

RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 17th November 2025

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Caunce, Cromie, Ellis, Mason, Yates

Borough Councillor: K Barnsley

Residents: One + PCSO Patel

Apologies: Councillor Dickinson, Mr J Smith

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting on 20 October 2025 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 – Footpath unauthorised closure. An update had been sent to the Clerk by Mr Smith to report to the meeting that this issue was still being pursued and a section 138 application had been made, but the expectation was that it would be subject to long delays.
- 4.2 – Information had been received in respect of the installation of SPIDs; a decision was required as to whether these would be solar or battery powered.
- 4.3 – Concerns were raised about the state of the shop/former café adjoining the Premier store. It was noted that the interior now looks to be in need of serious attention and repair. Cllr Barnes has contacted Mr S Maggs at RVBC to pursue the matter.
- 4.4 – It was reported that the disposal bin for dog excreta needed a replacement; it was suggested that the likely replacement cost would be in the order of £130. Cllr Barnsley agreed to investigate the cost and the need for a 'dispenser' for bags/gloves.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was noted that three planning applications previously considered had not yet been decided.

Planning application 3/2025/0606 had been **Approved with Conditions**

Planning application 3/2025/0236 – Oak Bank Farm (Mr J Wade) was still under consideration. It was noted that residents made complaints about the noise emanating from the property. Cllr Barnsley stated that he would request a meeting to ascertain why changes had been made to the original application (eg, the addition of more outside buildings, and the installation of a swimming pool). It

was further noted that there appeared to be no enforcement of the sound restrictions.

It was noted that the development at the 'Snail Farm' had gone to appeal (outcome to be reported)

6 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

6.1 – Information had been received from Lloyds Bank that the Council's A/C would be closed at the end of February. In line with a previous decision the Unity Bank Trust had been approached to ascertain that a new account could be opened to coincide with that closure. It was noted that the process would be more straightforward for the Council and the Clerk, given that up to five signatories were permitted, and that all transactions could be conducted on-line. Minimum information was required from each signatory.

6.1 - Income – Nil

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

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre	Room Hire	£30
Deborah Groves Parish Clerk	Salary payment for Mid-October to mid-November	£499.20
	PAYE to HMRC	£124.24
Lengthsman's Payments	Salary + purchase of equipment	£101.83

7 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES

The forthcoming Local Government reorganisation was reported on and the issue of how this might affect the Town and Parish Councils. The initial response was that it would not have a major impact. It was reported that Lancashire County Council would support the preferred option. There will be elections in April 2027 and from April 2028, Councils will 'go live'. There were different views expressed – both positive and negative, with a preference expressed for a link with Ribble Valley.

There was then a consideration of the 'transfer of assets' issue and where they will 'belong' – to Unitary Authorities or Local Councils. Ribchester Councillors expressed the view that Parish and Town Councils should be involved in the discussions. Cllr Ellis reported that there were concerns being raised about existing community assets.

8 VILLAGE MATTERS

8.1 – Car Park resurfacing – it was noted that whilst the original plan had been to carry out resurfacing in November, it would now take place from 12 January.

8.2 – Concerns about the premises next to the Premier shop. Various complaints from residents about its appearance and the effect it has on the street. Contact to be made with owner.

8.3 – Cllr Barnsley reported on seed funding available for Community Energy projects.

8.4 Cllr Finch reported on the LALC conference she – and the Parish Clerk – had attended. (A very useful and interesting day. Information shared by LCC Councillors and officers).

8.5 Concerns were still being raised about the parking outside the School causing a potential danger. It was noted that a Traffic Warden attended but at a time when the school day had already started, which did not provide the evidence of possible hazards which were the basis of the concerns. PCSO Patel was aware of the problem and attended when possible.

8.6 She also reported that there were concerns about the thefts from the Premier store.

8.7 The meeting then returned to the matter of protection of the sculptures in the Millennium Garden. The costs had previously been considered, but no final decision had been reached. It was suggested that this matter needs to be raised again given the advice from the sculptor – that protection IS needed

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 9.20pm

Signed..........Chair