**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20 January 2025**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:** Caunce, Ellis, Finch, Mason

**Borough Councillor:** Barnsley

**Residents:** One – A McLaughlin (Knowle Green Representative)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Cromie**,**  Dickinson, Yates

**47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**48 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Knowle Green Representative raised again the problem of speeding in Knowle Green.   
the possibility of installing a warning sign was revisited. The need to install a metal post was acknowledged. Meeting proposed for later in the week.

**49 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**:

The Minutes of the meeting on 9 December were confirmed and duly signed.

**50 MATTERS ARISING**:

50.1 The continuing issue of the **lifesaving ring** removal was revisited. There was an expressed desire to have the ring returned to its original position, despite some voiced concerns about possible vandalism. The general consensus was that it should be returned.

50.2 The **Village Noticeboard** proposal had gained some traction. The owners of the Potters Barn property had agreed for it to be mounted on the wall of the property. There were no known objections. Some research had been carried out as to likely costs, designs and proposed siting of the board.

50.3 – **Riverside Bench Restorations.** It was reported that work had already begun on the restoration and new fixings for the restored benches. Old concrete and fixings had also been removed.

50.4 – **Restoration of removed Post Box**. Clerk continue to pursue, then to write to Parish Councillor Ellis MP to pursue on our behalf.

**51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

Recent issues to do with Planning Application notifications were raised; in that the majority being notified for Ribchester were NOT for properties situated in Ribchester itself. For example, any address for Ribchester Road was forwarded to this Council, even though the actual address was for Clayton-le-Dale. A similar problem arose with Planning Applications for Langho. There was only one during the previous month which was related to Ribchester (5 Church Street) which was notified during the Christmas period and had not been picked up in time to respond.

52 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A long-standing problem in dealing with PAYE payments due on the Clerk’s salary was reported. HMRC had, without warning or notice, changed the required method of payment, and followed this by ‘fining’ the Parish Council for late-payment, even though the Council did not have a method of payment which would be accepted by HMRC. The impasse was eventually raised as an appeal on the PC’s behalf. The independent assessor found for the Parish Council and the Appeal was upheld. In order to avoid repetition of this difficulty, PAYE is now paid on the Council’s behalf by the Clerk and re-claimed as a monthly expense.

**Note:** at the end of the current financial year, the ‘antiquated’ current account held at Lloyd’s Bank will be replaced by an on-line account with systems better suited to banking in the 21st century.

53 **REPORT ON PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

Borough Councillor Barnsley reported on the current changes being made in readiness for the forthcoming Devolution Plans being set in train. Councillor Ellis outlined the proposed timetable (of eighteen months) for ‘decisions’ and then a ‘shadow’ authority for another two years. Cllr Barnsley reported that there is £12million in reserves; £6million from those reserves will be added to the capital budget. He stated that this amount should be used for the Ribble Valley. One of the main draw-downs for the money will be for spending on Clitheroe Castle. In addition, £3million had been earmarked for the Swimming Pool ‘refurbishment’.

Cllr Barnsley also reported/commented on the recent flooding event at the New Year. It was suggested that there was a need for warning signage at the edge of the village. This matter has been referred to LCC Councillor Swarbrick. Some useful suggestions have been put forward by local residents, including that of building a small brick retaining wall to help reduce the water ingress to properties on Ribblesdale Road. Concerns were expressed about the poor maintenance of gutters/gulleys. The final question as to this would all mean the end of the Ribble Valley not specifically be answered, but the expectation was that it would be combined with a larger authority.

**54 VILLAGE MATTERS**:

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