

RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 1 March 2021 conducted on-line via Zoom, in line with the existing Government regulations during the Covid-19 pandemic

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr Carol Milne

Councillors: A Brown, J Dickinson, G Rollinson, V Mason

1 ABSENCES RECORDED

The absences of two Councillors were recorded. It was noted that neither Cllr Law-Riding nor Cllr Royle could attend the meeting because they did not have the means to join the virtual meeting as required under the current restrictions. The meeting fully endorsed their absence as it was recognised that it was due to circumstances beyond their control.

2 RESOLUTION REGARDING ANY FUTURE ABSENCES DURING CURRENT NATIONAL SITUATION (Local Government Act 1972 s85)

RESOLVED: (Unanimously) to accept in advance and to approve any future absences during the next six-month period caused by the continuation of the current conditions and restrictions during the National Covid-19 Pandemic

3 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed the new Councillor, Mrs Mason, to her first meeting. Cllr Mason was invited to say a few words about her interest in serving as a Parish Councillor. She outlined her present interests and work for the School, various village clubs and societies and her desire to continue with these activities to 'make a difference' within the village. She was formally thanked for her interest and willingness to step into the role during a difficult period for the village and the Council.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest,

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation. It was **CONFIRMED** that there would be an extended period of notice given for the recommencement of physical meetings of the Parish Council, to ensure that the residents who regularly attend the meetings would have the information well in advance to resume their attendance.

6 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020 were confirmed as a true record.

ACTION – Minutes to be signed at a convenient time after the meeting.

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MIN 5. It was reported that the damage to the fence along the brook behind the Roman Baths was currently being repaired. Work had started with the banking being lowered, and hardcore being laid on the path. Tarmac path and replacement fence will follow.

MIN 7. It was reported that the Millennium Garden Project was now complete.

MIN 11.2 It was reported that the application to adopt the BT Telephone Box had been refused. It was further reported that Colin Byers had done a sterling job during the winter to keep the current defibrillators working when the heating pads had failed. He had been assisted by Jeff Fielding in carrying out repairs. **ACTION** – Clerk to send letters of thanks on behalf of Council and village. **(DONE)**

8 RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE CESSATION OF MEETINGS FROM OCTOBER 2020 TO DATE

During the period of cessation of the monthly Parish Council meetings, the work of the Council had been continued by regular correspondence, telephone consultations, notifications published in the Parish Noticeboard etc. The Councillors re-considered the full list of such decisions taken in this period, viz, the

authorisation and payment of essential expenditure, **being** the Clerk's Monthly salary; the Allotment Rent to the Ribble Valley Borough Council; the final expenses for the completion of the Millennium Garden Project; Invoice payment for fees to the Lengthsman; Website service fees (monthly) and to the provision of the Parish Christmas Tree. Further, it confirmed formal objections had been lodged against two significant Planning Applications on Preston Road during this period. One of which had been rejected, and one remained pending.

RATIFIED all such actions taken in response to the regular work of the Council in the period from October 2020 to March 2021.

9 NOTICE OF COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY 2021

It was reported that confirmation had been received that the County Council Elections previously scheduled for May, would be going ahead as planned, although this had been cast into doubt by the continuation of the national situation. Cllr Brown confirmed further details would be sent in due course, but also reported that particular emphasis would be placed on the need to consider Postal Votes wherever possible, which would reduce the attendance in person in the Polling Stations.

10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was reported that a query raised about the building to the rear of **9 Greenside** had not uncovered a planning breach, but because of a fault on the Planning Website, it appeared that there might have been such a breach. When it had been raised with the Enforcement section of the Planning Department the fault had been detected. No action was required. Cllr Brown confirmed that an upgrade to the website was planned, as this fault was known to cause problems in accessing current and past applications on line,

Planning Application 3/2021/0083 – Pinfold Farm. Demolition of concrete and timber agricultural building. No objections. (**Post Minute Note**: Consultation re-opened)

Planning Application 3.2021/0179 – 11 Glen Avenue, Ribchester. Proposed menage and tack rooms to existing stable for private use only. No objections

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS/ACCOUNTS

A copy of the current Cash Book figures was provided to the meeting. It was noted that the accounts were currently reasonably healthy, but an overspend on the budget was anticipated. It was further noted that there was still some VAT to be refunded.

RESOLVED To make the following payments:

Clerk's Salary from mid-January to mid-February 2021 - £428.40 (no additional expense)

HMRC – for PAYE to end February - £581.55

NOTED Other payments to be made before the end of the financial year were – to the Lengthsman for work undertaken, Clerk's salary for February-March, It was further noted that **one** other payment of PAYE would be payable by the end of the financial year.

It was further **RESOLVED** to re-appoint Mr C Sharples as External Auditor for the financial year 2020/2021. **ACTION** – to write to Mr Sharples to seek his agreement. (**DONE**). **Post-Minute Note** – Mr Sharples **agreed** to continue his Auditing work.

12 MATTERS RELATING TO PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

Cllr Brown was able to update the meeting as to actions taken at Borough Council level. The Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices remain closed to the public and many staff are working from home.

Over £27 million has been issued as grants to over 2000 local businesses under six different schemes and many different dates. This has been a huge task for the officers and staff but very efficient compared with other Councils.

Covid-19 testing continues at Edisford Car park Ribble Valley Council chamber and at Longridge and Cllr Brown was pleased to report that positive results were well down.

The point made about Postal Votes for the May Election was re-iterated.

A point was raised about concerns arising from visitor numbers to the area during the current lockdown (where the instruction remains 'Stay at Home'). It had been reported that a recent good spell of weather had seen 110 cars parked on verges around Pendle Hill and its environs.

13 MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH

- 13.1 Sale of Grimshaw Quarry.** This item had been considered during the period when the Council was not physically meeting, so comments had been made in isolation. This was unsatisfactory as it did not enable sufficient discussion on which to base an important discussion. The responses received suggested a split decision. At the time of this Zoom meeting it was anticipated that the next physical meeting of the Council could be scheduled in April (to comply with the current 'roadmap' for exiting the lockdown regulations.) and therefore:
AGREED – that this item be deferred until the next meeting of Council, and that it should be listed as a matter of priority for discussion at that time. **ACTION** – Clerk to notify the prospective purchaser.**(DONE)**
- 13.2 Traffic, Parking, Speeding and related matters.** The issues of parking, road safety within the village, and traffic speeding around the streets and roads have been items considered at Council meetings for a long period. No resolution has been found – even to apparently simple requests – such as those repeatedly made for white lining. The particular case of a resident currently beset by problems of large vehicles (particularly delivery vans) parking outside her front door and blocking access to her home was raised as an example of the kind of impact these traffic problems are causing to residents of the village. Photographic evidence was provided of the sort of regular problem the resident has to endure. The Councillors were unanimous in their condemnation of the thoughtless practices which are causing her and her family so much distress. This item generated a great deal of discussion and several suggestions for getting this on-going problem considered by Lancashire Highways (and, if necessary, other bodies able to recommend strategies and actions, eg RoSpA). The following points were **AGREED** for further investigation and **ACTION**:
- That LCC Highways be formally contacted for the various problems of traffic, parking, safety etc to be reviewed. **ACTION** – report, with supporting photographic evidence to be submitted.**(In Preparation)**
 - Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to be contacted for advice/guidance. **ACTION** – to establish RoSPA is empowered to give such advice and to refer current problems to the Society.**(DONE)**
 - That the local press be contacted to be made aware of the on-going problem and to be asked for support for any forthcoming 'campaign'.
- 13.3 Parking Request from residents in properties opposite the Recreation Ground.** A request had been received from a resident of the bungalows, for support for a 'Residents Only' parking sign in area immediately in front of the bungalows. This was debated at some length, as Cllr Dickinson had prior knowledge drawn from the time of the construction of the properties. It was noted that the properties were owned by a Housing Association and it had confirmed that such a parking restriction was unenforceable. Prior knowledge suggested that this area was designed as a passing place and not for parking by anyone – resident or not.
Post minute Note – documents have been provided which show the original plans and the following information included within:
'the proposed access road width is 5.5m with a courtyard feature to allow for manoeuvring of vehicles. In curtilage parking is provided within the majority of properties.....'
ACTION; Notify the resident raising the issue that the area is not designated for parking, but should be kept clear for passing vehicle. Manoeuvring.**(DONE:)**
- 13.4 New Parish Council Website.** Given the available technology for the meeting, it was possible to display to everyone the new-look Parish Council Website.
- 13.5 Additional Litter Bins on Pope Croft.** It was noted that a local 'campaign' has been growing for additional litter bins to be provided on Pope Croft car park. Photographs have been circulating on social media showing the bins overflowing with rubbish, particularly after a busy weekend. Clerk has been contacted by Longridge Action Group which is also campaigning for additional bins.
ACTION: Application for additional bins to be made.**(DONE)**
IN ADDITION – it was noted that the bin at the end of the School Wall in front of the river is now dangerous. **ACTION**: Report and request replacement.**(DONE)**

13.6 National Census March 2021 – It was reported that the National Census was taking place in March. Information displayed in Council notice board, and also on website. Help is available for anyone who can not complete this on-line.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In anticipation of the current restrictions having been lifted by this date, the next meeting of the Parish Council, to be held in SS Peter and Pauls Parish Centre, was scheduled for Monday 19 April 2021. **TO BE CONFIRMED**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm

Confirmed as a true record

_____ Chairman

_____ Date