

RIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Johnson (Chairman), Roome, Richards, Harvey, Townsend, Waterhouse and Gilkes together with the Clerk (Chris Lees) and Peter Bullivant, member of the public from the village.

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations: None declared

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 20thMay 2015: Read and unanimously approved by the Council. The Chairman signed and dated the Minutes as a true record.

4. Matters arising: All items arise in the agenda to this meeting and are recorded in the Minutes below. The Chairman then asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or any representations. Nothing was forthcoming

5. Correspondence:

- Citizens Advice Rutland (CAR); Annual report and accounts received together with invitation to the AGM. Papers passed to Councillor Richards.
- Vista ó Improving the lives of people with sight loss: Promotional literature received including poster showing dates and location of the mobile unit up to the end of September.
- Rutland Community Agents; Contact made with the Clerk by our local agent. Likely to attend a future Council meeting.
- Society of Local Council Clerks; promotional literature received ó agreed no action.
- Annual Canvass of Electors; advisory letter/notice from RCC to electors reminding them to check their details in the electoral register are correct. Notice placed on VH notice board.
- Minutes of the Parish Council Forum Meeting held at Catmose on the 27th July 2015. Main item was a presentation from Mark Loran, Senior Environmental Services Manager at RCC covering Trees, Brooks and the Law. More information and a copy of the Minutes available from the Clerk.
- The Parish Briefing Notice posted on the VH notice board. Main items covered this time are details about the new service offered by Rutland Community Agents, Nominees for Honours and Urgent care Service.

6. Planning: Planning applications received and approved since the last Parish Council meeting are:

- 2015/0652/FUL; Old Mill House Cottage, Holygate Road; replacement of timber framed windows and door to front of property together with repositioning of the driveway entrance, new gates and pedestrian access.
- 2015/0660/FUL; St Mary Magdelene and St Andrew Church, Main Street; replacement of roof coverings to Nave, Chancel and North and South Aisles.
- 2015/0506/CAT; 5 Church Lane; Removal of one Cedar tree and reduction of two further Cedar trees.
- 2015/0463/CAT; Old Mill House Cottage; Holygate Road; removal of three Leylandi and two further trees of unknown species.
- 2015/0698/CAT; Beckendale House Farm, East Lane; reduction in height of Leylandi hedge and removal of dangerous branches on one Whitebeam tree
- 2015/0778/CAT; Beckendale House Farm, East Lane; removal of broken branch and deadwood from large Whitebeam tree, cutting back length of three branches to balance tree which leans towards neighbour's property. This application had not previously been presented to Councillors. The application was unanimously approved, being proposed by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Townsend.
- A further matter was raised by Councillor Roome. He asked Council if they were aware of work that had started on the old Severn Trent Water Authority's site at the top of Holygate lane. Council had not been notified of any planning proposals for this site and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the Planning Dept at RCC. **Action:**
The Clerk

7. Finance:

- The Clerk advised that the audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 had been signed by Grant Thornton and returned with no adverse comments. The Statutory Notice of Conclusion had been posted on the VH notice board. No further actions required.
- The Clerk advised that as of the 8th September 2015 the balance in our Community Account stood at £1603.14 and in our Business Saver Account £1219.75 both held at Barclays Bank, Uppingham. Since the last Council meeting, the amount in our Business saver Account had increased by 0.31p representing Bank interest paid. In regard to the Community Account which stood at £1069.26 at the last Council meeting, the Precept for the 2015/16 year of £890 had been received and payments totalling £356.12 approved at the last Council meeting had been cleared by our bank in regard to our insurance renewal and the renewal of our membership to LRALCs
- The request for an on-line banking facility was proving difficult but some progress has been made and a further update will be presented to the November Council meeting.

- A reminder to Councillors that we shall need to approve our financial budget for the 2016/17 year at our November meeting. The Clerk to circulate outline proposals with the agenda for that meeting. **Action: The Clerk**
- An Invoice had been received from RCC for our annual contribution towards Street Lighting costs in the village. The amount remains unchanged from previous years at £130.00 and has been budgeted for in the current year. The Clerk was seeking approval for payment and this was unanimously given, being proposed by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Harvey.

8. Re-siting of Royal Mail Letter Box: Councillor Waterhouse advised that after much negotiation with representatives from Royal Mail, approval had been given at no cost to the Parish for the re-siting of the letter box to a position on the Village Green adjacent to and facing Top Road. The work has been completed to everybody's satisfaction and the box is now in a much more accessible position. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Waterhouse for achieving this successful outcome.

9. Memorial Stone for Commemorative Trees on the Playing Field: The Chairman advised that a revised request had been received from Gavin Simpson to the Parish Council seeking a grant towards the cost of production and siting of this stone. A donation has been offered by the Playing Field Trustees and a further amount has been raised by a Village Hall raffle. There is a shortfall of approx. £241.00.

A question was raised regarding the grant application and approval process adopted previously by the Council. Councillor Roome agreed to circulate this to Councillors primarily for the benefit of the new Councillors elected this year. It was agreed to defer this whole matter to the November Council meeting in order to review the grant process and also to consider the request from Gavin Simpson against the backdrop of the budget setting process for next year. **Action: The Chairman and Councillor Roome**

10. Website reporting and access:

Transparency laws require us to publish all documentation onto an approved website. This is a requirement from April 2015 and currently we do not comply. It is too expensive to run our own website but our intention is to utilise Rutland County Council's site which has a section for Parishes. "Commune" run this on behalf of RCC and they have been approaching local Councils directly but again the costs are prohibitive. However, if we join through RCC there would be no charge to us as our precept is currently below £1000. To obtain the ridlingtonparishcouncil.org.uk domain name would be £50 plus VAT and £25 per mailbox. Councillor Waterhouse proposed that we proceed. This was seconded by Councillor Roome and unanimously approved.

It was agreed the Chairman would bring this item back to the November meeting to conclude. **Action: The Chairman.**

11. Data Protection: The Clerk advised that he had made no further progress under this heading and that he would bring forward again to the November meeting.

Action: The Clerk

12. Reduction of growth on corner of Brook Road: Councillor Townsend stated he had spoken with farmer Chris White and it was our understanding that he would cut down the inner fencing growth once the field had been harvested of its grain crop. Councillor Richards agreed to raise with his contact at RCC to determine if the outer verge of this corner was included within the grass cutting contract. **Action: Councillor Richards to raise with RCC**

13. Dangerous trees on corner of Main Street and East Lane: The Clerk advised that RCC's senior tree officer had carried out an inspection of all trees in the village that overhang the highway. This visit had also identified which of these trees are in RCC ownership by nature of their location and which are in private ownership. A work schedule has been drawn up by RCC to have a number of these trees crown lifted so their overhangs are above the regulatory height from the carriage way. A plan of the work is with the Clerk and RCC advise that the work will be carried out anytime within the next twelve weeks.

14. Grit Bin, siting on East Lane/Main Street: No further progress made. Councillor Townsend to discuss with Gavin Simpson before any action is taken. **Action: Councillor Townsend.**

15. Any Other Business: A parishioner has expressed a view that the path outside Post Cottage is narrowing due to the spread of grass from the adjacent village green. Councillor Waterhouse agreed to inspect and if necessary, arrange a volunteer working party to cut the grass back. Councillor Gilkes mentioned that the footpath down to Main Street from the direction of The Old Noel Arms was becoming increasingly covered with moss and would become a serious slip hazard during the winter months. It was agreed to spray with Jeayes fluid before the winter. **Action: Councillor Waterhouse**
The matter of the second village notice board which was suggested by the Playing Field Trustees over a year ago was raised as no further information had been presented for some time. The Chairman agreed to raise with Maggie Mortell, Chairman of the Playing Field Trustees, next time he saw her. **Action: The Chairman**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Date of the next meeting is Wednesday 11th November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

C J Lees
Clerk
Ridlington Parish Council
30th September 2015

Approved í í í í í í í í í í í í í í .
Chairman
Date í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..