

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 10 September 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. A R Peters (Chairman); Mrs J Fordham; A J Grindley; Mrs V Humphrey; J E Kay; R B Truman; K White; and R Wilcox.
Members of the public present: 10

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Wilson and Mrs Woollons

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2.1 There were no declarations.

3. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

3.1 The Chairman announced formally that he had accepted Cllr Longhurst's resignation on 30 July with much regret. The Clerk had since posted the necessary notice of vacancy and it has since been confirmed that this may also be filled by co-option. The Chairman considered that the co-options should be determined at a special Meeting to be arranged shortly and to be attended by the 5 candidates and as many Councillors as possible.

4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 9 July 2009

4.1 The minutes were agreed to be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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

5.2 Mrs Gunde referred to a recent twinning visit to Germany. Penfriends schemes are now under way at the schools and links are being established by WI and a shooting club. There is desire to formalise the letter of intent regarding a partnership as soon as practicable and it is hoped to include the French village of Belgentier in this.

5.3 There was a query about progress over the cycleway since the road is now regarded as dangerous to use. Updates were provided by Cllr Kay

and the Clerk and Cllr Mrs St Pierre advised that extra funds had been provided by ESCC to enable the eastern section to be built, for which a start was required by next spring in order to ensure that it was completed by Apr 2011 to meet stipulations on the S 106 agreement moneys.

- 5.4 Mr Cooper was sorry to learn of Mr Longhurst's resignation. He enquired about Harvard House and was advised by Cllr Mrs Humphrey that it was being kept in good order until rebuilding takes place. Cllr Mrs St Pierre stated that further facilities needed to be provided in Uckfield, which would then be able to accommodate Harvard House residents while the works are undertaken.
- 5.5 Regarding the cycleway, Mr Cooper had been advised that the landowner would be unwilling to accommodate a request to route it near Upper Stoneham Farm. He agreed that the existing path along Lewes Road needs improvement. By contrast the new path works by the college were being well constructed and he considered that the construction team should be thanked. The adjacent farm owner should be asked to ensure that it was not damaged by his hedge cutting.
- 5.6 Standing Orders were reconvened.

6. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1

- 09/04/14 S 106 Funding for pedestrian crossing: The Clerk advised that this matter was ongoing but that LDC officers are now indicating unwillingness to consider such a change to the document, even were the other parties to prove amenable. They state that it would not be realistically possible to complete the formalities and to implement the works all within the time limit imposed, and are not prepared to risk loss of the funds.
- 09/05/21 Ringmer's streetlights: The Clerk advised that 4 letters, all of support, had been received and that he would now be formally approaching ESCC.
- 09/06/23 Widening of Vicarage Way: Notwithstanding ESCC's initial indication that it could not consider such works, it was requested that the affected residents be consulted and that a further more formal request be made once replies and suggestions had been received.
- 09/07/24 Protective bollards in Vicarage Way: The Clerk advised that the on-site meeting with ESCC was arranged, and the requested bollards have in fact now been installed. It was therefore agreed to discharge this action point.
- 09/07/25 Disabled spaces for new Surgery in Anchor Field: The Clerk

advised that while the planning officer had not expressed any concern when the matter of non-compliance with the approved drawings was brought to his attention, a request for a more appropriate parking layout would now be put to those at LDC responsible for the main part of the car park.

7. CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix 2

- 7.1 Council noted the correspondence in Appendix 2 and the following was agreed on particular items:
- 7.2 Shepherds Way : The resident’s concerns were noted and there was a suggestion that perhaps estate type buses should be made available for ‘mini-trips’ however this would be dependent on demands on the service in other parts of the route. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with ESCC and/or the operators, involving Cllr White and the Clerk to seek to achieve improvements but without loss of this off main road facility. **Clerk
09/09/26**
- 7.3 Fingerpost Field : It was agreed that LDC be asked to ascertain the freehold value from the District Valuer. **Clerk
09/09/27**
- 7.4 Noticeboard for The Forges : It was agreed that Council pursue written acceptance from LDC that this may be financed from s106 funds and then implement the proposal for which full reimbursement is to be provided. **Clerk
09/09/28**

8. FINANCE

Accounts Paid – Appendix 3

- 8.1 It was agreed that the Payments Lists of 1/7/09 to 31/8/09 be confirmed.

Quotations

- 8.2 Nil

Grant Applications

- 8.3 East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People

On the recommendation of Office and Finance Committee it was agreed to make the requested grant of £200 towards a display stand.

- 8.4 Ringmer Village Hall Management Committee

On the recommendation of Office and Finance Committee it was agreed to make the requested grant of £250 towards the planning application fee for the extension proposal.

Correspondence received

- 8.5 Request for proposed levy to Crimestoppers

It was resolved by a majority with 1 abstention to decline to contribute towards this organisation at this time.

Other financial matters

8.6 Deposit resolution re Circus

On the recommendation of Office and Finance Committee it was agreed to make a contribution of £25 to the local hospice and to return a net £100 to the Circus out of its deposit.

9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING –Consideration of Guest Speaker

9.1 Initial suggestions made were Gordon Fowlie, MBE; a spokesman from the Ringmer Cricket Club; and ESCC's recycling team's Compost Doctor. It was agreed that Councillors would consider these suggestions and think of any others in the interim and that this matter would be raised again at the next Meeting.

10. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2010 – Appendix 4

10.1 The dates proposed in the Appendix were agreed, including the Meetings in the Small Hall on 17 June and 16 September.

11. CORRESPONDENT FOR RINGMER CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS

11.1 Cllr Mrs Humphrey kindly agreed to take on this role.

12. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

12.1 Oral reports were received from a number of Councillors. Arising from these, the Chairman referred to the forthcoming meeting with the Chief Constable for which this Council had raised the issues of need for the PCSOs to be conducting high visibility patrols and the practice of requiring owners to pay for the recovery of stolen vehicles from police storage.

12.2 Cllr. Mrs Fordham had attended a police meeting at which she had been advised that Payback services arranged by the Probation Service would now be co-ordinated through the neighbourhood panels. Police funding sources are available to help with such areas as redecorating and work on footpaths in appropriate circumstances. The Clerk commented that earlier this year, the intention was that this would instead be co-ordinated with ESCC.

12.3 Cllr Grindley had attended a meeting of RVRC however there were few present and it did not offer the useful interchange with staff that was previously gained. There is now little funding and it was planned to pursue selected projects.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of Council would take place on Thursday 8 October 2009 at 7.30pm. in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.