**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20 March 2023

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Cllr E Law-Riding

**Councillors:** Brown, Cromie, Royle

**Visitors/Residents:** Yvette Browne, NW Ambulance Service; Mr C Byers, Mr J Slater, & Mr P Yates (Ecology & Flooding Group)

**77 APOLOGIES:** Sgt Kevin Day, Lancashire Police

**78 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Ms Browne gave an interesting talk on the need for restoration of the First Responders’ role in the village. The main focus of this 2-year project is to reduce out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. The topic was wide-ranging and included the proposal to get as many people as possible trained to undertake CPR (including children). To raise awareness of this there will be a ‘campaign’ of education and providing no-cost training within the village. Various proposals were made: eg, to attend Field Day with a view to recruit First Responders, to acquire another AED to ensure that the requirement to cover the village by ensuring that there are enough defibrillators within 500 yds of those already installed, is fulfilled.

Ms Browne to keep in contact with the Parish Council and advise on progress of the campaign.

**79 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the Meeting of 20 February 2023 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

**80 MATTERS ARISING**:

**MIN62** – The stone trough still requires planting.

**MIN 64**.1 – No further response from the School about a follow-up from the Summer Project (which had been offered to them) to be funded from the remaining balance on the original grant.

**MIN 76**.**3 –** There was no further information available on the repairs to the flagstones outside Potters Barn (RVBC) , or the adoption of the road to Pope Croft by LCC. It was anticipated that these would be long-term projects.

**81 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

***Updates were provided on the following recent applications:***

* Scott House, Greenmoor Lane– Approved with Conditions
* 22 Church Street – decision on replacement windows pending
* Land to West of Parsonage Farm – Approved with Conditions
* Pinfold Farm – Refused
* 17 Blackburn Road - Decision pending on Extension
* 29 Blackburn Road - Approved with Conditions
* 4 Alms Houses, Stydd Lane – Decision Pending

***Latest Planning Application***:

3/2023/0162 – Hilltop Barn, Knowle Green. This had a closing date of 26 March. Cllrs were respectfully reminded to ensure that all applications were responded to – even where the views were ‘no comments/no objections’ as these too need to be recorded.

**82 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

82.1 The Cash Book figures were considered and once again it was noted that the various heads were within budget.

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

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre – for Room Hire - £30

Clerk’s Salary from mid-February to mid-March (+ Expenses) - £463.40

Lengthsman’s Fees - £163.30

**83 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES:**

Borough Councillor Brown reported the following:

That the full Council approved the proposed Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2023-24 which included a £5 rise in Council Tax. It was also noted that a new online Account service has been introduced to allow all Council Tax and Business Rate payers to sign up for access to their accounts with RVBC.

In respect of Planning matters it was reported that the Appeal against the Enforcement Action requiring the rebuilding of The Punch Bowl found in favour of the Council and the court case reached a conclusion resulting in a fine and costs for the company. (**Post Minute Note:** Work has now started on the required reconstruction of the Punch Bowl).

The Borough Council has confirmed plans for the Shared Prosperity Fund to be divided between Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge. An additional grant for the villages is to be announced soon.

Finally, in respect of the HARP project the Planning Committee approved the plans submitted by United Utilities subject to approval by the Secretary of State – Michael Gove . Nigel Evans MP has asked Mr Gove to consider calling in the decision.

**84 ADVANCE NOTICE – VOTER ID REQUIREMENT**

For the forthcoming Elections in May it will be a requirement for electors to provide photographic ID when attending the Polling Station. A notice has been placed in the Parish Board, but there will be a need to display more of these in the lead up to the Elections. The concern was expressed that this new requirement would not be known by everyone wishing to vote.

**85 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**85.1 The Parish Spring Clean** was planned for Saturday 1 April. Notice had been placed in the Parish Board, with a request for anyone with pickers to bring them along as only 5 could be provided by RVBC.

**85.2 Best Kept Village Competition –** this item followed on from the previous discussion. It was considered in terms of the present state of the village and whether the £25 entry fee was a justifiable expenditure.

It was **AGREED** to defer the decision in respect of the village entering until after the Parish Spring Clean. There was time to review the situation (and the state of the village) before the closing date for entries.

**85.3 Coronation Celebrations** – Applications for funding for social events.

By the meeting two plans had been notified to the Council – one from Knowle Green Village Hall for a community party and one from Ribchester Sports and Social Club. £250 was being granted to Parishes to support these social events during the May Bank Holidays and the Council would allocate amounts once further information had been received. It was also noted that other groups/organisations in the village had expressed interests in doing ‘something’ but by the Council meeting no further information had been received.

It was **AGREED** that the money would be divided amongst the applicants on the basis of the need to support the event proposed and, should any further applications be received once the first round decisions had been made; provision would be made from the Budget Head for Grants and Donations.

**Post Minute Note**: Following the meeting it was later announced that the sum available for the Celebration events in Parishes had been increased to £500. This will obviate the need for any drawing of funds from the Grants budget head.

**85.4 Report on Flood Defence Meetings**

The Chair of the Ecology and Flood Group, Mr Yates confirmed that the two Flood Defence meetings had been valuable, in that they had established good connections with the various Agencies. (RRT, Environment and Lancashire County Council). He reported on three key strands which had been identified:

1. To replace the Flood Defences. A technical team had been identified to work on recommendations to replace the defences which had been removed. Jim Walker (Resident) is proposed to head up this group and to identify the recommendations.
2. The second strand is to develop natural flood management processed. This will involve working with the Ribble Rivers Trust and getting landowners involved.
3. The third strand is the further planting of trees in the village/Parish.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………………………