**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14 April 2025**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:**, Cromie, Dickinson, Finch, Mason & Yates

**Residents:** Mr Slater, Mr Robinson (B4RN)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Caunce and Ellis, Mr A McLaughlin (Knowle Green)

**55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**56 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**: Mr Slater reported that the trees by the bridge (rear of Greenside) have been felled. He also pointed out that in the past the railings and a gate which used to be in the area have ‘disappeared’, as has the Guage which used to be on the bank of the river.

**57 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**:

The Minutes of the meeting on 17 March were duly signed were confirmed and duly signed.

**58 MATTERS ARISING**:

58.1 – *Community Noticeboard*. The board had been ordered, but it had been made clear that there was currently a long waiting time for delivery. It was noted that the VAT which had been incurred would be re-claimable.

58.2 – *Memorial Benches.* A record of all the applications to date had been circulated prior to the meeting. This project had generated a great deal of interest. The plaques which had been removed prior to restoration were still being held in the PC office waiting decision on ‘placement’. The suggestion was made that the historical plaques (not related to specific residents)) and other plaques where individuals could no longer be identified, could be placed on a ‘planter’ or some other object (display board) nearby.

A proposal was made that Marcus Whitehead could be approached to make such a planter (Cllr Dickinson to approach him to discuss),

An additional point was raised about the bench outside Catherine House on Stoneygate Lane (colloquially ‘*John’s Bench’*). This too required renovation, as does the bench on Balckburn Road.

58.3 – *Report on Village Clean-up*. It was noted that this had been a very useful event. It had not generated a large turn-out, but the residents who participated were enthusiastic. Thanks were expressed to those who had contributed.

**59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**(Previously considered)**

**3/2025/0107 Boadicea Park,** Preston Road. (Snail Farm Site. Ongoing issues) No decision reported.

**3/2025/0153 Stoneygate Lane.** Stables and menege. No decision reported**.**

**(Recent Applications)**

**3/2025 – Blue Slates, Sunnyside Avenue**. Addition of timber boundary fence on top of wall.  **No objections.**

**3/2025 – Loft Shay Farm.** Use of land to extend residential curtilage. Proposed detached garage to include living accommodation. Insertion of window**. No objections**

**3/3035/0806 – 9 West View, Glen Avenue.** Listed building consent for removal of existing render…to reveal stonework…pointing in lime mortar**. No objections.**

**3/2025/0163 – 4 Church Street.** Proposed loft conversion; dormer to rear and two velux windows. **No objections.**

60 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Council considered the Payments for Approval and **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

Payment for Room Hire to SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre £30

Mr B Lofthouse – payment for work undertaken on benches + expenses. £79.65

Mr M Walker – Lengthsman’s Fees from 26 Jan – 11 March £374.85

Clerk’s Salary for mid-March to mid-April (new rate of pay applied) £649.48

Repayment of PAYE to Clerk (Expenses) £124.80

Ex-gratia payment to Clerk in respect of previous differential between the hourly rates for the Clerk and those for the Lengthsman. (Full and final settlement) £50.00

61 **REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES** – none available at meeting.

62 **VILLAGE MATTERS**

62.1 - B4RN project. Mr Darrin Robinson attended the meeting to update the Council about progress of the project. The projected next step (Phase 2) had incurred the inflation of the originally quoted figure by a further £100,000 producing a total of £545,000. It was reported that the contractor was continuing the process of installation. Also reported was the current total of people (130) who had signed up; this out of a total of 300+)

62.2 – A proposal was made to sell the remaining copies of the Millennium Book on a stall in the marquee on Field Day. Price to be confirmed, after consultation.

62.3 – Cllr Finch, who represents the Council at Knowle Green Village Hall Committee meetings, reported on the last part of the Hall’s plan for refurbishment, There is a need to replace the oil fired boiler (at an anticipated cost of £27,000). Mr McLaughlin enquired about any available funding.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm