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**MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING held on THURSDAY 20th JULY 2017
 at 1930HRS at THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE.**

Present: Cllr Caspar Hancock (Chairman)
 Cllr Colin Cross
 Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
 Cllr Vernon Wood
 Jim Morris, Clerk of the Council

Apologies: Cllrs Richard Ayears, Jennie Cliff, and Lisanne Mealing

Also present: 5 members of the public

43/17 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 raised concerns over the police's handling of a recent road traffic accident on Newark Lane. Many cars had been damaged, yet the police were not going to pursue charges.

RESPONSE: Members thanked the resident for raising the concerns. It was resolved to write to Surrey Police to express the council's disappointment at the handling of the incident

b) A local resident had attended the school's leavers' service at the parish church. The children had all participated in the service and the vicar had extolled the school as being at the heart of the community

RESPONSE: Members thanked the local resident for the report on the service for school leavers. The Chairman of the school's Interim Executive Board was present, and agreed that the service had been inspirational

c) A local resident raised a query over the recent resurfacing of the pavements on Newark Lane. The new surface was disappointing, and had appeared to melt in places during the recent hot weather

RESPONSE: Members agreed that some recent local works had been disappointing. Horsleys division Cllr Julie Iles suggested that the parish could create its own 'running list' of maintenance issues.

44/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Ayears, Cllr Cliff, and Cllr Mealing

45/17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Powell-Cullingford declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11 'Village Hall': Cllr Powell-Cullingford was an elected member of the Village Hall board of Trustees

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

46/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th June 2017 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman

In accordance with Ripley Parish Council Standing Order 10f, Agenda item 10: 'Ripley Primary School' was moved for reasons of expedience

47/17 RIPLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The meeting welcomed the Chairman of the school's Interim Executive Board (IEB) and thanked him for attending. Members were clear that the school was seen to be a crucial part of the fabric of the village. Many local people had been voicing concerns that the school was being deliberately run down in order for profit to be gained from the land it occupied. Members raised queries over a letter which had been sent to parents, and concerns over the number of parents removing their children from the school. Disappointment was expressed over the wording of a letter which had been sent home with pupils in May. Questions were put forward over the expected processes, whether Academy status would be detrimental to the school, whether children who had left the school would be allowed to return, what tasks and duties the role of Chairman of the IEB involved, and what the parish council itself could do to help.

The Chairman of the IEB posited that to close the school would take at least several months of processes such as consultations and that similar situations elsewhere had taken years to complete. Clearly defined statutory processes governed how such an outcome would be enacted. Nobody involved with the running of the school would accept closure as an outcome. The aim of the IEB was to remain classed as 'good' and attempt to improve as much as possible. It was agreed that the wording of the letter to parents could have been better worded. The Regional Schools Commissioner was tasked with finding an Academy for the school to join, and closure would only be an option if that objective failed. The Diocese was carrying out due diligence and assessing the financial implications of adopting the school into a Trust. Amalgamation into the Good Shepherd trust was the IEB's preferred option for the school. Academy status could in theory change the school from being a primary, but it was unlikely to occur and there would be many statutory processes involved. Children who had left the school would be welcome to return. The role of Chairman of the IEB was to act as representative, ambassador, and co-ordinator for the school. The role was seen as being a 'critical friend' of the school and mediator between the school and relevant authorities. The Chairman would be held to account for the school's performance. Communications and dialogue were deemed to be critically important, and Ripley Parish Council was asked if it would help take a pivotal role in supporting the school.

Horsleys division Cllr Iles added that SCC had no intention to sell the land even if it were possible. SCC supported the school unequivocally and would continue to do so. The County Council was considering an attempt to add the school to a multi-Academy Trust. Works were due to be carried out over the summer break to improve the school's roof.

It was RESOLVED: That the parish council would endeavour to help the school however reasonably possible through the difficulties being experienced. A letter of support would be sent to the Good Shepherd Trust, an item would be included on a future newsletter, and a meeting would be held with representatives of the school and Surrey County Council. The Chairman of the IEB was thanked for attending the meeting and for giving a full account of recent events.

The order of business as per the published Agenda was resumed

48/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Chairman. The Nature Reserve's opening had been well attended and Cllr Cross was thanked for helping the afternoon to be successful. The Chairman noted that James Atkin had been carrying out work to replace posts & rails on The Green with his usual excellent attention to detail. The annual Ripley Event was upcoming, as well as Ripley Rocks and the first Soapbox Derby. RideLondon (sic) was also due, and the attendant closure of the village was noted. Congratulations were offered to the Clerk on his recent academic success.

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

49/17 CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Social media
- Ripley Green Road
- DBS check
- Sewer maintenance
- GBC Countryside Vision

The parish council had social media feeds on both Instagram and twitter. Participation in social media had been moderately interesting

The Clerk had forwarded the parish council's preference for Milk Road signage to GBC and hoped to have further information available for a future meeting

The Clerk had asked Surrey Community Action if it could carry out a DBS check for council staff members
In responding to the recent request for information for the Visit Guildford website, a query had been raised over GBC's recent 'Countryside Vision' document

It was RESOLVED: That the Clerk's Report be noted. The parish council agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a DBS check to be carried out by Surrey Community Action

50/17 CORRESPONDENCE (copies attached to record Minutes)

i) Correspondence regarding Ripley Village Hall

It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted. Cllr Powell-Cullingford noted that GBC had not appeared keen on the initial drawings for a new Village Hall, and that Ripley Village Hall Trustees were in dialogue with the correspondent

ii) Email regarding Surrey Wildlife Trust's Business Plan

It was RESOLVED: That the email and Business plan be noted. Members were disappointed at the evident capitalisation of Surrey Wildlife Trust and commercialisation of the sites within its care

iii) Correspondence regarding subscriptions for Guildford Residents' Association

It was RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted. It was resolved that subs be sent to GRA

iv) Email regarding a new polytunnel and loo at the Allotment site

It was RESOLVED: That the email be noted. The new polytunnel was agreed. Polytunnel insurance was still to be ironed out. There were no plans to install a loo at the site

v) Information and sponsorship details for the Ripley Soapbox Challenge

It was RESOLVED: That the information be noted. It was resolved that a donation of £50 be made to the Soapbox Challenge

51/17 FINANCE

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 1/6/17 - 30/6/17, totalling £60,050.12 (copy attached to record minutes)

Cheques for authorisation were presented by the Parish Clerk

Members received and considered a report on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group, including potential CFGA funded project for 2018-19. Discussions on potential Ripley Parish Council grants to the Village Hall redevelopment fund had been discussed, and it was felt necessary to schedule a further meeting in order to be able to present a comprehensive plan to the full council at a future meeting. Internal audit recommendations, that a councillor should check the petty cash on a regular basis, and that the council should move to online banking, had been agreed, whereas the recommendation to move away from a petty cash system altogether had been rejected. The Clerk would produce a report on internet banking for a future meeting of the Finance Working Group. The council fees for Allotment Plots had been revised, and some wording within the section on Burial Ground fees had been amended. Parish Council bank reconciliations for the first quarter of 2017-18, totalling £55,056.98, £73,906.69, and £16,382.81 had been received, considered and approved.

It was RESOLVED: That;

a) The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 1/6/17 to 30/6/17, totalling £60,050.12 be approved

b) Cheques presented for authorisation be approved and signed

c) The report on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group be noted. A further meeting of the Finance Working Group would be scheduled for August. Amended Allotment fees for October 2017-October 2018 were approved. Applications for CFGA funding towards further posts & rails replacement, and for ongoing repairs to the Village Hall were approved. Cllr Powell-Cullingford was thanked for the comprehensive report

52/17 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

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

i) Minutes of the P&E Committee meetings held on 22/05/17 & 12/06/2017 (attached to record Minutes)

ii) Request to purchase or lease land from the parish council (attached to record Minutes)

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

iv) Three Farms Meadows (TFM) Planning Inquiry (attached to record Minutes)

v) GBC draft Local Plan response

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

vii) Email regarding Local Committee funding 2017-18 (attached to record Minutes)

It was RESOLVED: That;

i) The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 22/05/17 & 12/06/17 be noted

- ii) **The request to purchase or lease land from the parish council be refused. Members noted that to approve the sale or lease of land could leave the council exposed to further requests and lead to disharmony with other local residents**
- iii) **The speed indicator unit results be noted**
- iv) **The report on the forthcoming TFM Inquiry be noted. Assistance with interpreting the parish council's air quality results and traffic data may have become available. Cllr Cross was thanked for his work on the issue**
- v) **The parish council's response to the GBC draft Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation be noted and approved. An additional paragraph was suggested, and was to be added before entering the response**
- vi) **The email regarding the GBC Rural Economic Strategy be noted.**
- vii) **The email regarding Local Committee funding 2017-18 be noted. It was noted that potentially clearing the ditch adjacent to West End Cottages would have to be monitored to take place at a later date. The item would be added to the list for Horsleys division Cllr Iles**

53/17 LEISURE & FACILITIES

Members received and considered matters ongoing under the auspices of parish council Leisure & Facilities:

i) The Green

Members discussed several current ongoing issues on The Green: metalwork from the former cycle trail was still onsite; the case officer for 62 Newark Lane had resolved that the boundary fence installation was not a planning issue; the owner of Howgill had secured the right of access to the rear of the property, and the building materials were due to be moved soon.

ii) Nature Reserve

Members discussed beginning an ongoing quarterly programme of meetings of the Nature Reserve Working Group

iii) Burial Ground – potential improvements

Members received and considered a report from the Parish Clerk on potentially extending the parish council's Burial Ground. After speaking to a specialist cemetery development company, it had become apparent that the Environment Agency would not accept a Burial Ground extension if water was found within 2 metres of the surface. Various prices for carrying out the exploratory work were discussed.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

i) The report on various issues on The Green be noted. GBC would be asked to remove the redundant metalwork. The boundary treatment at 62 Newark Lane was acknowledged to have been installed 'back-to-front', and that future maintenance was not the parish council's responsibility. The owner of Howgill would be asked to remove the building materials from The Green by end of July 2017, in light of the right of access issue having been resolved

ii) The update be noted. The first quarterly meeting of the Nature Reserve Working Group was scheduled to take place in October

iii) The report be noted. Estimates would be sought for carrying out exploratory work to discover whether extending the Burial Ground would be feasible

54/17 VILLAGE HALL

Members received and considered a report on recent meetings of the Village Hall Trustees and the Hall's new Fundraising Committee. Plenty of fundraising events were being planned, including an auction evening at the Hall. The Talbot Inn had given the Hall use of the facilities to host a Valentine's Ball. Further information on fundraising events would follow. Draft Minutes of the recent meeting of the Village Hall Trustees were received and considered.

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

55/17 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received and considered a brief report regarding the potential Community Governance Review (CGR). The potential CGR was progressing, although there were no new developments to report.

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

56/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received and considered report on recent progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. The Group were considering potential changes to the draft Plan following comments received from outside consultants. Some ideas had been accepted, whilst others had been rejected. The objective was to represent

the residents of Lovelace, and the democratic process would resolve whether the Plan was acceptable. Statutory processes would be followed once the document was passed on to GBC, with dialogue over amendments and alterations. No sites had been proposed for Lovelace due to the development put forward in GBC's draft Local Plan.

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

57/17 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members received and considered the Ripley Parish Council's Standing Orders, alongside the National Association of Local Councils model Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED: That there were no necessary alterations to the current Ripley Parish Council Standing Orders**

58/17 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Ripley Village Hall funding was suggested

59/17 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st September 2017, at the Parish Council Office.

The meeting closed at 2145hrs.

Date:

Chairman