**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 20 June 2022

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Law-Riding, Mason, Rollinson and Royle

*Note: The Chairman was unavoidably detained in Manchester, therefore the*

*Vice-Chairman took the chair in her absence.*

Also Present: Mr T Burns – Project Manager from the land development project on Preston

Road and eight local residents.

11 **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Brown

12 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr Burns had requested an opportunity to provide further information about the development of the land at Preston Road (known locally as the ‘Snail Farm’). He provided two documents to support his presentation which, he stated, would address the objections which had been made to the development. (Copies placed in Minute Book). He was allowed time to address these objections but was challenged on several of the breaches of regulations such as disturbances to the water course on the land. He displayed photographs to the meeting of proposed buildings and assured the meeting that the colour scheme of the main building would be changed to meet local preferences. The presentation then developed into a disquisition on a number of elaborate developments on the land – for all of which further planning permissions would be sought. The Chairman brought the presentation to an end after a significant length of time had been allowed to cover all facets of the future proposals for the development. It was the view of the meeting that the Council and the residents would continue to raise the strongest objections possible to all the developments being proposed on that site as being inappropriate to the village and contrary to the current Core Strategy Policy DME4 10.5.

13 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**: The Minutes of the meeting on 16 May were confirmed as a true record and duly confirmed.

14 **MATTERS ARISING:**

**MIN 6** The insurance problem being experienced by a village resident had finally been resolved, without any apology, expression of condolences or any gesture of compensation being offered by the insurance company.

**MIN10 The Ukraine Project.** At the time of the meeting there had still not been any Ukraine refugee families housed in the village. Several local families/householders have made applications but non appear to have been processed.

At the market on the Jubilee weekend, the Ukraine Project stall raised £260.64 cash and with the Gift Aid claimed this realised a total of **£325.64.**

**15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**New application Received –** *3/2022/0406 – 1 Parsonage Avenue,*a proposed single storey rear and side extension and two storey rear extension.

**Further Application received** (on Snail Farm development*)*

*3/2022/0530* Variation of Condition and resubmission of 3/2022/0271.

**Updates:** Dale Hey Bungalow – *Approved with conditions*; 7 Fort Avenue – *Refused* on grounds of overbearing impact and loss of natural light for adjoining property. Pinfold Farm *– Refused* on grounds of unsustainable development and visual impact.

**(**The reasons given for refusal were noted with interest by the meeting**)**

It was **noted** that complaints had been received from local neighbours in respect of the continued siting of the polytunnel at Higher Beck Farm which had been refused retrospective planning permission but had not been removed.

**16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) documents were signed. The current healthy state of the Council accounts was noted as was the fat that a small deficit had been reversed in 2021-2022 to a modest surplus. These will be displayed from the following day until the end of July to enable the exercise of public rights to take place.

**RESOLVED** That the following payments be made:

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre – Room Hire £25

Clerk’s Salary from mid-May to mid-June £428.40

Mr C Sharples, Audit Fee £220

Ribchester Playing Field Trust – Grant £300

BHIB (Annual PC Insurance) £395.79

Matthew Walker (PDQ Pizzas) Lengthsman’s Fee £217.20

The current financial position of the Parish Council was noted through the

Cash Book figures tabled at the meeting.

17 **REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES:**

Cllr Brown had forwarded the following points for the meeting:

Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme is underway with a non repayable grant of

£150.00 for those in bands A to D. Nearly £3million allocated to RV.

COVID Additional Relief or CARF was announced last December to help businesses who were not eligible for existing business rate support schemes. RV was allocated £1.2 million from the government but applications have been slow to arrive and the council is looking at ways to award payments to businesses adversely affected by covid.

RVBC has already made payments on behalf of the government to RVBC

businesses of almost £35million since the start of the pandemic.

Consultation on the Local Plan Review continues.

**18** **RVBC CONSULTATION PROCESS – Strategic Issues Consultation**

Notification of the Ribble Valley Local Plan 2022 – 2038 Consultation process had been received (and publicised in the Notice Board). This is the start of a protracted process of consultation on, and development of, the Local Plan which will take us into the next decade. The closing date for comments is **7 July 2022,** and from then further discussions and consultation meetings will take place. The key features of the document are concerned with the development of the housing stock in the Ribble Valley, including affordable housing; addressing the needs for Employment and Growth, and the consideration of identified Main Centres and Retail.

A preliminary meeting had been held and two local residents had attended on the Council’s behalf. Notes of that meeting had been provided and it became clear that a co-ordinated response to the complex issues contained in the Local Plan would be needed.

It was **PROPOSED** that a local meeting of adjoining Parish Councils be arranged to devise and submit a written response to be sent to the Borough Council. Following this there will be an arrangement made to meet with Colin Hirst, Head of Regeneration and Housing.

**19 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**19.1 Dogs on the Playing Field.** An email had been received from a visitor complaining about the presence of dogs on the Playing Field. The owners had been approached by the visitor who pointed out the various signs about dogs being prohibited, but she had been rebuffed by the owners who did not remove the (several) dogs they had on the site.

**19.2 Use of weed killer by RVBC staff.** A complaint had been sent to RVBC about the use of spray weedkiller by its staff in the village earlier in the month. This was notified to the Clerk by RVBC, who was advised that this is standard practice. Concerns have also been expressed in the village about the same issue by members of the Ecology Group.

**19.3 Best Kept Village Competition.**  It was noted that, at the time of the meeting, the stone trough next to the public toilets had still not been re-planted. Further, apart from the planting of the flower bed in the Millennium Garden there was no other n0ticeable improvements around the village. It was pointed out that Ribchester is a busy, working village and not a ‘Chipping’ or a ‘Waddington’. Ribchester is frequently swamped by vehicles and people, particularly in the good weather.

The example of Garstang in Bloom was offered as an example of a community getting together on the project to improve the appearance of the village which they did by making it a community activity/social occasion.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

**Signed……………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Date…………………………………………………………………………………………**