**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17 March 2025**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:** Caunce, Cromie, Dickinson, Finch, Mason & Yates

**Borough Councillor:** Barnsley

**Residents:** One

**Apologies:**, Cllr Ellis, and A McLoughlin (Knowle Green).

**47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**48 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**  It was noted that the work on the restoration of the village benches had been welcomed and appreciated by various residents. (***For Information***: Memorial Bench Policy prepared and adopted – increased interest in applications).

**49 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the meeting on 17 February were confirmed and duly signed.

**50 MATTERS ARISING**:

*50.1– Community Noticeboard.* It was reported that an additional noticeboard would be installed for the use of the Community (rather than relying on general notices being placed in the Parish Council noticeboard). Cllr Finch had undertaken research and gathered the necessary information to formally propose this project should go ahead, as soon as practicable. Permission had been granted to place the board on the side of the Potters Barn property.

*50.2 – Post Box (removal) update.* The application to restore the Post Box which had been removed had been turned down; on the grounds that there was an alternative within a half-mile (Post Office regulation distance).

*50.3 – Hedge-trimming Blackburn Road*. This had been actioned.

*50.4 – Appointment of new Auditor for Parish Council accounts*. The Parish Council was pleased to have it confirmed that Mrs Jane Parry was willing to undertake the role of Auditor for the PC accounts.

**51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

*51.1 Current Applications*

3/2025/0153 – Land to rear of Stoneygate Lane – Proposal that stables and menage be build on field. Development would include tree planting and show evidence of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

3/2025/0107 – Boadicea Park, Preston Road - This is a long-standing and contentious development taking place in Ribchester. Cllr Barnsley had called-in the application. Once again, there was known to be continuing opposition to this unwelcome development – much of the current application being retrospective. Major changes to the projected designs of the ‘cabins’ had been submitted; with limited rationale or justification.

Of particular concern in the locality was the current action in respect of digging by the Brook.

52 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Payment for Room Hire to SS Peter & Pauls Centre £30

Payment for installation of SPIDs (for specified period) £175.90

Parish Clerk’s Salary for mid-February to mid-March £499.20

Payment of PAYE on Clerk’s Salary £124.80

Payment of Donation requests (x 3 – Knowle Green, £250 X 3)

St Wilfrid’s PTFA and St Wilfrid’s School garden project)

53 **REPORT ON PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

The Council had received a briefing note on the latest Parish Councils’ Liaison Sub-Committee meeting.

Borough Councillor Barnsley gave an update on progress to dare on the creation of Unitary authorities. The current proposal is that there should be four rather than the three originally proposed. He also reported that this would be a protracted change, the earliest information to be made available in the Autumn.

He further reported that the Budget had been passed and advised the meeting that there is a Jubilee fund available and also a Ribble Valley version of the Shared Prosperty. At present no specific criteria have been identified.

It was mooted that it might be possible to obtain some funding for flood resilience. It was further noted that there was an opportunity for matched funding up to £20,000.

**54 VILLAGE MATTERS**:

54.1 – Village Spring Clean – this year being organised by Cllr Barnsley on Saturday 29th March. The areas to be covered at Knowle Green as well as the main part of the village.

54.2 - Greenmoor Lane : painting of railings. Whilst it was acknowledged that there was paint available for the work; concerns were expressed about the use of volunteers undertaking the work, given the safety implications. It was agreed that this be ‘held 0ver’ *pro tem.*

54.3 – Riverside Troughs – this had been proposed and consideration had been given to a couple of local installations which might be considered as ‘possibles’. One such being the design of the tables outside Whalley Wine Shop. These were discounted as impractical (given the opportunity for people to insert rubbish into the open-work sides. Other sources and designs were briefly considered, but no final decision was reached.

54.4 – PC Stall at Field Day – as at last year’s event. Cllr Caunce agreed to approach Field Day committee for the use of a table. One suggestion had been made about the sale of the Millennium Book.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm