

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ridlington Parish Council held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
on Wednesday 17th February 2016**

Present: Councillors Johnson (in the Chair), Gilkes, Waterhouse, Richards and Roome

Apologies: Councillors Harvey and Townsend

In Attendance: Chris Lees ó Clerk

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes:

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 11th November 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as being correct.

Matters Arising:

Councillor Waterhouse confirmed two dates had been offered Elaine Rootham from Rutland Community Agents to attend coffee mornings in the Village Hall.

Councillor Johnson confirmed he had spoken with Mr Harry Baines regarding the water rising from the underground spring affecting the entrance to Mr Bainesø paddock. No further action.

Undergrowth reduction at the corner of Chris Whiteø farm with the Brook Road, no action to report; carried forward to the May meeting; **Action: Councillor Townsend.**

Moss on the footpath leading down from the Old Noel Arms dealt with for the time being. A watchful eye to be maintained.

Publication of Councilø Data Protection Policy outstanding; **Action: The Clerk**

Councillor Johnson has agreed to undertake renovation of the village noticeboard; **Action: Councillor Johnson**

Correspondence:

The following items of correspondence have been received since the previous Council Meeting:

- Rural Peterborough and Rutland LEADER launch event
- Letter from RCC regarding the Integrated Transport Capital Programme
- Introduction of RCCø New Safeguarding Campaign 2016
- Leicestershire and Rutland Active Family Week 2016
- Letter from Spire Homes introducing their team of three Community Housing Officers (CHOs) based in Oakham
- Feedback from recent Parish Council Forum meeting highlighted RCCø financial constraints and the need to save significant sums of money from their budgets over the next few years which would clearly impact forthcoming Council Tax bills for householders. A paper was also discussed and distributed setting out RCCs bid to

rationalise and formalise the way in which street lighting is maintained and paid for across the County. How this will affect Ridlington is a separate item on this agenda. The Chairman also outlined RCC's proposed changes to conservation and how this might affect Ridlington. We are currently classed as a Restraint Village but under the new guidelines we will become an Article 4 Village. In practical terms this doesn't change a great deal from the existing constraints on the village. However, we are due to have a visit from RCC Conservationists to review/agree the protection boundary around the village as this can now be widened to include areas not previously included. **Councillor Roome agreed to act as contact person.**

Street Lighting and Highways:

The Chairman briefed the meeting about RCC's proposed changes to the installation, maintenance and running costs of street lighting. This will affect Ridlington as indeed it will all other towns and villages in the County.

In order to save money over time RCC have agreed with a Preferred Supplier to upgrade all existing street lighting to LED status. This will provide a greater longevity of use, reduced maintenance and lower running costs. The work has already begun in some villages. Our existing street lighting will be replaced by these new lights in due course in the same locations as the existing lights. However, this also provides us with an opportunity to review our lighting requirements in the village. Are we happy with the existing locations? Do we want less in number or do we see the need for additional new lights ó say on the Moubray's corner on Top Road? It was agreed the village should decide and that a suitable notice be placed in the next edition of the Parish Magazine seeking views: **Action: The Clerk.**

It was agreed **Councillor Waterhouse** would act as the Parish Council's reference on lighting and can be contacted on **chriswaterhouse194@btinternet.com**.

There is also an opportunity for us to review the condition of roads and footpaths within the village and which come under the control of RCC. It was agreed **Councillor Roome** would undertake this task and refer back to the Chairman and Clerk.

Finance:

- The Clerk advised that our Business Premium account held a balance of £1219.90 and that our Community account held £1348.02; a total across both accounts of £2567.92
- There were no invoices outstanding for payment, with all recent invoice payments cleared through our Community account.
- Following the approval of the budget at the previous Council meeting on 11th November 2015, an amendment to the amount of expenses paid to the Clerk was presented for approval at this meeting. This was as a result of the increased workload that was anticipated in maintaining the Council's new website as a result of the need to comply with Transparency rules. The Clerk's expenses were asked to be increased from £120 per annum approved at the last Council meeting to £180

per annum. This was proposed by Councillor Roome, seconded by Councillor Richards and unanimously agreed.

- There had been no new grant applications received for consideration since the previous Council meeting.
- The Clerk confirmed that our Precept Application totalling £1535.00 for the 2016/17 year had been received and acknowledged by RCC and that payment was anticipated during April.
- The Clerk advised Council that we had received a grant of £294.88 via LRALC towards our costs for compliance with the new Transparency rules. This amount had been used to register our new domain name and to create and make live the Ridlington Parish Council website within the Leicestershire and Rutland Councils website for Parish Councils. A further grant application has now been made in the sum of £324.98 excl VAT to cover the cost of a new laptop and scanner for sole use by the Council and the outcome of this request is awaited.

Planning Applications:

There have been no new planning applications received since the last Council meeting.

AOB:

The Chairman was asked to investigate the legal entity of the Playing Fields and to establish what the Parish Councils position might be if the Trustees for the Playing Fields decided at anytime that there was no future for continuing either as Trustees or the usage of the land as Playing Fields. It was emphasised that Councillors were not anticipating such actions by the Playing Fields Trustees but merely that the Parish Council should be aware of their legal responsibilities should such actions ever be contemplated. It was also agreed we should ask for a copy of the Playing Fields constitution to aid the Parish Council in its deliberations on this topic. **Action: Councillor Johnson**

Items for the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Weds 25th May:

- Undergrowth on Whites corner with Brook Road
- Councils Data Protection Policy
- Renovation of the Village noticeboard
- Street Lighting and Highways
- Legal entity of the Playing Fields

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

C J Lees
Clerk
Ridlington Parish Council
26th February 2016

Approved í í í í í í í ..
D. Johnson, Chairman

Date í í í í í í í í í ..