

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 14 May 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

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

There were 6 members of the public present.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2.1 There were no declarations.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE- CHAIRMAN

3.1 In the election of Chairman, there were 2 nominations, both for Cllr Peters. He was proposed by Cllr Truman, seconded by Cllr Mrs Humphrey, and was duly elected. The Chairman then took the chair and thanked Council for its support.

3.2 In the election of Vice- Chairman, there were also 2 nominations, both for Cllr Kay. He was proposed by Cllr Mrs Woollons, seconded by Cllr Wilcox, and duly elected.

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

4.1 The appropriate entry was made in the Declaration Book and the signature of the Chairman witnessed.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

5.1 All councillors expressed a willingness to maintain the existing arrangements for the coming year.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

6.1 Again, all councillors expressed a willingness to maintain the existing arrangements for the coming year.

7. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING held on 16 April 2009

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

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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

- 8.2 Mr Cooper again referred to the security type lighting attached to the front of the buildings at the Community College which he regarded as intrusive and considered that the lights should be mounted higher up. It was agreed that as neither ESCC highways nor LDC Environmental Health appeared able to act on this, an informal approach should be made to the college.

- 8.3 He also considered that the remedial work to the Green following the Circus's visit had been insufficient, and that a double vibrating roller should be used. It was agreed that he would arrange this and that the cost would be taken out of the circus's deposit.

- 8.4 Standing Orders were reconvened.

9. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1

- 08/12/27 Improvements to Village Hall: It was agreed to discharge this action point as the matter was the subject of an agenda item.
- 09/03/07 Rural Voices, Rural Choices: It was agreed to discharge this action point as the matter was the subject of an agenda item.
- 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.
- 09/04/14 S 106 Funding for pedestrian crossing: The Clerk had investigated the circumstances behind the Chailey example, held discussions with the community College, and was pursuing the issue by arranging a meeting with LDC planners.
- 09/04/15 S 106 Funds: The Clerk had written to ESCC to query the use of funds for non capital expenditure.
- 09/04/16 Lighting at Ringmer Community College: As a response had been received from LDC, it was agreed that this action point be discharged although the matter will be pursued informally

with the college.

- 09/04/17 Street lighting at Forges junction: As the Clerk had written and ESCC had agreed to address the problem relative to residents on both sides of the road, it was agreed to discharge this action point. Reference was made to the noise from gratings in this location, but this is being pursued directly by the residents at this point.
- 09/04/18 Bus Route along Shepherds Way: It was advised that contact had been made with appropriate officers at ESCC and as an informal dialogue was now being pursued to seek improvements but without endangering this convenient bus route, it was agreed to discharge this action point.
- 09/04/19 Village Maintenance Teams/Payback: As the schedule had been forwarded to ESCC and the Probation Service, it was agreed to discharge the action point.
- 09/04/20 Outdated documents allegation: The Clerk advised that further details were awaited and it was agreed to supply Cllr Wilson with some notes circulated at a previous Meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – Appendix 2

- 10.1 Council noted the correspondence in Appendix 2 and the following was agreed on particular items:
- 10.2 Phone box conversion: That the information be noted.

11. FINANCE

Accounts Paid – Appendix 3

- 11.1 It was agreed that the Payments Lists of 1/4/09 to 30/4/09 be confirmed, with minor amendment to 2 cheque numbers noted.

Quotations

- 11.2 Nil

Grant Applications

- 11.3 Nil

Annual Risk Assessment and Insurance Review – Appendix 4

- 11.4 It was agreed in accordance with the recommendations of Office and Finance Committee to confirm acceptance of the Risk Assessment register, the renewed insurance arrangements, and the continuing benefit referred to.

Other Financial Matters and Correspondence

- 11.5 It was agreed that an additional salary scale point be allowed for the Finance Officer to enable his salary to rise within the usual scale range applicable.

12. IMPROVEMENTS TO VILLAGE HALL

- 12.1 Mr West advised that the Management Committee would be meeting shortly and intended to form 2 committees, one to pursue fundraising and the other to focus on contracts and the submission of a planning application. He was advised that Council would see it as appropriate that a councillor and officer sit on each committee, to which he did not see a problem in principle.

13. RURAL VOICES RURAL CHOICES

- 13.1 It was considered that there are now many overlaps between this and other organisations, that it had lost much of its influence with the loss of some of its initial members, but that it had achieved many worthwhile things in its time and provided for a good interchange between councillors and District staff. It was not considered that it would be appropriate for the parish councils to be its principal funders and it was concluded that its role could be continued by some other organisation.

14. QUALITY COUNCILS – USE OF ‘REWARD’ FUNDS – Appendix 5

- 14.1 Following consideration of the report, it was agreed that Council’s representatives would advise that it favours option 8(a) i.e. dividing the funds equally between each Quality Council.

15. RINGMER’S STREETLIGHTS

- 15.1 Following discussion led by Cllr Kay, it was agreed that for carbon saving and financial reasons, it would be desirable to extinguish streetlights when these are hardly needed at all (say 1 – 6am) and when few if any pedestrians could be expected. It was agreed that this be explored with ESCC.

**Clerk
09/05/21**

16. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 16.1 Oral reports were received from a number of Councillors. Arising from these, Cllr Mrs Fordham referred to the Village of the Year competition judging, at which the village was enthusiastically supported by 22 local people including several schoolchildren who performed creditably in a useful discussion. She also referred to possible measures to reduce damage by large vehicles, and the need for action over traffic hazards on The Broyle. Cllr Longhurst referred

to recent Speedwatch statistics which still indicated some high speeds (one clocked at 71mph) through the village but generally good adherence to the speed limit. Of those logged for speeding generally less than 10% were found to be local residents. Cllr Grindley considered that there was a need to upgrade the footway opposite the College, resurfacing and elevating it to improve run-off.

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 9.17 pm.