**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20 February 2023

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** Cllr E Law-Riding

**Councillors:** Brown, Cromie, Mason, Royle

**Visitors/Residents:** Three representatives from the B4Rn broadband project, and Sergeant Kevin Day, Lancashire Police

**68 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Dickinson, Cllr Rollinson, Mr Yates (Ecology & Flooding Group), Yvette Browne NW Ambulance Service.

**69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**: None. Planned attendance by Ms Browne to speak about reinstatement of First Responders’ Scheme postponed to next meeting,

**70 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**: The Minutes of the Meeting of 16th January 2023 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

**71 MATTERS ARISING**:

**MIN 60**: A post-minute note had been added to the Minutes in respect of new information received from Cllr Swarbrick about the new reporting App for **all** matters to do with highways, streets, flooded gulleys etc, called **Love Clean Streets**. Information posted in Notice Board.

**MIN 62**: The Stone Trough was considered again (on-going Agenda item). No further progress.

**MIN 64**.1: In following up the item about the balance of the Summer 2021 School project which remains in the Council account, Cllr Mason reported that the school would still like to use the money but have not yet identified a specific project.

**72 B4RN PROJECT: INSTALLATION OF HYPERFAST RURAL BROADBAND**

The three representatives from the B4RN scheme gave an outline of the project which provides a community benefit of hyperfast rural broadband at a competitive price. It was confirmed that this group has no connections with BT or Open Reach. At present there are 330 houses in Knowle Green and its environs which could benefit from the provision for £33 per month, with a connection fee of £60. This local development would, in turn, connect with Chipping (which has been provided with B4RN broadband and is currently benefitting from the high speed service).

 Council had already approved the siting of the cabinet necessary to connect the service on its land at Grimshaw Quarry and the B4RN representatives expressed their thanks to the Council for this permission. It was confirmed that there would be no liability on the Council or its Tenant for this installation.

 It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Wayleave Agreement. **(Done**)

**73 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

 ***Updates were provided on the following recent applications:***

* Scott House, Greenmoor Lane – Approved with Conditions
* 1 Parsonage Avenue – Approved with Conditions
* Kellets Farm, Greenmoor Lane – Refused, incongruous development
* 22 Church Street – decision on replacement windows pending
* Land to West of Parsonage Farm – decision on slurry tank pending
* Loft Shay Farm – decision pending
* Pinfold Farm – decision pending on demolition of building.
* 17 Blackburn Road, decision pending on extension.

A note of thanks to the Council had been received from a resident on Greenmoor Lane who was grateful for its support with an objection to a planning irregularity.

**74 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

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

SS Peter & Pauls Room Hire£25

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

 HMRC (PAYE) £107.20

 Lengthsman’s Fee £252.45

**75 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

 The most significant, and pressing, matter reported from RVBC was that concerning the pending changes to the Electoral System in the UK. This will take effect prior to the forthcoming local elections in May 2023; and will require every voter to present photographic identification to enable them to cast their vote. There will be an extensive campaign alerting the electorate to this requirement.

An update on the HARP project was provided, which is the Haweswater aqueduct replacement scheme proposed by United Utilities to deliver top quality water to Manchester and to this area. This will be a 10 year scheme with major movements of men and machines but all the spoil will go to Waddington Fell Quarry and there will be two temporary river crossings and a couple of temporary hauls. Many of the villages are concerned about traffic but LCC Highways is now content with the plans and will be attending the next RVBC Planning Committee.

**76 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**76.1** Council was presented with summary notes of the recent well-attended meeting on Flood Defences which had taken place on 9 February. The most significant message from that meeting was that there was no external funding available to replace the flood defences which had been withdrawn but the Environment Agency would offer advice and guidance on proposals should any come forward from Ribchester.

It was concluded that the most positive response had come from the Ribble Rivers Trust staff present at the meeting and that it was likely that that organisation would be the one to support locally-identified projects focussing on natural flood defence interventions.

76.2 Funding for the Coronation – any applications to be submitted by the end of the financial year for the £250 allocated for village celebrations.

76.3 The recent advice that the road to Pope Croft was unadopted and that LCC had refused to consider adopting it – because of the absence of ‘*public utility’* - was considered. The later development of a visitor to the village tripping and falling on the broken paving outside Potters Barn had added a further complication to this decision. It was reported that RVBC had agreed that it had the responsibility to maintain and repair the car park and the road to it and that a further attempt would be made (by RVBC) to get LCC to agree to adopt the road.

76.4 Sergeant Kevin Day introduced himself to the Council and outlined the new approach to local policing. RVBC is implementing a more traditional approach by changing to a 24 hours dedicated response officer in the area. This will be supported by local PCSO staff. This information was welcomed by the Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………………………