RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 19th June 2023

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:** Dickinson, Mason, Rollinson, Royle: **Borough Councillor** Barnsley and **County Councillor** Swarbrick

**Residents:** Two

**15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Concerns were raised about the rubbish bins at the Riverside on Church Street. Two replacements had recently been provided but were far too small to cope with the volume of rubbish deposited. The ancient remains of the other litter bin at the end of the row of benches is still in situ and also needs to be replaced. (Cllr Barnsley reported and will follow up).

Concerns were also expressed about the Swimming warning sign having been taken down. This too had been reported by Cllr Barnsley.

Third notification of damage/wear and tear was that of the very poor condition of the benches in the Millennium Garden.

**16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**17 CASUAL VACANCY TO COUNCIL**: It was noted that three candidates had come forward for the vacancy; it was confirmed that interviews should take place on Tuesday 27 June from 7.00pm.

**18 APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER COMMITTEES:**

Appointment to the Parish Council Liaison Committee: Cllr Mason

Knowle Green Village Hall Committee: Attendance depending on availability. Clerk to keep in contact for general matters and exchange of information

**19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

3/2023/0437Hilltop Barn Knowle Green

3/2023/0450 Notice of Solar Panels installation at Bee Mill

Establishment of new Primary School at Whittingham Hospital (LCC Consultation)

**20 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

D S Groves Clerk’s Salary mid-May to mid-June £428.40

BHIB Annual Insurance £400.70

HMRC PAYE for month 2 £107.20

Mr C Sharples Accountant for internal Audit £265.00

SS Peter & Pauls Hire of Hall fee £30.00

The AGAR documents were presented to the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**21 REPORTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

Councillor Barnsley has now been allocated to various RVBC Committees and has been actively engaged in various issues on behalf of Ribchester. He will keep the Council informed.

He also offered his thanks for the organisation of Field Day again this year, which was described as a ‘great event’. (**Post Minute Note:** A letter of thanks from the Council was sent to the Chairman of the Field Day Committee.)

**22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The proposed date for this was 28 June at SS Peter & Pauls and the proposed theme for the meeting was ‘Ribchester’s Environment’. It was agreed that there was a great deal of interest being expressed in looking for ways to improve the local environment/ecology and various suggestions had been put forward, such as a community orchard, increasing the number of allotments, improving the overall appearance of the village etc. One proposal on the latter point was village engagement with the Village in Bloom scheme.

It was hoped that the theme might attract a larger attendance than hitherto (eg, 2022 meeting was attended by 5 residents)

**23 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**23.1 Safety**

A current concern was the recent activity on the Riverside where groups of young people were gathering and becoming something of a nuisance. One particular incident had led to a fight and a knife being pulled on one of the group. Cllr Barnsley has written to Sarah Wells and asked that an increase in local PCSO presence be arranged.

**23.2 Speeding**

County Councillor Swarbrick attended to address several of the issues which had been referred to him in respect of traffic, speeding, the Black Bull/Church Street Junction. He reported on information gleaned from LCC Highways which had been collating information. The figures quoted were that 15% of drivers were not driving within 10% of the speed limit. LCC has confirmed that some temporary signage will be prepared and displayed.

SPIDs are being placed at strategic points around the Borough and are also collecting data but these are expensive (so not used extensively) and also require a convenient power source on the highway. The promise for installation of such signs was made for the period July – September and then January to March. In addition, there are the yellow warning banners which can be strategically placed near junctions or at the boundary from one Parish into another.

The Church St/Blackburn Road junction at the Black Bull corner has been considered, but the conclusion reached was that its unusual nature makes it effective, given that drivers slow down to assess who has right of way to emerge. This was deemed to be enough to avoid collisions, which might otherwise be expected.

Finally, the concerns were expressed about the increase to the volume of large (usually articulated) vehicles proceeding down Church Street and then having to perform complicated reverse turns. The proposal was made that signage advising NOT to follow SAT NAV information could be utilised (as has been done elsewhere in the County).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed…………………………………………………………..Date………………………………………………………………….