

**Minutes of Ridlington Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Johnson (Chairman), Gilkes, Harvey, Richards, Roome, Townsend and Waterhouse

In attendance: C J Lees (Clerk)

Also, David Batten from the public and Elaine Rootham from Rutland Community Agents (item 4 only)

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations:**

Councillors Harvey, Roome and Waterhouse in regard to extension plans for the village hall (item 9)

Councillor Roome in regard to item 7.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Proposed by Councillor Roome, seconded by Councillor Gilkes and unanimously approved as a true record of the last meeting.

**4. Rutland Community Agents**

Elaine Rootham

Elaine, a graduate in Health and Social Care, introduced herself and outlined this new service that has been introduced in partnership with RCC. She outlined her desire to work with villages and local communities to identify where loneliness and isolation exists. This is a free service aimed at provision of information, advice and referral involving a personal assessment visit covering such items as health, housing, finances and service needs. Much information comes via care homes, carers and hospitals. Service provision can

be short or long term but after 12 months a floating team takes over. Elaine explained that her initial need is to get to know people in the villages and to discover those who don't engage with others and how we find those people. Rutland Community Agents will assist in determining care packages and suitable requirements for individuals whilst at the same time prioritising the individual's needs. Liaison will take place with hospitals and GPs and the service will be directional rather than provisional. In addition there is access to a stepping stone flat. It is hoped to distribute leaflets advertising the service to all households in the village via the parish magazine. In addition, it was suggested that Elaine be invited to the coffee mornings in the village hall which take place twice a year. **Action: Councillor Waterhouse**

## **5. Public's Questions**

The Chairman advised he had received an email from Pat Dalby and Mike Fish drawing attention to the current state of the street lights in the village. A light in Top Road has its cover hanging loose, a light in East Lane is partly obscured by tree overhang and a bulb has blown in a light in Main Street opposite Church Lane. The Clerk advised he would contact Eon to repair the two lights and Councillor Townsend offered to ask the owners of the trees near the obscured light to undertake pruning work. **Action: The Clerk and Councillor Townsend**

The Chairman also advised he had received an email from Harry Baines raising the matter of the spring water breaking through the surface at the top of the bridle way at the junction of Main Street and West Lane. This is running down the pathway towards the paddock. This is a natural spring between the clay and the chalk of the escarpment and if it is diverted will only break through another location. This has been raised previously and after discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would take no action. **Action: The Chairman to advise Harry Baines**

## 6. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

- RCC advise they are not in a position to discuss planning applications at the former Severn Trent site in Holygate Road
- The fence at the corner of Brook Road at the entrance to the village was installed many years ago by RCC following the removal of that section of hedge which was deemed a safety hazard. Growth reduction in the section is no longer carried out. **Action: Councillor Townsend to contact farmer Chris White to seek support for a village working party to address the situation**
- Grit bin on East Lane/Main Street to remain in current position as it is now full. No further action
- Moss and grass covered footpath on Top Road and adjacent to the Old Noel Arms to be addressed by a small working party. **Action: Councillor Gilkes and Councillor Waterhouse agreed to organise**
- The Chairman advised that following a discussion with the chairman of the trustees for the playing field (Maggie Mortell), no progress has been made with the second village notice board that had been suggested for siting on the bus shelter on Top Road. Councillor Townsend then offered to make one and fit it to the bus shelter. The Chairman also agreed to renovate the existing notice board during the winter months. **Action: Councillor Townsend and the Chairman**
- The Clerk advised that following research, he has been able to determine that Town and Parish Councillors do not have to register under the Data Protection Act but members of Principal Authorities (eg RCC) do. However, it would be prudent for the Parish Council to publish its own Data Protection Policy encompassing the eight principals contained in the Act. The Clerk will produce a draft in due course for uploading to our new web site. **Action: The Clerk**

## 7. Planning

A planning application had been received in respect of the construction of a shed in the rear garden at 5 Main Street for which approval was sought. Acceptance was proposed by Councillor Townsend and seconded by Councillor Gilkes. With 1 abstention, the proposal was approved

## 8. Finance

- The Clerk advised that our Community Account stood at £1413.14 with all payments to date cleared. Payments due to be made shortly totalled £300 (Ridlington PCC £200 and Defibrillator £100) which would leave a balance of £1113.14. The balance in our Business Saver account stood at £1219.75
- The Clerk advised he had received confirmation from Barclays Bank that our recent mandate change requests had been implemented.

- With confirmation of the mandate changes, the Clerk confirmed he would now be completing the application forms for electronic banking. **Action: The Clerk**
- The Chairman advised that to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code we had recently agreed a payment of £60 (£50 +VAT) to 2Commune Ltd for the registration and set up of our new domain name and website. [ridlingtonpc.org.uk](http://ridlingtonpc.org.uk) will be developed specifically for use by Ridlington Parish Council under the auspices of the main website run for parish councils by Leics. and Rutland County Council. A further sum of £30 (£25 +VAT) per annum for two years (£60 in total) to coincide with our website rental renewal requires to be paid to the same organisation in order to set up and link one mail box to our new web site, [clerk@ridlingtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ridlingtonpc.org.uk). Council unanimously approved these payments, being proposed by Councillor Harvey and seconded by Councillor Waterhouse.
- Council discussed the current procedures and limits under its Grant Application process. Under Section 137 of the 1972 Act there is a limit set on the Parish Council of £965 (£6.15 x the number on the electoral role, 157). Councillor Roome proposed the individual grant limit should be increased to £200 and the annual cumulative maximum to £500. This was seconded by Councillor Waterhouse and unanimously approved by council.
- Parish Council had received at its May meeting a grant request towards the cost of the First World War memorial stone that had now been placed next to the memorial oak trees on the playing field. These were to commemorate those from the Parish who gave their lives in that war. There was discussion about the validity of this request to the Parish Council which resulted in the following motion: "Does the Parish Council support the payment of a grant towards the memorial stone on the playing field". This was proposed by Councillor Harvey and seconded by Councillor Townsend. The motion was carried by 5 votes in favour with 2 abstentions. As a result, Councillor Gilkes proposed the Parish Council approve a grant of £200 towards the cost of the memorial stone. This was seconded by Councillor Roome and carried by 5 votes in favour with 2 abstentions. It was agreed payment would be deferred until after receipt of our Precept for the 2016/17 year
- A grant request for £100 for our continued support of the village defibrillator had been received and this was unanimously approved, being proposed by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Gilkes. Payment of this year's grant of £100, already budgeted for, was also approved
- A grant request for £200 for our continued support for the Parish Church churchyard upkeep had been received. Again this was unanimously approved (with one abstention) being proposed by Councillor Townsend and seconded by Councillor Roome. Approval was also given for payment of this year's £200 grant, which had already been provided for in the current year's budget.
- After discussion, the following budget was unanimously approved, being proposed by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Townsend:

Insurance	£300
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Street lighting	£135
Audit	Nil
Clerk	£120
LRALC Membership	£120
Ridlington PCC	£200
Defibrillator	£100
Memorial stone	£200
Computer equip/ Scanner	£300
Total	£1475

## 9. Correspondence

Representation had been received from the trustees of the village hall (owned by the Parish Council) seeking agreement from the Parish Council to the trustees pursuing the possibility of extending the village hall to accommodate improved kitchen facilities and accompanying storage areas. Agreement was proposed by Councillor Gilkes and seconded by Councillor Townsend and carried by 4 votes in favour with 3 abstentions.

Due to the time, the Chairman suggested that any major items of further correspondence should be held over to the next meeting, but if any Councillor required any further specific information on these items, the Clerk would be happy to oblige

## 10. Any Other Business

Councillor Roome raised RCC's consultation document regarding the extension of the timescale from 2026 to 2036 which will consider how much additional residential/commercial and industrial development may be needed to meet government targets. RCC is seeking residents' views about how such development should be distributed in the county. The consultation ends on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 which is before the next Parish Council meeting in February. Councillor Roome

considered that a special Parish Council meeting might be necessary (once the Clerk receives the information/questionnaire) so that the Parish Council can respond on behalf of the village. In tandem with this is the matter that landowners have been invited to submit proposals for land/property they would like to develop. The closing date for this invitation to landowners was originally 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 but has now been extended to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 as well. RCC would ask for the Parish Council's views in regard to any proposals affecting the Parish. **Action: The Clerk and Councillor Roome to keep a watching brief on any developments under this initiative**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.56pm

**Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm in the VH**

C J Lees

Clerk

Ridlington Parish Council

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015