**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17 April 2023

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Cllr E Law-Riding

**Councillors:** Brown, Cromie, Mason, Rollinson

**Present:** Mr P Yates Chair of Ecology Group. Two residents.

**86 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Dickinson

**87 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**88 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the Meeting of 20 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

**89 MATTERS ARISING**:

**MIN84**: Forthcoming Election. The issues concerning the difficulties with the processes in place for the Borough and Parish Council nominations were reported. Feedback to be sent to the Returning Officer when the Election process completed.

Anticipated problems with the new requirement for photo ID were briefly considered. Posters and flyers provided were on display in the village.

**MIN85.1:** Parish Spring Clean. This had taken place on 1 April but it had been very poorly supported by residents. As far as was known only seven people had participated.

**MIN 85.**4 Flood Defences. The Chair of the Ecology and Flooding group provided an update on the latest meeting when the major item had been about tree planting around the village.

**90 PLANNING MATTERS:**

**90.1** **The most recent Planning Application** was 3/2023/0277 regarding Tree Works in the village, the most important of which was the application for trees to be felled in and around Greenside Car Park and the Allotment Gardens. These will be two Ash trees (suffering Ash Die Back) to be felled; the removal of failed branches from two Goat Willow trees and one London Plane Tree to be felled but replaced.

These proposals were discussed in some detail given the proximity of the Ash trees to the small bridge over the brook near the entrance to the allotments; also the fact that it was currently the nesting/fledging period and that Mallard ducklings had recently been sighted near the bridge were considered. Further information was to be sought from the Countryside Officer

**90.2 Planning Updates.**

*3/2023/0063 – Loft Shay Farm.* Variation of Conditions – Approved.

*3/2022/1159 No. 4 Alms Houses, Stydd,* - Still Pending

*3/2023/0102 17 Blackburn Road* – Refused

3/2022/1155 – *22 Church Street* - Still Pending

**91 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The Cash Book figures were considered and it was noted, once again, that the current balance was well within the budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

SS Peter & Pauls Room Hire£30

Clerk’s Salary from mid-January to mid-February £428.40

HMRC (PAYE) Month 12 £106.63

Lengthsman’s Fee £185.30

**91.1 – RVBC Grants for Coronation Celebrations**

RVBC had provided £500 to fund Coronation Celebrations in the form of grants to groups or village organisations which were organising events. Two applications had been received:

*Knowle Green Village Hall* proposed a BBQ on Sunday 7 May and *Ribchester Sports and Social Club* has planned a Family Friday event that weekend with a children’s entertainer and on the Coronation Day there will be large screens installed in the club to watch the event and to raise a toast to the new King.

It was **RESOLVED** to divide the grant funding equally between these two events.

(Action: Clerk to notify organisers and distribute cheques promptly to ensure funding available prior to the planned events (**DONE**).

**91.2 – Purchase of plants for the stone trough and the planter on Church Street.**

It was noted that there was still money in the accounts which had been provided for Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee which had been earmarked for the purchase of plants for the planter when it was completed. Thus Council had no hesitation in approving the expenditure be carried forward to the current project.

**92 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

Cllr Brown reported that ten Parishes would be having Elections but there were five parishes with no Elections and several where there were not enough Councillors to be able to co-opt others onto the Council (for lack of a quorum).

At the Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting on 6 April County Councillor Swarbrick had pressed for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits to be implemented in villages. Unfortunately there was no source of finding to support this proposed project. Notice was also given of a County-wide campaign for reducing Tractor speeds through villages and a working party was being set up to consider this.

**93 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**93.1 Best Kept Village Competition.** It was decided (with regret) that given the current condition of the village environment – and following the experience of the Parish Spring Clean - that there should not be an entry into this annual competition this year**. ACTION**: Clerk to notify organiser. (**DONE**).

**93.2 – Establishment of a Community Orchard.** This proposal was made by the Ecology and Flooding Group, on the ground that trees are vital for the absorption of water – which is of particular relevance to Ribchester. It was further proposed that a ‘public’ orchard would be a beneficial amenity to the village. Consideration was being made as to feasibility in the area of Greenside Car Park.

This was an initial proposal, which requires consideration of a number of issues, including funding, and the need to consult RVBC which owns the land in that part of the village.

**POST MINUTE NOTE:** Shortly after the Council meeting, the presence of Giant Hogweed in significant abundance was reported along the riverbank and in the area of Greenside Car Park and behind the allotments. It was not possible to arrange for RVBC (or Ribble Rivers Trust) to take the appropriate action necessary quickly, so warning posters were quickly prepared and placed around the area as a Stop-gap measure. This matter to be pursued with RVBC,

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.29pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………

Date…………………………………………………………………………