have had some pretty embarrassing press in recent years (including regular appearances in Private Eye's 'Rotten Boroughs'), this could turn into their most embarrassing of all as we will ensure it is directly linked to their intransigence on the Local Plan and their unfair and unrealistic bias in loading 20% (2,500) of their new homes target in rural Lovelace, with its population of only 2,500, less than 2% of Guildford Borough's total population. At the same time Guildford's town centre, 52% of the borough as a whole, will only have to bear a housing increase of 28% of the total target.

"If RPC can tonight endorse this principle of opening the dialogue with the relevant third parties, I will be happy to work with Jim to draft a press release for us all to see and agree, as the first step."

It was **RESOLVED: That report be noted. Ripley Parish Council's confidence in the leadership of Guildford Borough Council had been severely diminished by recent events. The parish council resolved to make initial enquiries to Ockham Parish Council to see if the idea was worth pursuing. Horsleys Division Cllr Bill Barker posited that GBC had recently acted with duplicity beyond belief.**

186/16 VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Mealing provided a brief update on the recent meeting of the Village Hall Trustees.

Members discussed 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." 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 report be noted and 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.**

187/16 CHRISTMAS EVENT

Members received and considered a report on the recent meeting of the Christmas Event Committee. Stall bookings had already been received and discussions were underway to resolve the provision of entertainment sites. Fewer flyers would be printed this year, but traffic warning banners, which would also serve as advertisements, would be placed at either end of the village.

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

188/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report from a member of the Steering Group on recent progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. The draft was coming together, with a current emphasis on creating a short, easily readable document. Key facts, policies, and Appendices were being scrutinised and developed. Representation at this year's village events would be enacted in order to mediate progress to the general public. Feedback would be reviewed and assimilated before the next stages.

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

189/16 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Members received a report on the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting (APM). The Chairman and Clerk would liaise with the Bowling Club Committee over details for the running of the APM.

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

190/16 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Village 20mph speed limit, restrictive covenants, Planning Inquiry, and polytunnels were suggested.

191/16 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The parish council's Annual Meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 18th May 2017, at the Parish Council Office.

The meeting closed at 2105hrs.

Date:

Chairperson