**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 19 February 2024

**PRESENT**:

**Parish Councillors**: Caunce, Cromie, Dickinson, Ellis, Mason, Yates

**Borough Councillor**: Barnsley

**Residents**: Twelve

**Apologies:** None received

**78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**: None.

**79 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**:

A local issue of particular interest and significance to the village was raised and courteously presented to the Councillors by knowledgeable and very committed residents - this being the matter of apparent changes proposed to the area of ‘Greenside’.

The interest in this matter had been piqued by information circulating in the village about proposals for dramatic changes to be made to the area. Understandably, this had led to consternation about the impact of such changes to Greenside. Representatives gave accounts of the perceived harm which would be done to the area should such plans be put in place; including the damage to the ecology and wildlife, and to the well-being of the regular users of the open space for rest and the enjoyment of nature. It was also stated that any such changes may be in breach of the law unless appropriate Bat (and other species’ ) surveys were carried out. A formal request was made for an appropriate Environmental Audit to be carried out.

The Chair confirmed that no decisions had been made, nor any actions taken on any of the areas of concern raised under this item. What had been undertaken, as a preliminary step, was a contact made with RVBC (owner of the land in question), to establish – in the first instance – whether trees could be planted in the area of Greenside. This followed on from the withdrawal of the temporary flood defences from Ribchester (and elsewhere in the country) because of safety concerns. **(NOTE**: Tree planting having been identified as a way of mitigating flooding). The subsequent response from RVBC had not been helpful to the original query and had not been acted upon.

A formal request was made that the Parish Council work with local residents in any future consideration of possible changes to Greenside. This was **AGREED,** although the final point was made that no further pursuance of the original query was planned. (See also Minute 85.6 below).

**80 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2024 were confirmed and duly signed.

**81 MATTERS ARISING:**

***MIN 76 – EV charging points on Pope Croft.*** This had been previously reported, but to date no further details on the two proposed points. The observation was made that they would need to be near a power source, which may mean proximity to the Public Toilets. The issue of regular standing water/flooding on the car park was raised once again; and concerns expressed about the level of noise generated by these EV points. A question was raised by resident close to the (possible) site. Cllr Dickinson offered to carry out a brief investigation of the area.

**82 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

*3/202/ Higher Beck Farm.* A response had been sent to this application particularly because of continuing concerns expressed by local residents in the area of Greenside which had been reported.

*3/2023/1036 Scott House.* Application for Stable Block

*3/2023/1036 Thorncroft, Greenmoor Lane*. Application to remove agricultural occupancy conditions.

*3/2024/0059/ 2 Hospital Cottages. Ribchester Road*. Application for single-storey extension to rear.

**83 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**83.1** The up-to-date Cash Book summary was presented for consideration; it continues to be ‘on track’.

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

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre Room Hire £30

D S Groves – Clerk’s Salary Mid-January to mid-February £499.30

HMRC (PAYE) – Month 10 £124.80

Grant Funding to Playing Field Trust £3000

**83.3** It was noted that an application for funding for replacement of the benches in the Millennium Garden had been addressed by the Church Street Fund Trustees, who had agreed to fund the replacements with a proviso that the Parish Council take responsibility for the installation costs. ***(Provisionally*** agreed by Councillors present – to be confirmed by Council at next meeting).

**84 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

**84.1 Report on PC Liaison Committee Meeting –** Cllr Masonreported thatthe main item had been a new ‘Settlement Study’ for the whole of the Ribble Valley; the stated purpose being to draw up a revised plan of settlement boundaries. This will, in turn, feed into the Local Plan. It was reported that the exercise was to be completed in two weeks, which had been noted by the Parish Councils to be too short a time-frame. The question was raised as to how it would fit in with the Strategic Development Plan; this was not entirely clear, but Borough Cllr Barnsley stated that he would endeavour to find out how any developments would fit with the Core Strategy.

**84.2 Consultation on Clitheroe Swimming Pool –** a survey is to be carried out in respect of the future Ribblesdale Pool in Clitheroe. Various options are to be included, but it was noted that none of them is low-cost.

**85 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**85.1 Annual Parish Meeting – May 2024** The Clerk reminded the meeting that it was a statutory requirement that the Parish held an Annual Meeting before end of May. Although it is separate from the Parish Council, it is organised the Parish Clerk and Chaired by the Parish Council Chair. Suggestions for speakers/topics/ were requested.

**85.2 Replacement/Repair of the ‘Ribchester’ sign** This was reported as having been damaged/suffering wear and tear. Cllr Barnsley reported that there was a charge for replacement, payable by the Parish council. Cllr Dickinson **AGREED** to investigate to see if repairs were a viable option.

**85.3 Notification of amendment to Traffic Regulation Order.** This notification had been sent to houses on Church Street for consultation. It was noted, on examination of the map/document provided, that the existing double-yellow lines would be extended across 59-60 Church Street but also continue to across the end of ‘The Weind’. It was observed that this might cause a problem in reducing the parking space available by one space – significant because parking on Church Street is already limited.

**85.4 Allotments on Stoneygate Lane**. It had been established (following general enquiries) that the land is owned by the Woodford Estates and the Managing Agents are Ingham & Yorke**.** There has been no management oftheland by these Agents for some years but the recent enquiries have brought these facts to light. The view was expressed that the Parish Council should be involved in the management of the land, on behalf of Ingham and Yorke. It is envisaged that this would take the form of the same model as that applied to the management of the riverside allotments (on behalf of RVBC).

It was noted that, disappointingly, many of the allotments are in a poor state of repair, and the point was made that the people who currently have them should make effective use of them **as allotments.** There was a proposal to include this as an item on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**85.5 Traffic Speeding in village.** This continues to be a matter of great concern to the Council and to residents. The matter of the installation of Spids is still ongoing, and various other traffic calming methods were outlined. Cllr Mason continues to lead on this specific project for the village.

**85.6 Flood Defences.** Given the withdrawal of the temporary Flood Defences by the Environment Agency notice was given that plans would be drawn up for consultation about other methods of mitigating flood risks to the village. This would also include consultation on funding.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 9.20pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………………………