**RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Parish Council held at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 26th September at 7pm.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** H.Nunn

N.Last

L.Hitchcock

D.Shann

**In Attendance** Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Dan Pratt

Peter Watson – SpeedWatch Coordinator

L.Luther – Clerk

16 members of the Public

**RPC/41/23/24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN TO THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Nunn proposed Cllr Last for Chairman, and Cllr Shann seconded the vote. All were in favour. Cllr Last was nominated Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Last completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**RPC/42/23/24 ELECTION OF VICE - CHAIRMAN TO THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Nunn Proposed Cllr Hitchcock for Vice-Chairman and Cllr Shann seconded the motion. All were in favour. Cllr Hitchcock completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**RPC/43/23/24 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Nunn proposed Mr Barry Shann to be a new Councillor. Cllr Last seconded the motion. All were in favour.

Cllr B. Shann joined the council and was given the register of interests form by Clerk.

**RPC/44/23/24 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None were received.

**RPC/45/23/24** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None were received.

**RPC/46/23/24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**It was AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday July 25th 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

**RPC/47/23/24 TO APPOINT NEW SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**It was AGREED** that the following Councillors would join the following committees:

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

HELEN NUNN

DAVID SHANN

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

LIZ HITCHCOCK

HELEN NUNN

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

DAVID SHANN

HELEN NUNN

**RPC/48/23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were 16 members of the public present. A number of questions were asked.

a) One member of the public asked how the council proposed to move the issue of the extension of the 30mph zone forward after not discussing it at the last meeting?

How do you propose to improve the safety of lower farm road traffic?

Under the 2020 code of conduct, how did you enter into the spirit of the debate by not discussing the issue of the proposals concerning the 30ph issue?

b) Councillors responded to the questions in various ways. One councillor said that discussions were by no means closed, and that it was the view of the Council that they would wait for the results of the speed survey to be undertaken in the 60mph zone of Lower Farm Road, before they believed they could progress the issue because this survey would be carried out with a calibrated machine that would provide reliable data to Highways.

One councillor expressed the opinion that he did not believe the extension of the 30mph zone would make any difference. It was only speeding enforcement actions that would make any difference. Another councillor said they did not believe that it was the view of the whole village that the speed extension zone was wanted.

c) Member of public asked why the road in the village was closed a few weeks previously. Councillors replied informing them that highways had decided to tarmac the road around the 20s plenty area outside the school. This information was displayed in advance of the work being done on the Parish website. This work was carried out by Highways, and not associated with the Parish Council.

d) One member of the public, picking up on one of the comments made by a Councillor, who said the 30mph work could potentially be a waste of money, asked why they thought it was a waste of money. One of the Councillors responded saying that it ‘Could’ be a waste of money, but the Council required more time and effort to investigate the issue thoroughly before they make a final decision as to the viability of the project.

e) One member of the public asked if the current councillors felt they had treated the previous chair with respect, given that they did not even discuss the proposal that they decided to dismiss by not even discussing it at the meeting. One of the councillors commended the previous work that had been carried out by Cllr Payne, commenting that he had done a splendid job. However, that is not to say they should move a new proposal on the basis of other work if they did not agree with it. Another councillor commented that they go to Parish Council Meetings with an open mind as to the items on the agenda for discussion. Councillors discussed that they are able to suspend the standing order that says that an item that has been dismissed from an agenda cannot be put on another agenda for 6 months, so the issue of the extension of the 30mph speed limit would be revisited on the agenda at the next meeting.

f) A member of the public accused the Councillors of a ‘stitch up’. When the member of the public was questioned by councillors as to further information as to what was intended in that statement, the reply was it was perceived that “councillors had agreed prior to the meeting not to support the motions.” In response, Councillors pointed out that this was most definitely not the case.

**RPC/49/23/24 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – County Cllr Oakes’ reported that the speed survey for the 60mph zone was booked for the next month (October). Cllr Oakes requested that the Clerk send her the invoice for the second Speed Indicator Board so she can arrange for payment of it. Cllr Oakes reported that she had been in touch with Mr Toomey regarding Bakers Corner and the traffic speeding in that area. Cllr Oakes was hopeful that further action could be taken to remedy the situation, but this was still to be decided.

**RPC/50/23/24 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**: Cllr Pratt had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Cllr Pratt added that the outline planning application for a dwelling in Charles Tye had been refused..

**RPC/51/23/24 HIGHWAYS**

1. Cllr Oakes in her report already addressed the highways issue and reported her engineer would be attending to look at the flooding by the bus shelter. Councillors extended their thanks to Cllr Oakes for replacing the road signs at the junction of Stowmarket and Ware Road.

**RPC/52/23/24 PLANNING**

1. Council noted the decision to that refused permission for DC/23/03285
2. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/02688
3. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/03434
4. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/03509
5. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/02769

**RPC/53/23/24 CLERK’S REPORT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. Clerk reported that she had had to purchase a new laptop over the summer when the old lap top stopped working. Clerk thanked Councillors for their quick response, giving permission to make the purchase.
2. Clerk discussed potential Budget options for the upcoming financial year 2024/25. The potential budget options have been drawn up early this year as the Clerk is resigning, and wanted to make sure the Budget was decided well ahead of time, to make it easier for the incoming Clerk. Clerk offered up the options of no changes, 2.5% increase on the precept and a 5% increase on the precept. Councillors did not discuss the budget or any of these options. These will be on the next agenda for discussion and decision.
3. Clerk read out a letter that had been received from the Four Parishes Magazine, requesting financial assistance from the Parish Council. The letter was discussed and **It was AGREED** that a donation of £100 would be made to the Four Parishes Magazine on behalf of Ringshall Parish Council.
4. Clerk presented the Finance Report to the Council. Notably, the Council had £25,984.92 on account with £10.039.97 in general reserves. The report was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website.
5. Clerk presented the payments and receipts for the meeting, and pointed out a number of large payments that would need to be made including the car park repairs, payment for the lap top, payment for the new Speed Indicator Board and election costs. **It was AGREED** that all payments and receipts were approved.
6. Clerk presented the report from the External Auditor, reporting that the external audit has been successfully completed and notice of Audited Accounts would be posted on the noticeboard, to enable anyone who wanted access to the accounts to request as such.
7. Clerk presented the details of the Insurance Renewal premium to Council, stating the renewal cost would be £385.19**. It was AGREED** that the Insurance Renewal Premium was authorised and should be paid by Clerk.
8. Clerk brought the keys for the two noticeboards to the meeting and **it was AGREED** that the key for the Noticeboard in Charles Tye was handed over to Councillor Hitchcock for safekeeping. **It was AGREED** that the key for the noticeboard by the Village Hall would be attached to the keys of the Village Hall, so that it would always be available to whoever needed it, while it was kept in the key safe.
9. Clerk presented her resignation letter to the Council, expressing thanks for their support over the past two years and wishing them success in their future endeavours. Clerk has a full time job elsewhere and no longer has time to complete both roles anymore.

**RPC/54/23/24 SPEED SURVEY IN 60MPH AREA OF LOWER FARM ROAD**

Cllr Oakes confirmed that the Speed Survey is booked for next month (October) and she was hoping that results would be received in time for her to report back at the next meeting in November.

**RPC/55/23/24 DOG WASTE BIN \_ SITING ALONG OFTON ROAD**

Clerk reported that the previous suggestion for a Dog Waste bin had been rejected by Highways, so a new post location, near Ringshall School, on the otherside of the junction to Ofton Road, had been suggested and Clerk was waiting for them to advise.

**RPC/56/23/24 CAR PARK REPAIRS**

Clerk reported that the repairs to the Car Park were carried out during the School Holidays and requested that if anyone had an issue with them, if they could report that to Clerk that would be very helpful.

**RPC/57/23/24 NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT**

No update was reported on this item.

**RPC/58/23/24 SPEEDWATCH**

Peter Watson reported on the high speeds recorded through the village during August and July, with speeds in excess of 60mph recorded during the middle of the day.

**RPC/59/23/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 28th November at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 7.55pm**

**Chairman: ……………………………… Dated:………………………………..**