**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16 June 2025

**PRESENT**:

**Parish Councillors**: Caunce, Finch, Yates (Quorum confirmed)

**Borough Councillor**: Barnsley

**Residents**: One

**Apologies:** Cllrs Dickinson, Mason

**8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**: None.

**9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**: None.

**10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2025 were confirmed and duly signed. (**NOTE:** Two minor reporting errors identified were later corrected.)

**11 MATTERS ARISING:**

Following on from previous discussions about the installation of plaques on Memorial Benches and the ‘re-positioning’ of previously secured plaques, consideration was given to identifying another adjacent site to place the ‘historical’ plaques. Various suggestions were made, including placing those not destined for a bench to be placed on a planter, the wall , or a picket fence adjacent to the row of benches. It was confirmed that Adam Whitlock would be approached to consider undertaking the work.

**12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The following current applications were reported:

3/2025/0329 – *Pinfold Farm* (note, variation of conditions)

3/2025/0337 – *Reserved Matters Application* for Dale Hey Bungalow. Proposal to demolish bungalow and build a 4/5 bedroom house.

3/2025/0401 – *Buckley Dene*, Preston Road

3/2025/0413 – *New Drop Cottage,* Old Clitheroe Road

Cllr Barnsley reported that the Boadicea Park application (‘Snail Farm’) is going to appeal, and he has formally supported this development. He further reported that he has ‘called in’ the Loft Shay Farm – Knowle Green application, and requested amendments to the plan submitted.

**13 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

This month the Annual Audit (AGAR) had been conducted on behalf of the PC and this was duly signed. The Auditor had been extremely thorough and had, helpfully, identified some adjustments which needed to be actioned in terms of payments prior to this stage of the financial year. The adjustments included an unpresented cheque to the Clerk, a ‘missing’ payment of a Grant to the Playing Field Trust. These were both rectified.

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

Payment for Room Hire – SS Peter & Pauls x two meetings £60

Clerk’s Salary mid-May to mid-June £499.20

HMRC payment on above salary £160.40

Lengthsman’s Salary £214.20

Signs of Cheshire (Community Noticeboard) £485.95

***Auditor Adjustment*** – payment of cheque from 2024 £641.00

Grant to Ribchester Playing Field Trust £300.00

***Auditor Adjustment*** – Playing Field Trust £300.00

Zurich Insurance Company (PC Insurance) £363.00

**14 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTIES**

14.1 - Borough Cllr Barnsley reported that he had raised objections to the weed-killing on the riverside, but had discovered that a RVBC department had undertaken the killing/disposal of the giant Hogweed and the Himalayan Balsam had taken place. The problem with this approach is that advanced warning was needed so that dog walkers would be aware of the possibility of injury to dogs from the chemicals used.

14.2 – Cllr Barnsley also reported on the changes proposed to the RVBC budget, where the total had been increased by £1,000,000 to address the need to undertake necessary work on the Swimming Pool, pool lining. There had been an acknowledgement that was a necessity and that this investment would give another 15 years of life to the pool.

14.3 – At the Parish Councils Liaison Committee meeting, there had been expressions of interest in the document relating to the Shared Prosperity Fund; four applications having been made from Ribchester for the Village Hall, Ribchester Museum, the Playing Field Trust and natural Flood Management processes being employed to protect the village. There was also an application from Knowle Green Village Hall. It was noted, however, that the Shared Prosperity Fund process was oversubscribed.

**15 VILLAGE MATTERS**

15.1 - Cllr Finch raised the issue of the remaining public phone box in Knowle Green and the proposal for its removal. An objection had been registered, but the decision taken was that the public phone would be disconnected.

15.2 – Cllr Finch had also investigated the possibility of installing covers for use on the Millennium Garden Sculptures to reduce the ‘weathering’ currently causing concern. There being no other business, the meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………………………