



**MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING held on THURSDAY 15th JUNE 2017
at 1930HRS at THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE.**

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

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

Also present: 7 members of the public

25/17 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) A member of the public asked to raise awareness of Surrey County Council's plans to introduce play structures at Newlands Corner. The proposals were inappropriate development in the Green Belt, and would damage the area's openness. Newlands Corner was classed an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). SCC wanted to increase visitor numbers to the site in order to increase revenue from parking charges.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the representative of the Save Newlands Corner Group for the update. The parish council's Planning & Environment Committee had resolved to enter an objection to the proposals, which was due to be finalised at the meeting scheduled for 3/7/17. The proposal would be highlighted on the parish council's website

b) A local resident raised the issue of horseriding on The Green. On numerous occasions horses had been encountered off the bridleways and permissive horserides. The resident had spoken with horse riders off the Bridleway but had encountered some hostility.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the local resident for raising the issue. It was resolved that new waymarkers would be requested from SCC, and some laminated maps would be placed at entrances to The Green

c) A local resident picked up on further detail regarding the Newlands Corner proposals. It was posited that SCC's plans for the site represented the thin end of the wedge, and that other sites, such as Ockham Common, may become subject to similar proposals.

RESPONSE: Members agreed that such proposals must be rejected at every opportunity

d) The same local resident reported on the recent Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Local Plan consultation event held at East Horsley Village Hall. It was felt that the Borough Council was being dishonest in its mediation of the proposals and its members ought to be reminded that they work for us, rather than the other way around

RESPONSE: Members agreed that the local area had been feeling very despondent over the excessive development being proposed locally by GBC

26/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

27/17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Cliff declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11iii '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 11iii 'Village Hall': Cllr Wood represented the Bonfire Committee on the Village Hall board of Trustees

28/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2017 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

29/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Mayor for the invitation to the recent cricket festival. The afternoon had been very well catered and had been most enjoyable, although Surrey County cricketers may have felt less enthused with the day's outcome.

The Chairman was looking forward to the upcoming official opening of the Nature Reserve site. Ripley Court School would probably not be able to make it, but it was hoped that representatives of the Primary School would be there.

The Primary School had recently sent a letter home to parents regarding changes to the administration of classes. It was felt that the wording had been poorly chosen, and that had resulted in a good deal of confusion. Some parents had removed their children from the school as a result and there appeared to be a lack of support from people who may have the authority to allay concerns. It was hoped that the parish council would support those parents who were trying to help and support the school through the current period of uncertainty. It was **RESOLVED: That the report from the parish council Chairperson be noted. Members agreed that the school had the unequivocal support of the parish council**

30/17 CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Ripley Green Road

The Clerk had raised a query with GBC over the apparent mis-naming of the Milk Road on much online mapping systems. Subsequent correspondence had revealed that the Milk Road was formally named Ripley Green Road from the High Street to the dogleg, after which it became Dunsborough Park

It was RESOLVED: That the Clerk's Report be noted. The parish council resolved to seek signage for Ripley Green Road from GBC. Some extra wording was suggested.

31/17 CORRESPONDENCE (copies attached to record Minutes)

- i) Email regarding traffic concerns at Grove Heath Road

It was **RESOLVED: That the correspondence be passed to SCC**

- ii) Email regarding Allotment fees

It was **RESOLVED: That the current system, whereby parishioners enjoyed a lower rate for Allotment plots, would be continued**

- iii) Email regarding provision of storage space

Members could not

- iv) Request to purchase land from the parish council

It was **RESOLVED: That the correspondence be passed on to a future meeting of the council or its Planning & Environment Committee, at the discretion of Cllr Ayears as Chairman of the P&E Committee**

- v) Notification of the CPRE AGM

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

32/17 FINANCE

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1/5/17 to 31/5/17, totalling £3,971.31 (copy attached to record minutes)

Cheques for authorisation were presented by the Parish Clerk

Members considered the internal audit report from Mike Platten. Some very minor issues had been identified, and the parish council was classed as 'low risk'.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

a) The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 1/5/17 to 31/5/17, totalling £3,971.31 be approved

b) Cheques presented for authorisation be approved and signed

c) The Clerk would look into opening new bank accounts for the parish council and report findings to the Finance Working Group at a future meeting

33/16 ANNUAL RETURN – GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members received and considered Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement prepared by the Parish Clerk for the external auditor. All fields were agreed.

It was **RESOLVED: That Section 1 of the parish council's Annual Return be agreed and signed.**

34/16 ANNUAL RETURN – ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

Members received and considered Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Annual Accounting Statement prepared by the Parish Clerk for the external auditor. All fields were agreed.

It was **RESOLVED: That Section 2 of the parish council's Annual Return be agreed and signed.**

35/17 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

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

i) Minutes of the P&E Committee meeting held on 24/4/17 (attached to record Minutes)

ii) SID schedule and results to date (attached to record Minutes)

iii) 20mph speed limit

iv) Three Farms Meadows (TFM) Planning Inquiry

v) GBC draft Local Plan

vi) GBC Rural Economic Strategy update (attached to record Minutes)

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

i) The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 24/4/17 be noted

ii) The speed indicator unit results be noted. Horsleys Division Cllr Iles queried for what purpose were the results being collated and used. Members were unsure whether the results would lead to any traffic mitigation measures

iii) Cllr Cross had sent a message to the Clerk to say that local petitions would begin in September

iv) The report on the forthcoming TFM Inquiry be noted. A meeting at GBC to discuss Section 106 agreements ahead of the Inquiry was due to take place, with Rule 6(6) parties involved. No RPC councillors were available to attend, but members proposed some items for Ripley's S106 wishlist, which was judged to be of utmost importance should the development be approved. A formal Pre-Inquiry Meeting was scheduled to be held on 5/7/17 at Millmead

e) The report on the GBC Local Plan be noted. A newsletter had been delivered to every household in the parish. The parish council's response would be drafted for the next meeting

f) The report on the GBC Rural Economic Strategy be noted. The strategy made no mention of Ripley.

36/17 LEISURE & FACILITIES

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the remit of Leisure & Facilities:

i) The Green – development issues

ii) Nature Reserve - update

iii) Village Hall – update

iv) Information regarding tourism promotion (attached to record Minutes)

v) Request for use of The Green (attached to record Minutes)

vi) Request for speed limits on The Green (attached to record Minutes)

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

i) The report on current development encroachment issues on The Green be noted. Cllr Hancock had spoken with GBC Planning Enforcement and the Clerk had raised the issue with SCC. The County Council was taking the issue very seriously, and a positive outcome was hoped for. Further concerns had been raised over a site further up the Milk Road, and the issues had been reported to both GBC Planning Enforcement and the Environment Agency

ii) The update be noted. Cllrs Cliff and Wood were due to prepare the site for its Grand opening on Friday 23rd June. Cllr Cliff had prepared a speech, and the Clerk had booked a press photographer to attend. Cllr Wood thanked the Nature Reserve Working Group for its hard work and dedication in the development of the site. Members of the Working Group had attended the meeting, and all agreed that the project had brought the community together and helped to create a resource for the parish that would serve the village for many years to come

iii) The update be noted. A fundraising comedy evening event was scheduled for early July, and volunteer marshals could help the Village Hall to earn funding from the upcoming RideLondon (*sic*) event. A Trustees' meeting was due to be held in mid-July

iv) The information be noted. Cllr Cliff would draw up some comments for the new GBC-backed website

v) The request for use of The Green be approved, albeit with conditions after extra information could be provided to the Clerk

vi) The request be approved. 2 x 10mph speed limit signs would be purchased once the posts at the entrance to The Green had been replaced

In accordance with Ripley Parish Council Standing Order 10x, the meeting was adjourned briefly in order to receive a report from Horsleys Division Councillor Julie Iles

Cllr Iles gave a brief update on outstanding highways issues which had been provided by the Clerk. A meeting with SCC engineers was scheduled to take place at Newark Lane, and it was hoped that issues elsewhere in Ripley could also be analysed. A 20mph limit for the residential end of Papercourt Lane looked hopeful, although speed limit issues raised by residents elsewhere were unlikely to come to fruition
Cllr Iles agreed to follow up the evident confusion over Ripley Primary School issues with colleagues at SCC

Cllr Cliff thanked Cllr Iles for the update. The order of business as per the published Agenda was resumed

37/17 COMMUNICATION & LIAISON

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

i) Social Media

ii) Annual Parish Meeting (APM) Minutes (attached to record Minutes) and date for 2018

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

i) The report be noted. There had been little progress to date with new social media channels

ii) The APM Minutes be approved. The next APM was scheduled to take place on 10th May 2018

38/17 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received and considered a brief report regarding the potential Community Governance Review (CGR). Local Planning Authorities had proved very interested in speaking with representatives from Lovelace Ward. The parish council was clear that it was not anti-development, but the scale of the proposals contained in the GBC draft Local Plan had left the area feeling drained, disregarded, and downtrodden

It was **RESOLVED: That report be noted. The proposed CGR would continue to be progressed**

39/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received and considered report on recent progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. Draft 1 was due to be sent to consultants for comment and analysis, after which further editing would take place. The air quality monitoring project was due to come to an end. On reviewing the available data, the council considered extending the project for another month at a cost of around £1,800

It was **RESOLVED: That the report be noted. The cost of a further month's air quality monitoring was approved**

40/17 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members received and considered the parish council's Code of Conduct, alongside Cranleigh Parish Council's version. The current document was based upon Guildford Borough Council's version. Ripley's current version had more detail in some places, but Cranleigh's version included a crucial paragraph on Disclosable Interests

It was **RESOLVED: That the paragraph: "DO declare any other non-pecuniary interest(s) that you consider to have sufficient weight so as to undermine your ability to make an open-minded and objective decision. Where this is the case, DO exclude yourself from consideration of the item by withdrawing from the chamber for the duration of it being discussed. In making a judgement about whether a non-pecuniary interest is of sufficient weight as to undermine your objectivity, you should consider what an ordinary member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would think" be adopted**

41/17 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Ripley Primary School, and NALC guidelines on parish council Standing Orders were suggested

42/17 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 2150hrs.

Date:

Chairman