

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 12 March 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. A R Peters (Chairman); Mrs J Fordham; A J Grindley; Mrs V Humphrey; J Kay; Ms P Lewis; P Longhurst; R B Truman; K White; R Wilcox; and Mrs J Woollons.

There were 3 members of the public present, including PCSOs Armstrong and Whittaker- Jones.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Wilson & Mrs Pitts.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 12 February 2009

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

Matters arising from Minutes

- 3.2 Cllr Ms Lewis reported that the Twinning reception had been most successful with 4 representatives from Germany, 3 Parish Councillors in attendance and Cllr Bowers, and a good cross section from various local organisations. The letter of intent was signed and exchanged. It is aimed to achieve many links and arrange visits, exchanges and sporting matches. There will also be a connection with a French village near Toulon.

- 3.3 She also reported on a recent meeting of Rural Voices, Rural Choices in Ringmer where a good presentation about the proposed reservoir was given by Cllr Kay. She advised that Plumpton and other villages are conducting a traffic speed and safety survey in relation to rural roads which may be worth following. Cllr Lewis also advised that RVRC is having problems with funding as a number of supporters have now dropped out. Several villages have however benefited from its work – for instance it was instrumental in gaining the current 129 bus route. It was agreed that this problem be discussed at the May Meeting, if Councillors could in the meantime consider whether and

Councillors

how this group might continue in the future.

09/03/07

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 The Police representatives had nothing specific to report on this occasion.

4.3 Mr Cooper considered that there would be hazards for cyclists on entering and leaving the proposed cycleway. He referred to debris on the footpath approaching Lewes. He considered that it was unfortunate that the village maintenance teams were now proposing to charge extra for plant and materials. He had witnessed, as had Cllr Grindley, an incident when a Jewson's lorry had unnecessarily run onto the verge in Anchor Field causing deep rutting and damage to kerbing and it was agreed that this would be taken up with the company and highway authority. Finally, Mr Cooper reiterated his opinion that the cloakroom arrangements at the new Surgery should be reviewed and advised that he had spoken to construction staff on site who agreed that it would make sense to use the surface now provided for extra parking, if feasible, rather than reinstate and then consider this opportunity afresh – it was agreed that the Clerk would take up both these points with LDC and the developers, further to the resolution at last Planning Meeting.

Clerk
09/03/08

4.4 Standing Orders were reconvened.

5. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1

08/11/26 Ringmer-Lewes Cycleway: It had been advised that regarding the extent of S 106 contributions that would be applied to the project, Lewes District Council have confirmed that they 'will continue to secure funding to facilitate its implementation as and when development proposals that necessitate such contributions are submitted.' A similar undertaking had been given by ESCC's Development Contributions Co-Ordinator, who confirmed that to date he was aware of specific contributions for the cycleway on the Pippins and Forges developments. (Councillors were concerned that the deadline for using the 'Pippins' funding be established.) As ESCC is involved in further discussing the route and details and has also committed itself to keeping Council informed, it was agreed that this action point could be discharged.

Clerk
09/03/09

08/12/27 Improvements to Village Hall: It was agreed to retain this

action point pending consideration of the matter by Council in April. The issue will also be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

- 08/12/30 No Cold Calling zone: It was advised that the consultation sheet had been prepared in liaison with ESCC Trading Standards and was in the process of delivery to all households in the parish. It was therefore agreed to discharge this action point.
- 09/02/05 Ringmer – Lewes Cycleway Design: An appropriate further letter had been sent to ESCC whose designers are now prepared to attend an informal discussion in March and it was agreed to discharge the action point.
- 09/02/06 East Sussex Village of the Year: As the application had been completed with help from Cllr Mrs Fordham, ready for submission by the deadline, it was therefore agreed to discharge this action point.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix 2

- 6.1 Council noted the correspondence in Appendix 2 and the following was agreed:

Village Maintenance Teams

- 6.2 It was agreed that each Councillor would look out for locations requiring works that could be tackled by this team and would then advise the Clerk no later than the 1st week in April so that a comprehensive schedule could be submitted promptly, giving the best chance for this to be undertaken amongst County's other priorities.

**Clerk &
Councillors
09/03/10**

Transport Seminar

- 6.3 It was agreed that Cllrs Ms Lewis and White would attend this seminar.

Correspondence with ESCC re Cycleway

- 6.4 This exchange of correspondence was noted and discussed, and Councillors were advised that Mr Cook and a design colleague would be attending the discussion on 26 March.

Payback (National Probation Service)

- 6.5 Councillors were advised of this resource and the booklet The Big Payback had been obtained and included in the circulation envelope. There is the opportunity that teams of 8-10 offenders on probation can carry out work such as clearing paths & ditches and rebuilding stiles, or working with the village management teams on more extensive projects. Councillors' views were sought as to whether this should be investigated and pursued further.

**Councillors
09/03/11**

7. FINANCE

Accounts Paid – Appendix 3

- 7.1 It was agreed that the Payments Lists of 1/2/09 to 25/2/09 be confirmed.

Quotations

Proposal to replace office photocopier – Appendix 4

- 7.2 On the recommendation of Office and Finance Committee it was agreed to consider the quotation for 3 alternative photocopying machines provided by IKON Office Solutions without the need to canvas other suppliers; and to approve the purchase of a Ricoh MPC2050 machine at £3618 and an annual contract for maintenance and IT support of the copier, based on 0.5p per copy at the present time, subject to the provision of an appropriate guarantee and a contract period of at least 5 years.

Grant Applications

Balance of Grant for Sussex Air Ambulance – Appendix 5

- 7.3 On the recommendation of the Office and Finance Committee it was agreed to make a further grant of £100, to be presented to the speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Other Financial Matters and Correspondence

- 7.4 There were no other matters raised.

8. VILLAGE GREEN PATH

- 8.1 This item had been included following discussion at the previous Greens Committee meeting and acceptance that the matter could now be further considered in accordance with Standing Orders since sufficient time had elapsed since a previous resolution. The Chairman opened debate by referring to an inspection of the path between Delves House drive and Bishops Lane on 4 March, attended by The Chairman and Vice Chairman, Chairman of Greens Committee, Cllr White and the Clerk. It had been concluded by those present that the path was safe, had weathered well despite the frost and snow and needed no attention. The criteria for disabled users had been satisfactorily met but notwithstanding this the District Council was now proposing to provide splays where the path joins Bishops Lane footpath and to repair a minor defect. Accordingly, the Chairman proposed *that, subject to Lewes District Council making satisfactory adjustments to the path entrance at the north end and carrying out*

repairs to a short section of the path at that end at its own expense, and subject to periodic inspection by the Greens Committee, Council agree to accept the path as it stands. The motion was seconded by Cllr Kay.

- 8.2 The Clerk referred to some notes that he had prepared and circulated, which referred briefly to some background considerations in seeking advise and guidance from Lewes District Council; the criteria used in determining the appropriate dimensions and construction standards for the path; comparative details of the previous path; and disabled access criteria and the fact that the LDC Access Officer is satisfied that the path is acceptable.
- 8.3 A discussion followed when various points of view were expressed including that Council should be grateful for the assistance provided by Lewes District Council's Principal Engineer; the loose gravel was an unfortunate feature but the path is acceptable now that it has been removed; the path is fine particularly when compared to the section that links it to the church; common sense should be applied when 2 wheelchairs or prams pass each other; and the path is better than many in the area.
- 8.4 Following a vote, the motion was carried with 7 votes for and 3 against.

9. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 9.1 Oral reports were received from a number of Councillors. Arising from these, Cllr Kay referred to the need to improve potholed, uneven and otherwise unsatisfactory footpaths particularly for the benefit of the infirm – if Councillors and others could pinpoint problem locations and the Clerk would then take these up with ESCC. Cllr Ms Lewis advised that a new computer had been installed for public use in the library, and Cllr Grindley referred to a hardstanding that was in the process of being constructed – it was agreed that the resident be advised of the possible need for planning permission if the size and permeability criteria were not met.

**Councillors &
Clerk
09/03/12**

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.