

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 11 June 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. A R Peters (Chairman); A J Grindley; J E Kay; Ms P Lewis; P Longhurst; Mrs E L Pitts; R B Truman; K White; & R Wilcox.

There were 4 members of the public present.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs Fordham, Mrs Humphrey, Wilson and Mrs Woollons.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- 2.1 There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 14 May 2009

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed to be signed as a correct record by the Chairman, subject to correction of the noted date of the next meeting.

- 3.2 Arising from these minutes, the Clerk advised that, in relation to item 12.1 Village Hall improvements, arrangements were being made for a Buildings and Contracts sub committee and it was agreed that the Parish Council would be represented by Cllr Grindley and the Clerk. There will also be a Fundraising sub committee and it has since been confirmed that on this Council will be represented by Cllr Mrs Fordham and the Finance Officer.

- 3.3 The Clerk also advised that Council and other representatives had been invited to the Village of the Year awards ceremony on 10 July and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Fordham should co-ordinate who would attend.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- 4.1 The Chairman invited the meeting to suspend Standing Orders, and asked for questions or comments from members of the public present.

- 4.2 Mr Cooper regretted that the vibrating roller used on the Green where the circus had been had proved ineffective due to the drier weather and that the ground had cracked and holes from the tent poles were apparent and hazardous. It was agreed that he would kindly supply

some topsoil and Mr Giles would be asked to carry out the necessary remedial work. He would also mark out in chalk the positions to which he considered the Springett Avenue dropped kerbs should be repositioned. He did not agree with the suggestion that streetlights should be extinguished in the early hours.

- 4.3 PCSO Clarke provided details of the latest crime bulletin and following discussion it was agreed that this should be publicised as this included an indication of what follow up action was being taken. She also advised that an additional traffic incident team had been introduced and this would enable a quicker local reaction to circumstances. Cllr Truman emphasised the problems currently being experienced with dog fouling and referred to a dangerous practice of vehicles driving the wrong way along North Road despite clear signage.
- 4.4 Standing Orders were reconvened.

5. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1

- 09/04/13 Springett Avenue dropped kerbs: The Clerk had discussed this with ESCC and had requested a meeting on site re this and another dropped kerb problem, however this had yet to take place.
- 09/04/14 S 106 Funding for pedestrian crossing: The Clerk advised that a meeting had been held with an LDC planner which had clarified the extent and availability of outstanding S106 developer contributions and interest earned on them. He considered that this suggested partial transfer of funds from ‘recreation’ to ‘accessibility’ would be breaking new ground and could not guarantee the outcome, but invited a detailed and reasoned request which would then be discussed in house before being put to the developers. It was agreed that such a request be made once ESCC had accepted the need for and practicality of providing a crossing given the latest speed data.
- 09/04/15 S 106 Funds: The Clerk advised that ESCC had responded to state that the costs incurred by it in developing and implementing such schemes as the cycleway are charged against its Integrated Transport capital programme, which is funded from the Local Transport Plan budget including, as appropriate, development contributions. It was agreed to discharge this action point.
- 09/04/20 Outdated documents allegation: The Clerk advised that following further elaboration from Cllr Wilson, he would now be investigating the significance of continuing to apply the standards contained in the documents, in real terms.

09/05/21 Ringmer's streetlights : The Clerk had liaised with ESCC's Highway Lighting Manager who advised that extinguishment or dimming in some rural areas has been under consideration although for highway safety reasons it would be necessary to retain lighting at all times at roundabouts etc. He asked that a local consultation be carried out (e.g. through the next newsletter) before a formal request is made.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix 2

- 6.1 Council noted the correspondence in Appendix 2 and the following was agreed on particular items:
- 6.2 Cheyney Croquet Club: that the invitation be noted and that individual Councillors respond through the Clerk if wishing to attend.
- 6.3 ESCC emails regarding cycleway proposals: that this matter be listed for discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting. Concerns were raised at the Meeting about the safety implications of attempting to cross near the substation; a suggestion was made that it would be preferable to upgrade the footpath to a good standard for cyclists and pedestrians; and a view was expressed that it would be perfectly satisfactory to locate the cycle path behind the tree line.

7. FINANCE

Accounts Paid – Appendix 3

- 7.1 It was agreed that the Payments Lists of 1/5/09 to 31/5/09 be confirmed.

Quotations

- 7.2 Nil

Grant Applications

- 7.3 Ringmer Primary School leaving books
On the recommendation of Office & Finance Committee it was agreed to make a grant of £256 to Ringmer Primary School for books to be presented to Year 6 leavers.
It was reported that the Chairman would attend the presentations at the school on 20 July 2009.
- 7.4 Ringmer Stoolball Club juniors' kit
On the recommendation of Office & Finance Committee it was agreed to make a grant of £250 to Ringmer Stoolball Club, to help finance replacing the kit for the Junior members.

Final Accounts 2008/09 – Appendix 4

- 7.5 The Finance Officer introduced this report, which covered the twelve months to 31 March 2009. The report included the draft Annual

Return and its attachments, the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year and additional notes for Councillors. The income for the year was £83,062 and expenditure £94,871, including £10,951 agreed to be funded from reserves. Overall, reserves reduced from £77,468 at the beginning of the year, to £63,852 at 31 March. This reduction was in line with estimates and was planned.

It was agreed to accept the report and that the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Statement of Governance be signed. These were then signed by the Chairman and Clerk as appropriate. The period for the exercise of electors' rights will be 20 July 2009 to 14 August 2009 and a notice to that effect will be posted on the main noticeboard.

Other Financial Matters and Correspondence

7.6 Proposed levy to assist funding administrative costs of LDALC

A letter had been received from the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) in which proposals were set out for funding the administrative costs of the Association. The letter was by way of consultation and proposed an annual subscription ranging between £50 for town councils and £20 for smaller parishes. Ringmer, as a larger parish council would pay £30 per annum. The request was for Councils to consider the proposals and to forward any comments to the LDALC Secretary as soon as possible. It was agreed to support the proposal.

8. MINUTES of GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 4 June 2009 – Appendix 5

- 8.1 Cllr Longhurst presented the minutes and it was agreed that these be signed as a correct record by the Chairman. He stated in relation to para.10.2 that the Council might volunteer for the village to be used as a trial in the use of average speed cameras. Regarding para. 13.1, he suggested, and it was agreed, that the proposal for a lay-by or similar arrangement in Vicarage Way by replacing part of the grass verge on the west side, be consulted over by inclusion in the forthcoming newsletter before referral to ESCC as a request. Approaches are also to be made to ESCC about installing bollards to deter large vehicles from mounting the kerb on the east side when turning from Lewes Road.

**Clerk
09/06/23**

9. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 9.1 Oral reports were received from a number of Councillors. Arising from these, the Chairman advised Members of the resignation of two Councillors – Cllr Mrs Pitts who would be moving from the area shortly subject to the completion of property sale formalities, and Cllr Ms Lewis who will remain a councillor until the end of July. He thanked them for the valuable service that they had provided for the community.

- 9.2 In relation to Rural Voices Rural Choices, Cllr Ms Lewis had attended its latest meeting to discuss the future. Many felt that it was an awkwardly large group with large and small councils often having different areas of concern. Funding had largely ceased. RVRC had been given only limited opportunity to provide an input into the Local Strategic Plan, which was also frustrating. It was considered that the alternative way forward would probably be for clusters of parish councils to meet together to share ideas as necessary. There was a prospect that a further RVRC may be held on 7 September.
- 9.3 Cllr Mrs Pitts said that she was sorry to be leaving the village and had mixed feelings about her decision. She thanked fellow councillors for their help and she had enjoyed her time in office.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of Council would take place on Thursday 9 July 2009 at 7.30pm. in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.