



## **RINGSBALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** C.Payne (Chair)  
A.Williams (Vice Chair)  
N.Last  
L.Hitchcock  
D.Shann  
H.Nunn

**In Attendance** County Cllr Kay Oakes  
Cllr Dan Pratt  
Peter Watson – SpeedWatch Coordinator  
L.Luther – Clerk  
5 member of the Public

**RPC/93/22/23 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE – Cllr H. Williams.**

**RPC/94/22/23 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION – None were received.**

**RPC/95/22/23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING. It was AGREED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**RPC/96/22/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:**

There were 5 members of the public present. No issues were raised.

**RPC/97/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –** County Cllr Oakes reported that the SLOW markings in the road by Baker's Corner had now been completed, paid for from her budget. She had recently installed the Quiet Lane signs along Offton Road. Cllr Oakes also said they were still monitoring the flooding at the top of Lower Farm Road, around the bus shelter and village hall and urged anyone to take pictures of any incidents so they can use that to help diagnose the issue. Cllr Oakes reported that her February Report would be sent out shortly. County Cllr Oakes also reported on a meeting with a local farmer regarding damaged village signs and pledged to support replacing them where possible. Cllr Oakes is also using some of her budget to replace signage within the village that requires attention.

**RPC/98/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Cllr Pratt had circulated his report prior to the meeting and reported that he had a small amount of funds left in his budget if any small and locally relevant projects required funding. Cllr Pratt funded the cost for a hearing loop to be installed at Ringshall Village Hall to make it more accessible to all. Cllr Pratt urged anyone who knew any financially vulnerable families to put them in touch with him so he could assist with holiday activities and food sources. The issue of transport for children to school, being withdrawn for those no longer eligible was discussed.

### **RPC/99/22/23 HIGHWAYS**

- a) Flooding on Lower Farm Road already addressed by Councillor Oakes.
- b) Clerk reported the street lights had been repaired and were now working again. However, councillors raised the issue of the bulb causing a 'blind spot' along the road now and it was requested that Clerk liaise with Andrew Alberry to ascertain if an alternative bulb can be sourced that will light the area correctly without causing night time drivers an issue.
- c) Chairman shared pictures of the now restored steps and handrail at the bottom of Lower Farm Road and thanked Councillor Pratt for his extremely efficient response in dealing with the issue and getting it resolved so quickly.

### **RPC/100/22/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Councillors noted the decision relating to DC/22/04231 as being approved. It was also noted that conditions of the decision were very welcome – such as working hours being restricted to Monday to Saturday( 8-6 Monday to Fridays and 9-1 on Saturdays) to minimise additional traffic outside of these days and times and mitigating measures were to be taken to ensure that an increased flood risk was not a possibility.
- b) Council discussed the amended Planning Consultation request for DC/23/00232. Council felt the new plans did address the issue of the proximity of the building to the road and subsequent pedestrian and traffic issues this would have caused. However, Council remained unsatisfied that other concerns for the planning were still outstanding. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would issue a letter to the Council to submit Council's objection to this planning proposal and provide its reasons for objections as follows:
  - a) Council feel the size of the building will cause a significant loss of light to neighbouring properties.
  - b) Council believe there are no comparative buildings anywhere else along Lower Farm Road, and so the building will be out of keeping with the rest of the existing character and layout of the village.

### **RPC/101/22/23 TO RECEIVE THE CLERKS REPORT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a)
  - i. Clerk reported that on the previously mentioned issue of Community Broadband being raised as something to discuss during a meeting, there had been no further update on the issue, therefore, there was nothing to discuss yet and the item would be placed on the next agenda.
  - ii. Clerk presented the letter from the Church for additional funds to those already awarded for the grass cutting. Councillors discussed their ability to fund the additional request for £600 and decided to seek further clarification from SALC as to what was permitted to be paid for by the Parish Council before they would commit to any payment. **It was AGREED** that the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk would meet with the church to identify their needs and see where the Parish Council are able to assist further.
  - iii. Clerk presented Council with the thank you letters for donations from the Council for St Elizabeth's Hospice and Citizens Advice Bureau.



- b) Clerk provided an updated financial report, which was distributed to all councillors. Clerk also provided Cllr Williams with a bank reconciliation and updated Cash Book for his supervision and approval.
- c) Clerk presented details of payments and receipts made on behalf of council. **It was AGREED** to authorise all payments and receipts.
- d) Clerk presented three options to council for the increase of the Budget Precept for 2023/24 Financial Year. Council discussed the options for the Precept Increase. It was noted that there were a small number of financially vulnerable families living in the village.
- e) **It was AGREED** that the Precept would be raised by 9.99%.

#### **RPC/102/22/23 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES INDICATOR BOARD**

- a) Peter Watson gave his usual speed watch report, which notably identified that the number of speeding vehicles travelling through the village had increased.
- b) A draft questionnaire was been completed and presented to councillors. **It was AGREED** that the questionnaire would be distributed to Lower Farm Road Residents and the results of it presented at the next meeting in March.

#### **RPC/103/22/23 REQUEST FOR DOG WASTE BIN ON STOWMARKET ROAD**

Council discussed the request and **it was AGREED** that a bin in that location was not currently needed. Council would happily review the request again next year.

#### **RPC/104/22/23 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING**

Clerk reported that Defibrillator Training had been booked for Ringshall Village Residents, and indeed anyone else would like to attend, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, at the Village Hall for a 10am start, to finish at around 12noon. To attend the training, residents have been asked to notify the clerk of their interest via the newsletter and website.

#### **RPC/105/22/23 TO CONSIDER THE LGA CODE OF CONDUCT**

Council considered and discussed the LGA Code of Conduct and **it was AGREED** that the code would be adopted by Ringshall Parish Council and Chairman signed the document in recognition of this.

#### **RPC/106/22/23 QUIET LANE**

- a) Clerk reported that BMSDC have advised the location of the new dog waste bin is acceptable, however as the post is owned by the council, permission would need to be sought for the dog waste bin to be mounted on the post. Cllr Oakes advised she could assist Clerk in applying for the permissions required. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would apply for permission to site the Dog Waste Bin on the post.
- b) Council discussed the new quiet lane signs that had been sited along the quiet lane.

#### **RPC/107/22/23 RINGSHALL PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP**

- a) Clerk reported on the financial position of the play area funding and presented a report to council on what funds would be available once the play park had been paid for. Donations were received from the Geoffrey Burton Trust of £2,000, Binder £300, Mrs LD Rope's Charitable Trust £1,000, the Lord Belstead Trust £2,000. Lottery Funding Awards for all £8,500, District Council CIL Funds £20,566.35, Communities Grant from BMSDC of £16,939.73 and funds were raised by the Village Hall Management Committee through social events, totally £1,373.19.



- b) Clerk discussed the need for a lawnmower to be purchased in order to maintain the grass within the play area. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would purchase a petrol, walk behind lawn mower for the play area.
- c) Clerk reported that a number of residents in the village had offered to participate in a rota for mowing the grass on the play area. Clerk would be setting up a WhatsApp group for the residents to liaise between themselves to organise the grass cutting, that would be monitored by Clerk..
- d) Clerk presented Council with potential Sign wording for the play area for their approval. **It was AGREED** that the sign wording was appropriate. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would instruct the sign to be created and installed at the play area.
- e) Council discussed the possibility of setting up a Play Area Sub-committee and **It was AGREED** that no such committee would be required at the time and a decision to set up such a committee could be postponed and agreed upon at a later time. **It was AGREED** to formally close the Play Area Working Group now that the play area had been installed and was considered complete.
- f) Council discussed the opening date for the play area. **It was AGREED** that the play area was not yet ready to be opened to the public, as there were loose pegs, soil that needed to be rolled, uneven ground and ground surrounding the seesaw required proper turfing before the play area could be considered suitable for the public. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would ensure appropriate Public Liability Insurance was put in place. **It was AGREED** that, providing improvements required were carried out prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March, then 1<sup>st</sup> March would be the provisional opening date for the play area. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would liaise with Kompan to arrange for the final improvements to be completed on the Play Area.

#### **RPC/108/22/23 RINGSHALL ANNUAL LITTER PICK**

Council discussed the dates for the Annual Litter Pick – which were to be between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would order bin bags to service the litter pick.

#### **RPC/109/22/23 ELECTIONS**

Clerk reported that Elections were approaching and advised that the May, Ringshall Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would need to take place between 9<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May owing to Council requirements. Forms would be sent out to all Councillors who wished to stand for Council again next year.

#### **RPC/110/22/23 DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE AGREED.**

Owing to the requirement for the May meeting of the Parish Council to be between 9<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> May, **It was AGREED** that the Annual Parish Meeting should continue to be held on the same day. **It was AGREED** that the Annual Parish Meeting would be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7pm.

**"Council resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the financial business to be transacted."**

#### **RPC/111/22/23 RINGSHALL PLAY AREA BENCHES**

Council discussed the Bench quotes that Clerk provided. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would purchase two Glasdon Phoenix Benches owing to their eco friendly properties. It was **AGREED** that Clerk would liaise with Public Realm to identify whether the Benches would need to be secured to the ground on health and safety grounds.

**RPC/112/22/23 CAR PARK UPDATE**

Council discussed the ongoing need for repairs to the car park and **It was AGREED** to postpone a decision until warmer weather had returned to maximise the impact of the repairs and ensure a full and thorough job was done.

**RPC/113/22/23 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**RPC/114/22/23 DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 AT 7.30PM**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairman: .....  ..... Dated:  .....