**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 21 March 2022 at SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre, Ribchester

**PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr Milne

Councillors: Law-Riding; Mason; Rollinson; Royle

Also: Mr P Yates, representing Ribchester Ecology Group; + one other resident.

**88 APOLOGIES**: Councillor Brown, Councillor Dickinson; and

County Councillor Swarbrick

**89 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Paul Yates outlined the work of the Longridge Environment Group (LEG) and its stated aim to make Longridge (and area) a healthier, happier and more sustainable place to live. It comprises a Flood group, an Ecology Group, and a Waste group. It also has an overarching educational role.

The particular focus for this meeting was the issue of flooding in Ribchester. An important aspect for the focus was the consideration of the impact of the two tributaries - Boyce’s Brook and Duddel Brook – on the Ribble during periods of high rainfall. The LEG was undertaking research into slowing down the flow of water from them into the already high Ribble. An example was given of a local farmer who has applied for funding for a Bunded field (to retain rain water and to arrest soil erosion) which, it is hoped will stem the flow through Stydd. Another part of the strategy is to construct ‘leaky dams’ – again to slow the flow of water around the village. A final example cited was that of the utilisation of Riparian strips along the river to be used for tree and shrub planting. Further objectives of the local Ecology group were to get landowner involvement and also to apply for funding to support these developments.

This presentation generated a great deal of interest and discussion, given that so many people in Ribchester have been affected by flooding – increasingly so in recent years. The Chairman concluded the discussion by welcoming the proposals and initiatives and stated that anything which can be done will be very useful to the village. Mr Yates was thanked for his contribution.

**90 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:** The Minutes were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

**91 MATTERS ARISING:**

**MIN 85.3 –** Nothing had been received in response to the justification for the increase of the Precept by £2,000 as requested by RVBC. It was presumed, therefore, that the new amount for the Annual Precept would be paid in April.

**MIN 85.**4 - Limited developments in the acquisition of an induction loop for the Parish Centre. No further information as yet on any funding from LCC (via Cllr Swarbrick; currently away) and no response from the Catholic Diocese of Salford, which owns the building.

**92 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Updates: 3/2021/0505** *Oak Barn Farm, Stoneygate Lane* - the application for a Wedding Venue has now been APPROVED. It was noted that many c0nditions were attached to this approval. In particular, these were in respect of the control of noise but it was noted that there was no condition prohibiting the use of fireworks (a major concern of some of the objections raised during the application process).

**3/2021/0056** Higher Beck Farm, Greenmoor Lane. At the time of the meeting the appeal was still pending, but – **Post-Minute Note** – immediately afterwards notice was received that the appeal had been granted for the donkey shelter to be constructed and for the pergola to be built. The re-siting of the Polytunnel was refused permission and has to be removed.

**New Applications: -** Dale Hey Bungalow – permission sought to demolish the bungalow and build a new house. Cllrs were notified that responses would be due by 4 April.

**Appeals –** It was noted that appeals had been lodged in respect of the New Drop development and for Loft Shay Farm, Clitheroe road. Both appeals would be conducted by written submission only.

**93 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

93.1 The monthly update of the Cash Book was received and the current level of expenditure was noted and further anticipated that the year end would not see any large overspend recorded.

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

Clerk’s Salary from mid-Feb to mid-Mch + Expenses of £84.13 £512.53

Lengthsman’s Fee for February £210.90

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre – Room Hire £25.00

Best Kept Village Competition Entry Fee £25.00

93.3 It was reported that now that the **full** amount of funding had been received from RVBC for the Sumer Project (following the closing date at the end of January), that there was a balance of £132.13. (It had been assumed, given that the Church Street fund had provided £500 for the project that RVBC would only pay the difference (£167.87).) This places the Council in the unusual position of having an underspend on funding for a specific project. It was **AGREED** to consult the Auditor about any usual practices applied in such circumstances. It was also **AGREED** to explore whether that balance could be used for another Summer Term Project (in the light of the advice received).

93.4 It was **NOTED** that the Lengthsman had been advised to present his Invoices on a monthly basis. Further, it was **NOTED** that more detailed records of work undertaken on a monthly basis were now accompanying the Invoices.

94 **Reports from Principal Committees**

94.1 It was reported that RVBC was focusing attention on arrangements to be put in

place for Ukrainian Refugees.

94.2 Further, it was reported that most of RVBC’s time at present has been taken up

with setting a budget for the next financial year.

94.3 There was local concern about the condition of the village pavements; particularly after the accident on Church St

when a resident tripped on the uneven surface. This was to be reported to County Cllr Swarbrick.

**95 Village Matters**

95.1 Notice was given about a meeting about the Ukraine situation in St Wilfrid’s

Church on Wednesday 23 March at 8.30pm.

95.2 The date for the Parish Spring Clean was proposed for Saturday 30 April. Related to this, the matter of the painted stones in the old flower trough outside the public toilets was raised again. It was **PROPOSED** to move the stones to the School grounds and to reinstate the stone trough to a flower bed.

95.3 The matter of the Commemoration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee (supported by a grant of £500) was considered. A village sign was considered, but nothing was finalised at the meeting.

95.4 It was further noted that a date needed to be set for the Annual Parish Meeting (date before 1st June). To be confirmed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………..

Dated…………………………………………………………………………..