

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 16 April 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. A R Peters (Chairman); Mrs J Fordham; A J Grindley; Mrs V Humphrey; P Longhurst; Mrs E L Pitts; R B Truman; K White; I P Wilson; and Mrs J Woollons.

There were 4 members of the public present, including District Cllr. Gardiner.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Kay, Ms Lewis, and Wilcox and from PCSO Clarke.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- 2.1 Cllr Wilson declared a prejudicial interest in relation to anticipated discussion about the new Anchor Field surgery and its parking.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 12 March 2009

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

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 provided details of recent incidents which had included criminal damage and theft.
- 4.3 Mr West distributed further information and an updated layout and spoke about the proposed improvements to the Village Hall. He advised that it was now intended to omit the office space from the library, add a meeting room with separate access, add more storage centrally and provide disabled access for the Parish Office. He said that the Hall is overbooked at present and the proposals would help smaller organisations and give greater flexibility. Cllr White considered the scheme to be well thought out, that it would bring the facilities up to date, and that the village would become suitably provided for in many respects. Cllrs Mrs Humphrey and Wilson were

concerned that the entrance details should include non-slip surfaces for the benefit of the aged and infirm. With regard to the period for funding it was considered that it would take a year to get through planning and other formalities so the earliest start would be 2011.

4.4 Cllr Gardiner advised that free over 60's swimming was a good idea from Govt but had been supported by only limited central funding. LDC was in negotiation with Govt over this facility for its pools. Ringmer's pool being owned by ESCC was not included in the scheme & as it was attached to the college, and a petition was proposed to seek some free hours. The fitness suite had been withdrawn from the contract and Freedom Leisure has removed the equipment.

4.5 Mr Cooper stated that he now considered that the 2 hour parking restrictions at the shopping area are working well and are very beneficial. He was concerned that the dropped kerbs in Springett Avenue are set too far back from Lewes Road and lead to confusion for motorists – this will be referred to ESCC.

**Clerk
09/04/13**

4.6 Mr Hockley again raised concerns about safety associated with the path on the Green. On another issue, he suggested that it might be possible to apply S. 106 moneys towards a pedestrian crossing for the College by having them diverted away from other previously agreed destinations as had apparently been achieved in Chailey, and it was agreed that this would be investigated further.

**Clerk
09/04/14**

4.7 In a discussion with Cllr Wilson following on about the above path, the Chairman wished it to be placed on record that he had stated that Councillors had not been misled over the facts before reaching their decisions.

4.8 There also followed a discussion about the details of the planning agreements and concern was raised that, in relation to the cycleway, funding has been spent on investigations rather than being kept for capital expenditure only. While the wording of the Pippins agreement appeared flexible in this regard, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to query this.

**Clerk
09/04/15**

4.9 Standing Orders were reconvened.

5. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1

08/12/27 Improvements to Village Hall: It was agreed to retain this action point pending further consideration of this matter by Council in May.

09/03/07 Rural Voices, Rural Choices: It was agreed to retain this action point pending discussion at May Meeting as to whether and how this group should continue.

- 09/03/08 Anchor Field : As the damage caused would be reported to ESCC with the other works being required and Jewsons had been contacted with follow up by letter, it was agreed to discharge this action point.
- 09/03/09 S 106 Funding: As Members were advised that the moneys from the development in question (Pippins) had already been spent, giving rise to the concern at 4.8 above, the question of deadlines did not arise and this action point was therefore discharged.
- 09/03/10-12 Village Maintenance Teams/ Payback/ Unsatisfactory footpaths: As these matters were to be addressed under item 10 it was agreed that these action points be discharged.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix 2

- 6.1 Council noted the correspondence in Appendix 2 and the following was agreed on particular items:
- 6.2 Dog fouling in Norlington Lane:
That the requests be referred to General Purposes Committee.
- 6.3 Lighting at Ringmer Community College **Clerk**
That the matter of glare be referred to Lewes District Council. **09/04/16**
- 6.4 Street lighting at Forges junction **Clerk**
That a letter be sent to support Cllr Gardiner’s requests on behalf of residents. **09/04/17**
- 6.5 Bus Route along Shepherds Way **Cllr Ms Lewis**
That this matter be referred to Cllr Ms Lewis in the first instance. **09/04/18**
- Cllr Wilson left the room prior to the following matter and took no part in discussions.
- 6.6 Anchor Field Surgery car park
That the architect be advised that the proposal illustrated is supported by the Parish Council and that it would be willing to surrender the extra land involved.
- 6.7 Councillor Power of Wellbeing Training
It was decided not to pursue this until the Clerk had completed a CiLCA qualification.
- 6.8 It was noted that a letter had been sent to David Feintuck, who had responded to thank Council for its concern.

7. FINANCE

Accounts Paid – Appendix 3

- 7.1 It was agreed that the Payments Lists of 1/3/09 to 31/3/09 be confirmed.

Quotations

- 7.2 Nil

Grant Applications

- 7.3 Nil

Other Financial Matters and Correspondence

- 7.4 It was advised that the annual returns would need to be signed off by the June Meeting.
- 7.4 Improvements to Village Hall – while discussed at Office and Finance Committee, this matter was covered in the next item.

8. IMPROVEMENTS TO VILLAGE HALL

- 8.1 Having regard to the presentations by Mr West and the Finance Officer's report and recommendation at Appendix 4, it was agreed to discuss the matter further at next Meeting.

9. CLIFFORD HUNT MEMORIAL

- 9.1 It was agreed that the Parish Council would not involve itself in this matter, at least for the time being, and the Chairman would advise those concerned accordingly.

10. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE TEAMS/ PAYBACK/ FOOTPATHS REQUIRING ATTENTION

- 10.1 Councillors considered the proposed list of works in tabled Appendix 5 to be referred to ESCC for attention, some of which would require assistance by Payback, and agreed that this would form a suitable basis for the start of a rolling programme of such requests, which would then to kept up to date as works were completed and new matters raised. This was to be subject to specific detail being first provided by Cllr Grindley on the location of gullies and watercourses requiring attention. Following concern from Cllr White as to whether the Payback teams might give rise to insurance difficulties which might be the Parish Council's responsibility, a subsequent reference to the National Probation Service has provided assurances (to be confirmed in writing) that the scheme is fully backed by Govt in that regard and that all appropriate safeguarding measures are taken.

**Clerk
09/04/19**

11. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 11.1 Oral reports were received from a number of Councillors. Arising from these, the Chairman advised that Ringmer had got to the next round in the Village of the Year competition for East Sussex and that the judges would be visiting on 23 April (winners to be announced in early July.) Cllr Grindley suggested that there should be a deadline set for completion of questionnaires relative to the housing strategy. Cllr Wilson stated that after contacting 2 officers at ESCC, it was apparent to him that some of the documentation used as a factual basis for advising this Council over the path was out of date. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate this further.

**Clerk
09/04/20**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting of Council would take place on Thursday 14 May 2009 at 7.30pm. in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.