

**RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Minutes of Ringmer Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Matthew Crisp, Cllr Margaret Crompton, Cllr Johnny Denis, Cllr John Kay, Cllr Gavin May, Cllr Marcia Morgan, , Cllr Gordon Sims (C), Cllr David Terry, Cllr Richard Turner & Cllr John Whitlock

Also in attendance: Karen Crowhurst – Clerk/RFO
Gail Metcalfe – Administrator

Members of the Public: 8

Agenda Items

1. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Tara Barber, Clare Herbert and Sarah Phillips.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

2.1 Cllr Johnny Denis declared an interest in Planning Application LW/21/0517, Cllr John Kay declared an interest in Planning Application LW/21/0427 as a member of Cheyney Trust, Cllr David Terry requested a dispensation for the Land availability Assessment and Cllr Gavin May had requested a dispensation for discussion on point 12. re. the Precinct which the Clerk granted until the end of the administration period.

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH JULY 2021 AND THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH AUGUST 2021

3.1 The Clerk said to ignore the reference to the meeting held on 29th July 2021 and it was agreed to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2021. These were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

This item shall last not more than 15 minutes or at Chairman's discretion and no contribution shall last more than 3 minutes.

4.1 At 7.03pm the Chairman invited the meeting to suspend Standing Orders and asked for questions or comments from members of the public present.

4.2 A representative of OVESCO wished to inform Ringmer that they are currently looking to develop a solar farm in Ringmer between A26 and Norlington Lane. He said they had made a good start on initial consents for land and planning and as part of that they are hoping for discussions with a local MP of LDC and neighbours of the county. This is a process of trying to gain feedback to see if the project fits in with what the local public want. So far they have dropped off 18 letters, 8 had conversations with positive feedback, 5 are thinking about it, 1 person against mainly because he was selling his house. The timing is that they want to put planning in for November 2021, with community funding raised in April 2022 before starting to build in June 2022 to have it commissioned by September 2022. They would like to give a proper presentation to the Parish in a couple of weeks' time to go into more details and for questions to be put to them and answered. They have an email address and are very happy to speak with anyone either one-to-one or groups. They wanted to know if the Village

Hall was an appropriate place to hold an open day later in the year. Chairman thought this would be a good option although stressed he could not speak for the Village Hall.

A representative of Tiddlers and Toddlers re. grant application at point 9.f) attended to explain that because of Covid they have not been able to hold any sessions and without these they have no income but still have outgoings. No fundraising had been done although this is starting up again. She said she was attending to answer any questions.

A member of the public wished to discuss item 12, Cllr May's proposal re. the precinct. She said that although the proposal sounds very attractive, she had concerns as the precinct is looking very neglected and there is no ownership of the precinct by the shop owners. She said she was very conscious of problems by the Café, weeds growing, drains outside of Shelleys where there are cigarette butts. As there is no commitment from shop owners, she was concerned over the commitment of the shop owners as a group over the precinct.

5. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR** – To consider any expression of interest in accordance with Parish Council's Standing Orders.

5.1 The Chairman thanked Matthew Crisp for his expression of interest and asked for any questions from Members. No questions were forthcoming but Cllr May expressed his belief that Mr Crisp would make a fantastic contribution to Parish Council life, and he was delighted to see him come forward.

It was **resolved** to proceed with the co-option and a secret ballot was taken. It was unanimously voted to accept Matthew Crisp as a Councillor who signed the papers and was welcomed to join the meeting by the Chairman.

6. **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS – Maximum 15 minutes**

a) To receive and accept any reports submitted

6.1 The combined report from Cllrs Emily O'Brien, Johnny Denis and Sean MacLeod was noted and they were thanked for keeping the Council informed of what was going on.

7. **ACTION POINTS AND REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

a) Submission of Ringmer Parish Council's response to the Lewes District Council Local Plan issues and options consultation – **Action by Cllr Kay, Cllr Whitlock for submission by the Clerk**

7.1 The Clerk advised that this has been submitted.

7.2 b) Expression of interest with regard to Ringmer Swimming Pool – Agenda item 11 – **Action by the Clerk**

7.3 The Clerk advised that this has been submitted.

7.4 c) Bank signatories – **Action by the Clerk**

7.5 Ongoing.

7.6 d) Acquisition of land in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7.2– **Action by the Clerk**

7.7 The Clerk confirmed she had emailed the landowner to ask for help.

7.8 e) Cheaper office signage – **Action Cllr May**

- 7.9 It was agreed that once Cllr May had been provided with the specification of signs by the office, ie. quality material, size, fittings required, that he may acquire quotes from 3 companies. Cllr Crisp has experience of this with pub signs and said he was happy to share his knowledge with Cllr May.

Action: Office to provide specification of signs to Cllr May. Cllr May to discuss with Cllr Crisp and acquire 3 quotes.

- 7.10 The Clerk had attended a Clerks' Forum and she will email changes to Members.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – FOR NOTING OR ACTION

- 8.1 a) ESCC Wildlife and Countryside Act 1951 – Section 53
Claimed Right of Way at Glynde, Lewes, Ringmer: Lewes Golf Course Saxon Cross – Applicant appealed (previously circulated). Appeal on a bridleway application.

This was noted.

- 8.2 b) To consider a response to the improvement of bus services consultation – deadline 14th September 2021 (previously circulated).

It was **resolved** to defer responsibility to Cllr John Kay to respond through the office by 14th September 2021.

- 8.3 c) Gatwick Airport future plans consultation – deadline 1st December 2021.

It was **resolved** for Cllr Johnny Denis to draft the response and circulate to Councillors for further comment.

- 8.4 d) Land availability Assessment – Potential New Site Land North of Ham Lane Ringmer (previously circulated).

This was deferred to the Planning Committee Meeting on 23rd September 2021.

- 8.5 e) Invitation to CPRE Sussex Virtual AGM – Saturday 25th September 2021.

It was noted that Cllr John Kay would attend.

- 8.6 To consider any correspondence for noting or action received after this agenda has been published.

- 8.7 No further correspondence.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

- 9.1 a) Payments and Receipts – approved and signed.

- 9.2 b) Bank Reconciliation(s) – approved and signed.

- 9.3 c) Bank Summary – approved and signed.

- 9.4 d) Cost Centre Report – approved and signed.

- 9.5 e) Quotation(s) – War Memorial Cleaning and repair of wording.
This was deferred to the end of the meeting to exclude the public.

- 9.6 f) Grant application(s)/Donations – Ringmer Tiddlers and Toddlers £500
It was proposed and seconded to grant them their application. This was voted on unanimously in favour of giving them the grant of £500.00.

- 9.7 g) To consider any other financial matters which cannot be held over until the next meeting

Insurance - It was **resolved** in a unanimous vote to go with Hiscox for 3 years.

10. **APPOINTMENT TO INTERNAL CONTROL PANEL – 3 NON-OFFICE AND FINANCE MEMBERS OR BANK SIGNATORIES**

- 10.1 It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Crisp, Crompton, and Morgan to this.

11. **TO AGREE WHETHER TO OPT INTO THE TENDER PROCESS FOR RINGMER SWIMMING POOL**

- 11.1 After some discussion it was voted on to ask for an extension to the 17th September 2021 deadline so that a tender can be delivered properly. This was voted on with all in favour apart from two Councillors.

12. **TO USE THE LUCY STONE BEQUEST TO ENHANCE THE SHOPPING PRECINCT** - Paper from Cllr May previously circulated

- 12.1 After some discussion about the issues of cost, vandalism, upkeep and that no formal authorisation is required, it was agreed to in principle and for Cllr May to research further and come back with more detail.

Action: Cllr Gavin May

13. **PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS SURVEY** – To appoint 2 Members of the Council to look and review assets the Parish Council holds, and report back to the Office and Finance Committee

- 13.1 It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Crisp and Denis to this task.

14. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

14.1 **LW/21/0635 43 Craig Meadows Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5FB**

Loft conversion with rear dormer

14.2 **Comments and observations:**

RPC object under Neighbourhood Plan Policy 8.3 unless able to demonstrate 3 off-road parking spaces.

14.3 **LW/21/0517 29 Mill Mead Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5JG**

Single-storey rear extension with first floor dormer extension in newly created cat-slide roof

14.4 **Comments and observations:**

RPC offer no comment.

14.5 **LW/21/0628 48 Ballard Drive Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5NU**

Demolition of garage and conservatory, erection of two storey side extension and revised garden wall.

14.6 **Comments and observations:**

RPC object on the grounds of over-development and as being against Neighbourhood Plan Policy 8.3 as 3 parking spaces are required but drawing illustrates 2.

- 14.7 **LW/21/0477 22 Delves Close Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5JW**
Extension to existing porch
- 14.8 **Comments and observations:**
RPC are unable to comment due to lack of information.
- 14.9 **LW/21/0500 Elf Cottage Broyle Lane Ringmer**
Single Story wrap around extension
- 14.10 **Comments and observations:**
RPC offer no objection.
- 14.11 **LW/21/0511 41 The Forges Ringmer**
Single-storey side extension
- 14.12 **Comments and observations:**
RPC offer no comment.
- 14.13 **LW/21/0475 4 Greenacres Drive Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5LZ**
Single-storey extension, partial garage conversion and associated alterations
- 14.14 **Comments and observations:**
RPC offer no comment.
- 14.15 **LW/21/0482 1 - 2 Bishops Lane Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5LB**
Demolition of existing conservatory, single-storey rear extension with associated internal alterations and replace roof tiles
- 14.16 **Comments and observations:**
RPC offer no comment.
- 14.17 **LW/21/0427 Land attached to the Cheyney Field Lewes Road Ringmer East Sussex**
Development of new wetland habitat
- 14.18 **Comments and observations:**
RPC support this application.
- 14.19 **LW/21/0545 3 Broyle Mill Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5GB**
Single-storey outbuilding
- 14.20 **Comments and observations:**
RPC offer no comment.
15. **REPORTS BY LEAVE NOT FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION**
- 15.1 None.
16. **ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO NEXT AGENDA OR APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE**
- 16.1
- Point 11.4 from minutes of 29th July 2021 – agree a minute on contentious planning application.
 - Land Availability Assessment – Potential New Site, Land North of Ham Lane Ringmer deferred to the Planning Committee Meeting on 23rd September 2021.

17. **URGENT ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION REQUIRING DECISIONS WHICH CANNOT BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**

17.1 Spotlight HR's small claim for underpayment of their invoice was discussed and it was agreed to decide who is to attend once RPC have notice of the date and location and have site of the position papers.

9. e) **Quotation(s) – War Memorial Cleaning and repair of wording.**

The Chairman excluded the public at 8.19pm to discuss.

It was proposed to accept the only quote provided. This was seconded and voted for with a unanimous vote to agree to the quote dated 3rd August 2021 agreeing also to the bi-annual cost.

Meeting ended at 8.25pm.

THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS HAVE A RIGHT AND ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Date of Next Council Meeting **14th October 2021 at 7.30pm**

in the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room