**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15th September 2025**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:** Caunce, Cromie, Dickinson, Ellis, Finch Mason, +PCSO Patel

**Residents:** Five

**Apologies:** Cllr Yates

PCSO Patel was welcomed to the meeting

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**: None
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A small cohort of local residents had given notice that they wished to raise concerns about a Planning Application in relation to Oak Bank Farm. This item was confirmed to be appropriate to the Public Participation item, given that residents wished to make a direct presentation of the problems currently being faced by adjoining properties.

The residents representing the area outlined a number of complaints about excessive noise emanating from events, parties and group bookings. It was reported that there was a record kept of noise throughout the year and, in particular, the summer months. These disturbances were particularly intense on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from late evening until the early hours. It was noted that the noise could be heard three fields away from the site.

It was reported that a previous application for the development of the site in 2021 had led to conditions being imposed, which had not been adhered to.

Cllr Barnsley confirmed that he would ‘call in’ the application which would be referred to the Planning Committee.

A further issue of importance to residents was reported to the meeting; that of the blocking of a public footpath from Higher Beck Farm to Cage Mill. The footpath had been diverted in 2008-10 and a bridge removed (which is still missing). It was further reported that the path had been blocked with barbed wire added and a ‘No Trespassing’ sign erected. Cllr Ellis (MP) confirmed that her staff were in contact with LCC pursuing this unauthorised closure.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting on 21 July 2025 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**
   1. Cllr Mason provided an update on the Memorial Benches project, which had proved to be a success, in the terms of take-up.
   2. Cllr Finch reported on progress of the Millennium Sculpture repairs. There had not been any action taken to undertake repairs given the recent inclement weather. Sculptor to return and undertake remedial conservation work at appropriate time.
2. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**Previously Notified/Recent Decisions**

3/2025/0650 **– Parsonage Farm –** demolition of dwelling and replacement; including new gated entrance and planting.

3/2025/0692 – **Page House, Dilworth Bottoms** – proposed single storey front entrance alterations to existing conservatory and new parking area.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

6.1 – 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 payments for

August-September £499.20 x 2

PAYE to HMRC £124.80 x 2

Other sums requiring payment were based on estimates which will be confirmed. The requests were for SS Peter & Pauls, the Millennium Garden sculptures, and for a replacement laptop for the Council office.

1. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

7.1 PCSO Patel raised concerns about the increase in speeding traffic incidents in the village. The School had raised concerns about this and also the frequent incidents of parking on zig-zag markings and on double-yellow lines. It was noted that the LCC traffic warden comes to the village everyday but, it was suggested that ‘not at the right time’. In discussion possible solutions, the meeting identified the re-introduction of SPIDS and how to acquire a ‘permanent’ SPID.

7.2 Cllr Barnsley had asked to attend the School Governors’ meeting to raise these problems. It was noted that the problem was particularly acute during ‘dropping-off’ time – 3.15 – 3.45pm. Cllr Barnsley had made an enquiry about ‘speed guns’. Cllr Caunce offered to call in at the school to discuss

7.3 It was noted that Mr Slater regularly raised the issue of the village ‘Dog’ bin and the disposal bags which were poorly maintained. No action had been taken. He also raised the issue of the Stydd Gardens footpath, which he believed to be a hazard.

7.4 Local Government re-organisation, which would shortly be open to consultation. Cllr Ellis reported on different options for unitary authorities. She confirmed that she believed that the existing system of Town and Parish Council areas were essential to retain.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed…………………………………………………………………….Chair