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**MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 2017
 at 1930HRS at THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE**

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

Apologies: Cllrs Richard Ayears and Colin Cross

Also present: 18 members of the public

76/17 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

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

a) Residents from Exchange Cottages raised issues over parking at the entrance to the lane where it joined the High Street, and asked the council whether physical measures could be installed in order to clearly demarcate the entrance. Altercations with drivers who had parked blocking the entrance had been experienced. Issues over refuse collections were also raised.

RESPONSE: The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting and raising the concerns. An Agenda item to consider an application to the Surrey County Council (SCC) Members' Fund was due to be discussed. Issues with bin collections were under the remit of Guildford Borough Council (GBC).

b) A local resident raised concerns over the height of the wall adjacent to the entrance to Wentworth Close on Newark Lane. The wall had yet to be reduced in height.

RESPONSE: Members acknowledged that the issue had been ongoing for a protracted length of time and asked the Clerk to continue to make enquiries.

c) Several local residents raised issues that were ongoing with Ripley Primary School. A hastily scheduled meeting had taken place at which attendees were told that the Good Shepherd Trust (GST) had declined to sponsor the school into its Academy. Residents had been told that due diligence had been undertaken, but no details of the reasons for not taking on the school had been provided. Several reasons for residents' anger at the decision were given: the Diocese of Guildford's '2020 Vision' statement claimed to champion the GST as the most secure and effective Trust for schools in the Diocese; £130,000 had recently been spent on upgrading the buildings; the school had the support of the community; the school had income of around £50,000 pa from lettings; 3 days' notice had been given of the recent meeting, which had led to it being poorly attended; buildings at the site were covenanted to be used solely for educational purposes; SCC's leadership had been damned by Ofsted; substantial funding had been given to support the school; no Minutes of meetings had been made available; a perceived lack of transparency was stoking parents' anxieties. It was proposed that as uncertainty grew so ever greater numbers of parents would remove their children and the school's closure would become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Residents urged that those with the power to act should do so quickly in order to avert the worst outcome.

RESPONSE: The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting to put their views across. The parish council office was offered as a potential meeting space for interested parties should it be necessary to facilitate further discussions. A Newsletter was being prepared and the parents' group would be welcome to provide a statement. The Clerk had emailed the Chairman of the Interim Executive Board (IEB), SCC Cllr Julie Iles, the GST, and the responsible department at SCC to try and find further information. The Chairman of the IEB was also due to provide copy for the Newsletter, and as much as information as possible from all points of view was being encouraged. Unfortunately the parish council could not exert particular influence, but it did wholly support efforts to keep the school open.

The Chairman invited Horsleys Division Cllr Julie Iles to address the meeting.

Cllr Iles acknowledged the evident anger and disappointment expressed by residents. Having been elected in May 2017 she had not been party to issues which had arisen prior to the election but had made it a priority to catch up and keep in touch with developments. SCC investment and the next steps for the school were in the hands of the Department for Education. Cllr Iles felt that the Chairman of the IEB had been particularly helpful, and whilst he was unable to make the meeting he did plan to attend the November meeting of RPC. Rapid progress was being made and a half-term monitoring review was due to be undertaken. Testing would be thorough and vigorous and was designed to check pupil performance. Although the GST had declined to sponsor the school, work was still ongoing to find a solution. The sensitive nature of the work being carried out meant that no details could be given, but the Chairman of the IEB was communicating developments to Cllr Iles. It was acknowledged that communication with interested parties could be improved, and Cllr Iles offered dialogue via email with interested parties.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Iles for addressing the residents' concerns.

77/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Ayears and Cllr Cross

78/17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

79/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st September 2017 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman

80/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The meeting received a report from the parish council Chairman. The Clerk's annual appraisal had taken place in August and had been successful. The Surrey Association of Local Councils AGM had been attended, and information from the event would be included in the next edition of Ripley & Send Matters. Many parishes were downbeat as they felt that they did not have sufficient budgets, and the police were pleased to let delegates know that they responded to 101 calls within 15 minutes. The Chairman was no longer able to attend the upcoming meeting facilitated by West Horsley Parish Council (WHPC). Thanks were extended to the parish council representatives who had attended and spoken at the Former Wisley Airfield Inquiry.

It was **RESOLVED: That the report from the parish council Chairperson be noted. Cllr Powell-Cullingford would attend the meeting at WHPC, with Cllr Mealing.**

81/17 CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Ripley Green Road
- Training course
- Pigeon House Bridge

Recent correspondence with GBC had revealed that the accurate name for Ripley Green Road was actually *The Green*. Signs had been ordered and would be installed by GBC. Recent woodland management courses run by Surrey Wildlife Trust had been attended and would provide the expertise to create a light touch management plan for The Green. A treecreeper had recently been spotted in the fuzzies.

Cllr Powell-Cullingford had attended the Army Reception & Briefing in Guildford and was invited to disseminate the information from which to the meeting. Cllr Powell-Cullingford had spoken with the Brigadier and a couple of Colonels about rebuilding Pigeon House Bridge using the Army as a workforce. GBC and SCC Cllr Matt Furniss had also been in attendance and was pressed to find funding for the project, which would provide excellent PR for all parties. The Army were rather busy at present helping Caribbean Commonwealth countries rebuild following recent weather events.

It was **RESOLVED: That the Clerk's Report be noted. Cllr Powell-Cullingford was thanked for attending the Army Reception & Briefing.**

82/17 CORRESPONDENCE (copies attached to record Minutes)

i) Invitation to the Mayor's Service of Remembrance

It was **RESOLVED: That no members were available to attend the Service**

ii) Correspondence regarding parking on the High Street

It was **RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted. Members were to discuss the SCC Members' Allocation Fund at Agenda item 8v.**

iii) Request for feedback from Ripley Event

It was **RESOLVED: That the Ripley Event organisers be thanked for their hard work. It was hoped that the next Event would enjoy better weather conditions.**

83/17 FINANCE

Members received and noted the schedule of accounts received and paid for the period from 01/09/17 - 30/09/17 totalling £9,663.64 (copy attached to record minutes)

Cheques for authorisation had been undertaken at the Finance Group meeting the previous day

Members received and considered a report on recent meetings of the Finance Working Group. The Group had identified the need to be extremely cautious with expenditure in general as the recent and ongoing Former Wisley Airfield Inquiry had shown that a significant figure may be required to be held in reserve in order to fight future legal battles. Recommendations included: an increase in the Clerk's salary to LC2-33; undertaking the necessary steps to achieve borrowing approval for £500,000 from the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG); upgrading the office computer and purchasing an iPad with a budget of £2,400; and moving to online banking provided by Unity.

It was **RESOLVED: That;**

a) The schedule of accounts received and paid for the period 1/9/17 to 30/9/17, totalling £9,663.64 be approved

b) The report on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group be noted and the recommendations of the Group be approved and progressed

84/17 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 14/08/17 and 11/09/2017 (attached to record Minutes)

ii) Former Wisley Airfield Planning Inquiry update. Members received and considered a report on the progression of the Inquiry. The success of the Appellant's case was likely to hinge upon the evidence of Highways England. Slips at Burnt Common were discussed, with members expressing the view that they were wholly unnecessary. Cllr Cross had prepared Ripley Parish Council's closing statement, which had been read at the Inquiry earlier that day.

iii) Parking Working Group

iv) SCC "Pay and Conserve Consultation" (attached to record Minutes). Members were appalled at the suggestion that residents should pay to use and enjoy the countryside.

v) Members' Allocation Funding

It was **RESOLVED: That;**

i) The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 14/08/17 & 11/09/17 be noted

ii) The report on the progression of the Former Wisley Airfield Planning Inquiry be noted

iii) The creation of a Parking Working Group be deferred until a future meeting

iv) The "Pay and Conserve Consultation" be responded to be the Clerk and sent to the Grapevine for further dissemination

v) Costings for new planters at the entrance to Exchange Cottages be analysed with a view to applying to the Members' Allocation Fund for a grant

85/17 LEISURE & FACILITIES

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

i) PRoW and signage on The Green.

ii) Burial Ground – potential improvements

iii) Allotments update. One half plot had become available and had been re-let. Members expressed disappointment at the as yet unfinished footpath at the site.

It was **RESOLVED: That,**

i) Signage on The Green be reconsidered at a future meeting

ii) Local resident Dave Pickering be thanked for his recent hard work volunteering at the site

iv) The report on the Allotments be noted and that the contractor for the footway installation be contacted regarding the completion of the work

86/17 VILLAGE HALL

Members received and considered a report on recent meetings of the Village Hall Trustees. The new design was unveiled and members of the public present were invited to view and comment on the design. The drawings were well received by Cllrs and members of the public. The project would be undertaken as economically as possible, and a 'jigsaw funding' approach was being undertaken in order to achieve reserves for the balance needed to undertake the project. Recent fundraising events had proved popular and Clare Porter was widely praised for her efforts leading the fundraising team. The Local Planning Authority and other potential sources of funds would be lobbied heavily to provide financial input. It was noted that SCC had recently provided a grant of £400,000 to the Watts Gallery. The RVH CIO would save 50% on the cost of entering the Planning Application if Ripley Parish Council agreed to enter it on the CIO's behalf.

Members received and considered a Grant Application from the RVH CIO for funding of £500,000 towards the redevelopment project. Trustees of the CIO had considered the figure a sum which would not overburden the parish financially. Interest rates were likely to rise in the near future and guidance would be needed on whether the loan could be left undrawn. The CIO was working to raise over 50% of the projected figure. Members agreed that the council could support the Grant Application, but that the final decision would rest with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The council would have to provide supporting information:

1. Copy of full minute of the Full Council Meeting with the resolution to seek the Secretary of State's approval for the proposed borrowing;
2. Copy of the Council's budget for the current year, and next year, showing the provision made to meet the loan costs;
3. Full report to the Council or business case, including a breakdown of the proposed works, estimated costs, financial planning to fund the loan repayments and the steps/options the Council has in place to mitigate the risk for not being able to afford the loan repayments;
4. Information on how the Council will afford the loan repayments, breakdown of funding resources, amounts to be used from reserves, and any increase of precept to fund the borrowing;
5. Confirmation of the amount and percentage of the planned precept increase related to the loan only;
6. Evidence of public support to increase the precept to cover the loan repayment;
7. Details on how local residents were consulted on the project and associated borrowing even if the precept is not being increased to fund the loan

The Village Hall CIO was planning to present the drawings for a new Hall at a public evening once the Planning Application had been entered. The parish council would be able to disseminate information on the possible effect on the precept at the event.

It was **RESOLVED: That Ripley Parish Council would enter the Planning Application on the Ripley Village Hall CIO's behalf and it was resolved to seek the Secretary of State's approval for borrowing £500,000 from the Public Works Loans Board in order to provide a grant to Ripley Village Hall CIO, to be repaid via the precept in perpetuity with no financial contributions either presently or in the future from Ripley Village Hall. The loan will remain the financial responsibility of Ripley Parish Council until the end of the term of the loan, expected to be 50 years.**

87/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received and considered report on recent progress with the Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was still progressing and the new Roadmap suggested a Referendum date of May 2019. Members noted that a Neighbourhood Plan had failed when the Local Planning Authority had exacted so many changes to the essence of it that the Plan Group felt that they had no option but to advise people to vote against it. The LNPG were working to make certain that the Plan would be watertight.

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

88/17 CHRISTMAS EVENT

Members received and considered a report on progress with the Christmas Event. Plans for the Event were progressing well, and it had been decided not to print new cards.

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

89/17 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parking Working Group was suggested

90/17 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the parish council was scheduled to take place on Thursday 16th November 2017, at the Parish Council Office. Cllr Powell-Cullingford offered apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 2130hrs

Date:

Chairman