

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 19:30
In the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room

Present:			
Cllr Gordon Sims (Chairman) (GS)		Cllr Matt Crisp (MC)	Cllr Johnny Denis (JD)
Cllr Gavin May (GM)		Cllr Sarah Phillips (SP)	Cllr John Whitlock (JW)
Also in attendance:		Cllr Emily O'Brien (EOB) Carol Hodgson (CH) – Acting Clerk Gail Metcalfe (GPM) – Assistant Clerk	
Members of the public:		3	
Item	Agenda Item	Act	
1.	To receive and accept apologies for absence Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Tara Barber, Margaret Crompton, Clare Herbert, Marcia Morgan, David Terry and Richard Turner.		
2.	Declarations of Members' Interests and Dispensation Requests JD declared a personal interest in point 19. as he is involved in setting up an organisation which could run the swimming pool in the future. JK declared an interest in point 20.2 b.		
3.	To accept the Minutes from the following meetings a) Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2021 b) Greens and Amenities Committee meeting held on 16th November 2021 RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings held on 9 th November 2021 and 16 th November 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairman and G&A Chairman respectively.		
4.	Public questions or comments This item shall last no more than 15 minutes or at Chairman's discretion during which time members of the public may put questions to the Council or draw attention to relevant matters relating to the business on the agenda. No contribution shall last more than 3 minutes. There were no questions or comments received.		
5.	If the Committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed: 'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.' There was no requirement to exercise this resolution.		
6.	To receive reports from the following – Maximum 15 minutes a) East Sussex County Councillor b) Lewes District Councillor(s) c) To receive and accept any reports submitted EOB (District Council) gave a brief District Council report on the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger Farm application – she has been extremely busy with planning issues and spoke out strongly against this application at the Lewes District planning committee on 18th December 2021. She was delighted by the result saying it was an amazing community effort. She paid tribute to the efforts of residents and of Ringmer Against Greenfield Exploitation. She said it was now a case of waiting to see if there is an appeal. If so, our MP has publicly stated she will ask the Secretary of State to call it in. She said it would be interesting to see if that happens and also (given recent Secretary of State decisions have tended to side with developers not residents) if that course of action helps. Government policies – via her role as Deputy Chair of one of the LGA Boards, she has been campaigning nationally on trying to tackle government policies which are 		

	<p>creating this desperate situation for places like Ringmer, especially the 5-year rule which makes no sense at all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Homes Campaign - She has been working on this with Town and Country Planning Association, with a blog due this week (now published) at: https://www.tcpa.org.uk/blog/guest-blog-how-the-healthy-homes-approach-might-be-the-answer-to-our-planning-problems-emily-obrien) • Environmental Issues - she continues to campaign on this and was in Glasgow in both her work and Councillor capacity for COP 26 . • Virtual meetings – she is supporting the call from the Local Government Association that the Government must introduce virtual meetings saying it is simply crazy to say work at home but to tell Councils they must all meet in person, or you can't make a decision. • Surfacing Works in the Ballard Drive and Kiln Road area – she is delighted that ESCC finally, after a lot of campaigning, have agreed to this, thus finally addressing the noise and vibration issues. Noise and vibration issues are a problem for other residents and she and JD had continued to campaign on wider issues - i.e., changing the county policy to better take the impact on residents into account. • UK Power Networks about their new 'switchgear' upgrading projects – she's had an interesting update from them, and the good news is that this shouldn't create any additional roadworks on top of the existing 'Little Horsted' upgrade project. • Welcome back funding from Government secured for Ringmer – she had agreement that all the funding should go on some planters rather than try to include signage which is taking longer and can be taken forward separately by the Parish Council. Hopefully this means we can get some really good big planters. GM is very kindly leading on getting quotes and she invited everyone to tell him if they know any possible suppliers - the funding needs to be spent by March. <p>JD (Parish & District) reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council had £3m redirected to potholes and footpaths in an attempt to bring them up to speed. Asset based approach. He is working on prioritising where we have particularly vulnerable people such as care homes. <p>They acknowledged the report submitted by Maria Caulfield, MP.</p>	
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>Planning matters</p> <p>At this point GM declared an interest in point 7.1g) as this application is being made by his brother.</p> <p>To consider responses to Planning applications</p> <p>a) LW/21/0854 31 Harvard Road Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5HH First floor side extension It was noted that RPC have already objected to this application but that no reason was provided. It was agreed that JW would provide the reason of the objection on parking issues.</p> <p>b) LW/21/0861 24 Harvard Road Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5HW Single storey side extension RESOLVED: Parish Council offer no objection.</p> <p>c) LW/21/0865 Carey Croft Isfield Road Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5RP Loft conversion with rear dormer RESOLVED: Parish Council offer no objection.</p> <p>d) LW/21/0910 Barn On Land At Isfield Road Ringmer East Sussex Prior notification under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q for Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 1no. Dwelling house RESOLVED: Parish Council offer no comment.</p> <p>e) W/21/0083/TPO 8 Christie Avenue Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5JT Horse chestnut (T3) - Prune back to previous pruning points: approximately 20% crown reduction Horse chestnut (T7) - Prune back to previous pruning points: approximately 20% crown reduction RESOLVED: Parish Council offer no comment.</p> <p>f) LW/21/0884 3 Broyle Mill Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5GB 2no. front rooflights & 2no. rear rooflights</p>	

7.2

RESOLVED: Parish Council offer no objection.

- g) LW/21/0891 Mays Farm Norlington Lane Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5SG
[Reserved matters concerning access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the replacement of the temporary dwelling and construction of a permanent agricultural dwelling comprising of a 2 Bedroom single storey dwelling with mezzanine](#)

RESOLVED: Parish Council supports this planning proposal.

- h) LW/21/0894/CD Caburn Field Anchor Field Ringmer East Sussex
[Discharge of conditions 13 \(Verification Report including Sampling and Monitoring\) and 26 \(Evidence of Drainage System Construction\) of application LW/18/0808](#)

RESOLVED: Residents are concerned with the clear problem of drainage and at present Ringmer Parish are unable to comment as there appears to be no paperwork discharging condition 26.

To receive and note decisions on previous Planning applications. The following applications were all received and noted:

- a) LW/21/0589/CD Ringmer Bowls Club Lewes Road Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5QA
[discharge of conditions 2 \(details of external window and door joinery\), 3 \(samples of technical details of rainwater goods\), 4 \(proposed materials\) of application LW/21/0137](#) – Decision: Approved
- b) LW/21/0611 7 Broyle Mill Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5GB
[Single-storey outbuilding for ancillary use as a home office](#) – Decision: Approved
- c) LW/21/0618 2 Ringmer Park Cottages Ham Lane Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5SE
[single-storey rear extension, two-storey side extension and detached flat roof garage](#) – Decision: Approved
- d) LW/21/0635 43 Craig Meadows Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5FB
[loft conversion with rear dormer](#) – Decision: Approved
- e) LW/21/0649/CD Land Adjacent To Neaves House Laughton Road Ringmer East Sussex
[Discharge of condition 4 \(surface water drainage\), 14 \(Construction Management Plan\) and 16 \(hard and soft landscaping details\) in relation to approval LW/20/0867](#) – Decision: Approved
- f) LW/21/0664 17 Langham Close Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5HL
[single-storey rear extension and erection of side porch](#) – Decision: Approved
- g) TW/21/0058/TCA Delves House Delves Close Ringmer East Sussex
[666 - 1 No. Field Maple - crown reduce to previous pruning points, by up to 2 metres \(TPO \(No. 24\) 1997\) 607 - 1 No. Lime - remove epicormic growth from base to 3 metres above ground level, crown raise to 3 metres above ground level 608 - Thuja hedge - Field Maple - crown raise over neighbouring property and car park to 3 metres above ground level and remove major deadwood 656 - Lawson Cypress - fell to ground level 649 - Ash - remove major deadwood 650 - Ash - remove major deadwood](#) – Decision: Approved
- h) LW/21/0733 5 Broyle Paddock Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5NT
[loft conversion including east and west facing side dormers](#) – Decision: Approved
- i) LW/21/0788 21 Anchor Field Ringmer East Sussex BN8 5QN
[Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development \(Proposed\) for a single-storey rear extension, porch, and internal alterations](#) – Decision: Split Decision

7.3

To consider a response to the 'Gleeson Land' pre-planning Public Consultation on development proposals at 'Land east of Harrison Lane' –

www.landeastofharrisonslane.co.uk

After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not respond until this becomes real.

GM reported on the remote meeting with Gleesons that he had attended along with GS and JW. He said it was a pleasant meeting where they got to put their concerns forward in terms of access and it being a single lane road. He said that they had no understanding of such issues on Harrisons Lane as they see it as a 2-way road. They advised that they would avoid the school run, and GM advised it was made clear to them that this was not the issue. They have not been on site. They are not going to change what they are doing, and they are going to put

	the application in. It was agreed that there was no point in responding until the application has been made.	
	GS mentioned at this point the open letter that had been sent to Mr Gove (DLUHC Minister) from seven of our neighbouring Wealden Parish Councils published in last Friday's Sussex Express (Laughton, East Hoathly, Chiddingly, Hellingly, Horam, Warbleton & Heathfield). All were in agreement to write offering our support of this draft letter. JK offered to draft this.	JK
8.	To receive any recommendations from Committees arising from meetings There were no recommendations. GS asked the Clerk to get a date in the diary for the next Office and Finance Meeting.	CLERK
9.	Highways Matters a) To receive an update on holding a Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting It was reported that a remote meeting had been booked for 11/01/22 at 11am. b) To receive confirmation of applying for a Lewes DC Parking Review at Bishops Lane The Clerk confirmed that this had been submitted to ESCC but had not received confirmation of receipt. JD offered to check if this had been received. c) To receive an update on applying to the ESCC Community Match Funding Scheme to address traffic concerns on Church Hill The Clerk confirmed she would continue to work on this but was currently awaiting the outcome of the SLR Mtg.	JD CLERK
10.	Skatepark a) To receive an update on the lease for Fingerpost Field GS confirmed that their deadline is up in another week, and he would chase it if nothing received by then. b) To receive the outcome of the meeting with Bendcrete Ltd GM confirmed that a new quote had been received although there was the question of costs re. soil investigations on Fingerpost Field to be considered. He reported that around 14 people had turned up at the consultation prior to this meeting and that the two main concerns were anti-social behaviour and the flood lights which are not being put in but what trumped both of these was the issue of parking (lack of). It was agreed that the CGIs would go up on the website with an invitation for comments from those who could not attend the consultation. Action: GM said he would go back to them tomorrow via the office to confirm costs and Office to put CGIs up on the website. c) To receive an update and agree timeline actions to deliver the proposed Skatepark Public Consultation – to the end of December 2021 New costs and total costs to complete project - December 2021 Planning application submission - January 2022 Planning decision target date - April 2022 Delivery of Skatepark - June 2022 It was proposed to agree the above timeline. All were in agreement.	GS GM and OFFICE
11.	Swimming Pool To receive an update on the current position JD confirmed that Ringmer Community Pool Group's application had been acknowledged but that he had not heard anything since this. He said they had opened up a way for the community to sign up to this group and they have representation from around 133 people from the village which he took to be positive. He has an interim constitution drafted but not yet signed off and he mentioned that he would like the swimming pool to be registered as a Community Asset at point 19.	
12.	Community Buildings and Facilities To receive an update from the Community Buildings and Facilities meeting held on 7-Oct-21 JW reported that as the Parish Council do not have any land it was impossible at this juncture to provide a larger community hub and more facilities for youngsters. He said it had been good to have a discussion on what would be wanted but that nothing could be provided at the moment.	

13.	<p>Recovery Fund/Welcome Back Fund re. Precinct Shops To receive an update on the current position GM thanked EOB for her help on this and advised that he would be speaking with the precinct businesses to try to get something in place. He gave his word that he would move forward with this and that the money (which needs to be used before end of March 2022) would not be lost.</p>	GM
14.	<p>Strategic Plan Working Group To appoint Members It was agreed that 3 or 5 members would be required. JW said he would put something out on Facebook and would take control of this.</p>	JW
15.	<p>Play Area Renewals and Replacements Village Green Play area</p> <p>a) To receive the outcome of meeting with ‘KOMPAN’ on the proposed scheme of replacing the Play Area equipment GM thanked MC, CH and MM for their work on agreeing a design and confirmed that KOMPAN could provide an “all singing, all dancing” 75% new play area on the Village Green at no cost to RPC as £105,715.00 had been gifted under s.106 by a developer. He confirmed that Captain Mainwaring and the disabled swing would remain but that everything else would be replaced including the flooring and possibly the broken gate. He advised that the timeline would be worked around the playground being open for the summer so either before May half-term or to wait until September/October time. He said installation would take 4 weeks, that the site would be off Bishops Lane, and all would be sealed off.</p> <p>b) To consider and agree any actions on the outcome of the ‘KOMPAN’ meeting GM proposed to accept the updated quote in principle subject to LDC releasing the money. All were in agreement. Action: GS said he would call Ian Fitzpatrick to discuss releasing the funds and EOB and JD offered their help to speak to LDC officers as required.</p>	GS
16.	<p>Grounds Maintenance</p> <p>a) To agree the urban grass cutting service (ESCC Highways) for 2022 (deadline 20-Dec-21) (Following a meeting with the Wildflower Assoc and Grounds Maintenance Contractor) RESOLVED: Parish Council agreed to go with this service (2 cuts a year).</p> <p>b) To agree next year’s grass cutting (Following a meeting with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to review grass cutting service and requirements) GM advised that the meeting between himself, Anne Duke, Rosemary Colebourn and Tony Read had not taken place and that he would rearrange it.</p>	CLERK GM
17.	<p>Open Spaces - other</p> <p>a) To receive an update on the Cock Inn bus shelter site visit rescheduled to 2-Dec-21 JK reported on his site visit with Robin Hayward of ESH and 2 others. The outcome was that Robin Hayward requested the make, model and dimensions of the bus shelter chosen and GPM confirmed this had been done.</p> <p>b) To receive any further updates on obtaining further quotes for the installation of 2 highway directional signs to the current Parish Office MC confirmed that he has obtained a quote of £90.00 per sign. He has asked Highways to let us know how much it will cost to install them. Action: MC will chase this and will forward all emails to the Clerk.</p> <p>c) To receive and update on the Parish Council’s Assets Survey and audit of bins SP advised that we need to acquire a map of the village so that she can assign a geographical zone to each Cllr. JK said he would provide details of where a map could be obtained for £12.00.</p> <p>d) To receive an update on commissioning a report on the structural integrity of the Flint Wall Surrounding the Churchyard The office confirmed that a Roger Bunney of EAR Sheppard Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers Limited has been appointed to provide the report. Action: The office will chase him for this.</p>	MC OFFICE/SP OFFICE

	<p>e) To receive an update on acquiring the land at Broyle Gate Farm (Ringmer NHP Policy 8.4) The office confirmed that they had not heard back from Mark Bentley of Croudace. He had been chased. Action: The office will chase this up again.</p>	OFFICE
18.	<p>Communications</p> <p>a) To receive an update on Parish Council's Facebook page The Clerk confirmed that the Parish now has its own Facebook page. She asked if Cllrs could spread the word.</p> <p>b) To items for inclusion to the January 2022 Parish Council Newsletter The Clerk asked for Cllrs to submit their items by Thursday 23rd December 2021. Action: Clerk to send an email out to all Cllrs asking for their contributions.</p> <p>c) To receive any updates on reviewing the Parish Council's website The Clerk asked that Cllrs get their suggestions to the office.</p> <p>d) To consider setting-up a Communications Working Group Action: SP said she would write to Cllrs asking for volunteers. JD volunteered at the meeting.</p>	CLERK CLLRS SP
19.	<p>Assets of Community Value</p> <p>At this point MC declared an interest as the pub landlord at the Anchor Inn. To review and agree the current 'Assets of Community Value' list lodged with Lewes DC After much discussion it was decided that we would start by renewing the Anchor Inn and Fingerpost Field and register the swimming pool as an ACV. Cllrs were asked to put forward any asset suggestions to the Clerk. JD said he would send the form to the Clerk.</p>	CLERK/JD
20. 20.1	<p>Finance Matters</p> <p>a) To receive the latest Financial Reports RESOLVED: That the latest statement of accounts was received.</p> <p>b) To approve the latest bank reconciliation RESOLVED: That the latest bank reconciliation was received.</p> <p>c) To approve the list of payments RESOLVED: That the list of payments was approved.</p>	
20.2	<p>To receive any Grant applications / Donation requests</p> <p>a) East Sussex Wildlife Rescue (2020 £100) RESOLVED: To pay ESWR £100.00</p> <p>b) CPRE (2020 £36) It was agreed that RPC would not pay this to CPRE.</p>	CLERK
20.3	<p>To consider and review the Allotment Fees for 2022 RESOLVED: That the fees remain the same for 2022.</p>	
20.4	<p>To receive the draft Greens and Amenities Budget for 2022/23 RESOLVED: This was deferred to the January Office & Finance meeting. Clerk to provide full budget for January.</p>	CLERK
21.	<p>There was no point 21. on the agenda.</p>	
22.	<p>Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future Agenda Items</p> <p>a) To consider any correspondence received after this agenda has been published for noting or action Queen's Jubilee - RPC agreed to make their green spaces available for a picnic on Sunday 5th June 2022. It was agreed to put this on Facebook. Ringmer FC Relocation – GM advised that this was nearly complete and that the last of the tarmacking was being done. He said it was looking good and he would happily show people round. Riverdale Parking Challenge at Caburn Field – It was agreed that JK would draft a letter to Riverdale's representative saying that the covenant is contrary to planning permission (NP 8.3). Christmas Tree and Lights – SP thanked CS for organising the Christmas tree and lights.</p>	OFFICE JK
23.	<p>Urgent items at the Chairman's discretion requiring decisions which cannot be held over until the next meeting There were no urgent items received.</p>	

24.	<p>To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'</p> <p>At 21.23 the public and press were excluded.</p>	
25.	<p>Staffing Matters</p> <p>a) Recruitment of a Clerk/RFO The Chairman confirmed that he had now received resignation letters from both members of staff. He said that 2 applicants had come forward. Action: GS to sort out interviews.</p> <p>b) To receive an update and consider further action(s) required on the claim against the Parish Council made by the previous Clerk GS confirmed that we have been appointed a Solicitor through our insurers who are now dealing with our claim. He confirmed that we have received an extension to respond by 28th January 2022. GM thanked GS for dealing with this.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>GS</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.22.</p>	

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

Date of Next Council Meeting **11th January 2022 at 19.30**
in the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room