

RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 12 May 2025

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Caunce, Dickinson, Finch and Mason

Residents: One

Apologies: Cllr Yates, Cllr Cromie, Cllr Ellis

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

- 2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The presence of Giant Hogweed near the Ribchester Arms was reported and it was also stated that there was also a lot on the riverbank and on Stydd Lane. It was noted that it had been sprayed last year. Cllr Barnes to raise the matter with RVBC.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting on 14 April were confirmed and duly signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING:

4. An update on the progress on the allocation of the Memorial Benches was given. To date there had been nine bench requests. Three had been paid for and three 'reinstatements' had been confirmed. RATS had applied for and been granted a bench with an appropriate plaque. Another application for a 'reinstatement' had been received, but a lower price (£200) had been offered by the former relative of the deceased. This will be considered further as a 'matter of principle'. Decision to be reported to next meeting.

There was also a discussion about the request for three plaques for three members of the same family being placed on one bench.

This item will be further considered at next meeting, when overall position/number of applications becomes clearer.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Previously Notified/Recent Decisions

3/2025/0107 – Boadicea Park, Preston Road. This application was **REFUSED**. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Cromie for her very thorough document which had been sent in response to this re-submission of this (long-standing) project. Mr B Briggs was also thanked for his supportive article which had been widely circulated.

3/2025/0185 – Land to rear of Stoneygate Lane – stables, menage and tree planting. **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.**

3/2025/0181 – Blue Slates, Sunnyside Avenue. Addition of a temporary boundary fence on an existing wall. **REFUSED.**

3/2025/0133 – Loft Shay Farm. Extended curtilage, detached garage. **(NO DECISION AS YET)**

3/2025/0086 – 9 West View, Glen Avenue. Removal of Render, reveal stonework, pointing in lime mortar. **(APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS)**

3/2025/0163 – 4 Church Street. Loft conversion, + 2 Velux Rooflights. **(NO DECISION AS YET).**

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

6.1– The cash book summary was considered. It was noted that other amounts for benches were still to be credited. Bank Statements (which are far less regularly received than hitherto) were still awaited.

6.2 – Council considered the Payments for Approval and **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

Payment for Room Hire – SS Peter & Pauls	£30
Parish Clerk's Salary mid-April to mid-May	£640.72
HMRC PAYE payment – expenses claim	£173.40
Office Expenses	£15.00
Lengthsman's Fee from March – April	£214.20

6.3 – It was noted the Annual Audit of Accounts (AGAR) was due to be reported by the end of June. A meeting was planned for 3 June with the new Auditor who would be carrying out the required checks and making recommendations, as required.

7 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES:

Cllr Barnsley reported that the Reform party had taken LCC at the latest election.

Any new developments would be carefully monitored.

Issues which had been raised at Borough Council level were in regard to flooding and anti-social behaviour.

The Annual Mayor-making event had taken place, and a Liberal Democrat, Cllr Simon Hoare had become Mayor.

At the previous RVBC meeting, the issue of Inheritance Tax on farms had been listed on the Agenda.

The Jubilee Fund was reported to be accepting 'expressions of interest'. It was noted that the Ribble Rivers Trust was applying for match funding for flood defences, which could make a significant difference to Ribblesdale Road.

Application is needed. A collaboration between Ribchester and the Lancashire Environment Group may prove beneficial.

7 VILLAGE MATTERS

- 7.1 – The Weind. This important aspect of the village had experienced long delays in finding any level of agreement in the past and although a document had finally been received indicating that a Public Right of Way had been granted, the document containing this information made it clear that it was far from settled, given that it was now open to objections being made.
- 7.2 – The Millennium Garden. Some vandalism had taken place over the Easter Weekend, when a sculpture had been damaged. The discussion covered such issues as the effects of climate change, which may be contributing to the slow deterioration of the stonework. The idea of ‘boxing off’ the sculptures during winter months was mooted (as suggested by the original Sculptor). She also confirmed that she would come and carry out repairs.
- 7.3 – Phone Box at Knowle Green. It was reported that BT wished to remove the box, but it was reported that it could be ‘adopted’ for £1. Cllr Finch agreed to contact Mr McLaughlin at Knowle Green Village Hall.
- 7.4 – It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 2 June 2025 at SS Peter & Paul’s Parish Centre.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8,40pm

Signed.....Chair