

RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 16 October 2023

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Caunce, Cromie, Dickinson, Rollinson, Yates

Residents: Two

Visitors: Two

Apologies: Councillors Mason and Royle; Borough Councillor Barnsley

51 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

52 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

52.1 In the week prior to the meeting, there had been a number of complaints about the repeat of Pilkington bus service cancellations, particularly during afternoons. In the exchange of correspondence in respect of this it was reported that owing to the 'national shortage' of bus drivers, that available drivers had to be redeployed cover Schools' services. The correspondence received from Pilkingtons was shared with the meeting as was the particularly concerning example of a young disabled woman who was negatively affected by the interruption of the service, upon which she was reliant to get to a job in Stonyhurst College. All this accumulated information was passed to the Safety Partnership and it was reported that there would be a meeting to consider the problems. Unfortunately, this was not possible until **26 January 2024**. A request for an earlier meeting could not be actioned.

The suggestion was made from the floor of the meeting that as these were subsidised bus services that the company should be challenged when the service was 'dropped' and also LCC Transport should be informed as that would be the commissioning body.

52.2 A query was raised about the Flood Level Boards on the riverbank and which body was responsible for their up-keep and inspection. It was reported that they were managed by the Environment Agency and the meeting was assured that they were checked every month.

52.3 Mr Rennie Pinder kindly attended the meeting to make a presentation on speeding problems in Ribchester. He provided some very salutary figures gathered from SPIDS (Speed Indicator Display Signs) which demonstrated the alarming speeds reached on Lancashire Roads which were designated as 30 or 40 mph. The top speed identified was 80 mph. There was strong support expressed for the installation of such devices in Ribchester and it was noted that there are already backplates at Bee Mill for such installation. The possibility of a PCSO attending with hand-held devices to undertake Road Safety Checks was noted. It would be the responsibility of the Parish Council to press for such actions.

In addition to the concerns within the village itself, the point was also raised that the main road through Knowle Green was driven on at exceptional speeds by motorcyclists. It was noted that there had already been a fatality on this stretch of road.

Council expressed its gratitude to Mr Pinder for his attendance and for bringing such valuable information to its attention.

53 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of 18 September were confirmed and duly signed.

54 **MATTERS ARISING:** Following recent practice, all matters arising from current issues and projects were recorded on the Project Matrix document (a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book) which will be carried forward to subsequent meetings.

Matters outwith the projects were:

MIN 46 – Planning Applications and related decisions. Following up on the points made during the September meeting, Borough Councillor Barnsley had made contact with a planning consultant on the Borough Planning Committee to request some appropriate familiarisation/training for making Planning decisions.

MIN 49 – Parish Councils Conference – 4 November at County Hall. Two Councillors to be proposed – Cllr Caunce and Cllr Yates.

55 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The following updates were reported:

3/2022/1061 – Mill Race Cottage – REFUSED

3/2023/0412 – Higher Beck Farm – No decision at time of Council Meeting

3/2023/0576 and 0577 – 29 Church Street – REFUSED

3/2023/0537 – 18 Church Street – APPROVED

3/2023/0535 – Kemple Side, Knowle Green – No decision at time of Council Meeting

3/2023/0496 – (Documents Tabled) – Moor Hey House, Stoneygate Lane NO OBJECTIONS

56 **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

56.1 The up-to-date Cash Book figures were presented for consideration. The spending is still 'on track' for the agreed budget.

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

- D S Groves – Clerk's Salary from mid September to mid October £428.60 and
- Office Expenses for printing ink and other sundries £84.80
- HMRC/PAYE – Month 6 £107.00
- SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre Room Hire £30.00
- Land Registry Fee to establish ownership of land £4.00
- RVBC Allotments Lease £607.88

56.3 On behalf of the Playing Field Trust, correspondence had been received about the availability of funding support from the Parish Council. A recommendation had been made that such an application should be made to the Council rather than to the Church Street Fund and this had been communicated to the Chair of the Council. The Council makes an annual donation to the PFT but also has to ensure that certain monies which are ring-fenced are not distributed via donations or grants. As one grant had been made in the current financial year, a further one could not be made at this time. However, further consideration may be given to a request at a later stage.

56.4 It was reported that Council is required to hold a Finance Sub-Committee meeting in November to prepare for the Precept application which has to be submitted in December. The standard membership of the Sub-Committee is the Chair, Vice-Chair and one Councillor, and the meeting is assisted by the Parish Clerk. Of the available dates, Wednesday 22 November was confirmed.

56.5 Allotment Rents for 2023/2024. Information had been received from RVBC that the rent for the Allotment Lease had been increased by just over 9%. In the past, it has not always been the case that this has been passed on to the tenants. This year, it was **RESOLVED** that the increase should be calculated (proportionally) and applied to the various different rates of rent for the respective allotments. (**DONE**).


57 **REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES:** Although unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Barnsley submitted a written report on recent activity. He had been able to make a strong contribution to the change of RVBC policy on becoming a Living Wage Employer. He also reported that he would be supporting the Ribchester Community Orchard scheme at the Community Services Committee. He also noted actions that he had taken, or would be taking in respect of road safety issues within the village.

58 **INSTALLATION OF WATER SAFETY BOARDS ON RIVERSIDE:** Following the contact made from Paul Slee of Lancashire Fire and Rescue about the installation of safety notices on the riverside, it was agreed that these could be placed on the area above the 'tush'. It was remarked that the signage would require good foundations to also be installed or they may be subject to the same treatment as the Giant Hogweed warning signs, which were removed within hours of installation.

59 **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND:** Information had been received about the Household Support Fund which was a Department of Work and Pensions initiative to provide shopping vouchers for households in the Ribble Valley with an income of less than £50,000. This initiative to be publicised in the village.

60 **CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING (RVBC):** A message had been received from RVBC that it had been noted that none of the Parish Councillors had booked to attend the forthcoming Code of Conduct Training in the Borough Council Offices. Given that the Councillors were all issued with the Code of Conduct and briefed on its contents and that the session on offer was a direct repeat of one given two years previously, where no identifiable 'training' activity had taken place, following discussion, it was agreed that no nominations would be made for Councillor(s) to attend.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....20/11/23