

RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15 January 2024

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Caunce, Dickinson, Ellis, Mason,

Borough Councillor Barnsley

Residents: Four

Apologies: Councillors Cromie and Yates

69 **WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR:** The Vice-Chair welcomed Cllr Ellis to her first meeting, who introduced herself and briefly outlined her current role in LCC.

70 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

71 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

71.1 An update on the current B4RN project was received and it was noted that £280,000 had already been raised. 110 households were already 'signed-up'. There was the opportunity to apply for funding as a Voluntary Organisation, but this could not be done via the project. A request was made that permission be granted for the application to be made via the Parish Council. This was **AGREED**. It was also noted that the installation currently ends at Stydd, officers from the project were supportive of the installation extending to include SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre, so as to provide an internet link which is not currently available.

The question was raised as to how information could be disseminated. It was suggested that anyone interested be directed to the B4RN website and the Investment Document which is available there.

71.2 The Chair of Knowle Green Village Hall was present to update the Council on progress of the Solar Energy project. Council was pleased to know that the project to install Solar panels and EV charging stations was now complete and that the Hall now relies on Solar Energy. Further funding was available (from the National Lottery and other sources – eg – Duchy of Lancaster) and a request was made for any such funding applications to be supported by the Parish Council. This was also **AGREED**.

72 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2023 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

73 **MATTERS ARISING:**

73.1 It was confirmed that the Finance Sub-Committee had **AGREED** (on behalf of the Parish Council, during December) to the £500 grant payment to Knowle Green to cover the shortfall in the funding amount finally received for the EV and Solar Panel funding.

73.2 The Planning Application 3/2023/0477 for The Vines, Preston Road, Cllr Barnsley had met with Nicola Hopkins and had 'called in' the application. He would speak to it at the Planning Meeting and would request conditions be placed on the application.

74 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

~~2/2024/022~~ *Higher Beck Farm*. Variation of Conditions application – Refurbishment of existing barn.

3/2023/0855 – Parsonage Farm – Application refused. Appeal lodged.

3/2023/0825 – Parsonage Farm – application for single-storey barn for livestock, feed & equipment.

75 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

75.1 The Finance Sub-Committee had met during December. Various decisions had been made, which were reported to the full Council:

1 That, in order to be able to action decisions which had been made following the Annual Meeting, the Precept to be increased by £2000.

2 That funds be drawn from the 'working capital' (currently in the Savings Account) to support improvements in the village and to award funds to appropriate applications for assistance. In principle it was agreed to support the request for funding support for the Playing Field Trust; and the replacement of the Millennium Garden benches.

3 That the rate of pay for the Parish Clerk's monthly salary be increased from £10.30 per hour to £12.00 per hour (using the Living Wage Foundation rate as a guide).

75.2 The Cash Book Summary was received and it was noted that the spending was within the agreed budget.

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

SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre – Room Hire - £30

Clerk's Salary for December (at previous rate) £428.60

Clerk's Salary for January (at new rate agreed) £599.00

HMRC (PAYE) for December & January £256.80

75.4 It was **NOTED** that there had been an increase of the website fees from £25.30 to £30.36

75.5 It was reported that at a meeting held at the Millennium Gardens on 12 January, the Church Street Fund Trustees had confirmed that the Fund would pay, in full, for the replacement of three benches. It expressed the hope that the Parish Council would, in turn, fund the costs of installing them. This was **AGREED**. In addition, it **NOTED** that the Parish Council would be in a position to assist the Playing Field Trust with funding for its improvements project.

76 PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES

Cllr Barnsley reported that RVBC had approved the installation of two EV charging points on Pope Croft Car Park. Questions were asked as to whether the Parish had any opportunity to contribute to the decision (placement etc). Cllr Barnsley confirmed that the main consideration would be proximity to the power source.

Cllr Ellis reminded the meeting that there was a current consultation exercise on the Lancashire Combined Authority proposal. She confirmed that any comments submitted would be considered. Council/residents can send comments on-line.

77 VILLAGE MATTERS

77.1 The following were noted as items which had been discussed at previous meeting but still awaited action(s) – the installation of SPIDS, clean-up of the village (suggested solution, to advertise again for a Temporary Lengthsman/woman. Actions to be carried forward once again.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. R. / M.' with a large flourish at the end.

Date.....

19/02/24