

# RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16 January 2023

## PRESENT:

**Chairman:** Cllr E Law-Riding

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

Mr P Yates representing the Ecology and Flooding Group + Two residents

58 **APOLOGIES:** None

59 **PROCEDURE:** The Chairman reminded all present of the usual protocol for the conduct of the meetings and asked for any comments from the floor to be put only under the Public Participation item on the Agenda. Further reminding everyone of the need to put any requests to speak through the Chair and asked that there be no interruptions from the floor.

A further request was made that any participation should be made clearly so as to enable the points being made to be heard by everyone present.

60 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr Slater reported to the meeting that there was a large pothole between Pinfold Farm and Angels restaurant which was in urgent need of repair. (**Post Minute Note:** details of the LCC on-line system for reporting such problems under the **Love Clean Streets** initiative, which also includes reporting potholes, blocked drains etc are now displayed on cards in the Parish Notice Board).

61 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

62 **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Recurring Items – The Millennium Garden Benches.** Cllr Royle confirmed that in better weather the benches would be revarnished. *The Stone Trough.* Thanks were expressed to Cllr Dickinson for organising the removal of the debris left in the bags after the concrete had been broken up by the Lengthsman. A donation of soil for the trough had been offered by Mr M Procter and Mr C Keighley was to be contacted to replant the trough. (*Cllr Dickinson*).

**MIN 56.1 – Flood Defences Updates.** It was confirmed that a Residents' meeting would take place at the Club on Thursday 26 January at 7.00pm. All residents were welcome to participate in the discussion and various ideas would be offered by the Ecology Group. All were welcome to attend.

Following that meeting there would be a 'Stakeholders' Meeting' on 9 February at 7.00pm at the Black Bull where the Environment Agency and The Ribble Rivers Trust were confirmed as attending and various other related organisations had also been invited. Again, all residents were welcome to attend.



63 **PLANNING APPLICATION:**

Planning Application 3/2022/1155 – Listed Building consent for replacement windows at ground and first floor level – No objections. An observation was made that the current windows appeared to be new and in very good order. It was suggested that this might be a retrospective application.

64 **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

64.1 The updated Cash Book figures were considered and it was noted that the spending under each budget head was still on track. The question was raised whether the School had ever come back to the Council to request the £150 balance on the funding it had received for the Summer Project in 2021 as it could have been used for a follow-up event at the school. It was confirmed that no such request had been received despite an invitation to do so being sent to the Headteacher. Cllr Mason to make enquiries.

64.2 It was **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

Clerk's Salary from mid-December to mid-January	£428.40
SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre, Room Hire	£30.00 (new rate)
HMRC for PAYE for months 9 & 10	£214.40
Lengthsman's fee (via PDQ Pizzas)	£654.74

65 **REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

It was reported that the main focus of the officers at present was the preparation of budgets for the next financial year. It was clear to date however that there was going to be a shortfall of approximately £1million for the following year, but it was noted that it was comparatively in a reasonable position.

It was noted, however, that the Borough Council was currently in a state of flux with a number of significant senior officers having left/retired. It was noted that some replacements had begun to be found, eg, Mr C Hurst had been replaced, but there would be some gaps created by others leaving. It was very significant that Olwen Heap had retired after 39 years, as she had made a huge contribution to the work of the Council over that time. *(It was noted that the Clerk had been greatly assisted by Mrs Heap on her appointment and continuously since, and a message of gratitude had been sent to acknowledge this valuable help).*

66 **LCC BUDGET CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

Council had been invited to comment on the document sent outlining the forthcoming budget proposals for the next financial year and projections on to 2026/27.

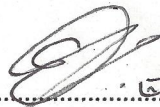
The key features of the Budget document and the supporting Appendices were noted and Councillors were invited to send any further comments/observations to the Clerk who would compile these for dispatch by the deadline. (**DONE**).

## VILLAGE MATTERS

67.1 *The King's Coronation* – update on plans for celebrations to date – it was noted that there were some plans being made for events in May; in particular an event at the Sports and Social Club and the choir planning a Celebratory concert.

67.2 *Rural Broadband*. A letter had been received concerning the provision of an ultrafast broadband for the community of Knowle Green which would require the installation of a cabinet on the land adjacent to the Halls Arms; which belongs to the Parish Council. Cllr Dickinson had further information about this rural broadband provision and confirmed that it had been a great success in Chipping. Council was, therefore, pleased to give its approval. Action – letter of confirmation to be sent (**DONE**).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed..........

Date.....FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup> 2023.....