**RINGSHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Parish Council held at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 7pm.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** C.Payne (Chair)

H.Nunn

N.Last

L.Hitchcock

D.Shann

**In Attendance** Cllr Kay Oakes

Cllr Dan Pratt

Peter Watson – SpeedWatch Coordinator

L.Luther – Clerk

7 members of the Public

**RPC/25/23/24 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr A. Williams and Cllr. H. Williams .

**RPC/26/23/24** **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr L.Hitchcock submitted a declaration of interest in item 9f & 9g, relating to property which she owned.

**RPC/27/23/24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**It was AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday May 23rd 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

**RPC/28/23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were 7 members of the public present. No issues were raised.

**RPC/29/23/24 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – County Cllr Oakes’ report was circulated prior to the meeting.

**RPC/30/23/24 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**: Cllr Pratt had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Cllr Pratt added that the case of the Red Lion in Great Bricett had been reignited with the Economic Development team and Heritage, and was being investigated because the current status of the sale of the building was unclear.

**RPC/31/23/24 HIGHWAYS**

1. Cllr Oakes reported that the drains by the bus shelter were jetted on 15th April 2023, but Cllrs reported that it was still flooding in the most recent heavy rains, which indicates a deeper issue being present. Cllr Oakes requested that photos be taken to use as supporting evidence for further investigative work to be done.

**RPC/32/23/24 PLANNING**

1. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/01796
2. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/02484
3. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/01104 and 01103
4. Council noted the decision to grant permission for DC/23/03078
5. Council discussion the consultation request letter relating to planning application DC/23/02688 Frontage Barn, Stowmarket Road (removal of two trees with TPO either side of oil tank**. It was AGREED** that no comment was to be made.

**Cllr L. Hitchcock left the room.**

1. Council discussed planning consultation request DC/23/03288 Conversion of Coach House to Dwelling. Chair discussed the ecology and bat reports submitted as part of the planning application and the attention to detail. Council were in agreement that the proposed development should go ahead, providing the mitigating factors were complied with. **It was AGREED** that all were in favour of supporting the planning application.
2. Council discussed planning consultation Listed Building request DC/23/03289 and **It was AGREED** that all were in favour of supporting the planning application.

**Cllr L. Hitchcock returned to the room.**

1. Council discussed planning consultation request DC/23/03285 – which was Outline Planning Permission for a dwelling to be built on land on the west side of Charles Tye, Ringshall. Councillors discussed the previous application for this piece of land for its change of use to become paddocks for keeping of horses, erection of stable block with post and rail fencing.(DC/21/05064). **It was AGREED** that Clerk would request an extension on the time period for comments, because Councillors were not familiar with current policy on ribbon developments in the countryside and wished to complete further investigations before they felt they could comment appropriately.
2. Anglia Business Park was discussed and Cllr Pratt confirmed that this was going to committee, but no date had been set because officers were still working on various reports and outcomes.

**RPC/33/23/24 CLERK’S REPORT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. i)Clerk read out an e-mail received from a member of the public, who visited the play area recently, and was writing to express gratitude and compliments on the play area. The redacted e-mail is available in ‘Additional Information’ for the July 2023 meeting on the Parish Website.

ii) Clerk mentioned the Car Park, which was still in need of repair. The repair had been on previous agendas and had been delayed owing to poor weather conditions. Now Summer is present**, It was AGREED** that the Clerk, would redistribute the car park repair quotes (currently to be found in Additional Information Folder on the website for January 2023 meeting), in order for Councillors to consider the best one and instruct the Clerk to organise the repair to be carried out.

1. i)Clerk advised that the WhatsApp group that had been put together for people who were volunteering for mowing the grass in the play area was working, but that it would be helpful if anyone else knew of anyone who would be willing to help and volunteer to cut the grass as numbers were relatively small and it was consistently falling to the same individuals to cut the grass.

ii) Clerk read out an e-mail received regarding a project about Thermal Imaging Cameras, where Parishes were able to loan Thermal Imaging Cameras to identify heat loss sources in buildings, in order to better insulate buildings and preserve heat inside houses. No Councillors commented or discussed the project. Chair took a copy of the e-mail for further investigation.

1. Clerk presented the Finance Report to council. The report was distributed to councillors prior to the meeting and uploaded onto the Parish Website.

<https://ringshall.suffolk.cloud/assets/Parish-Council-Documents/Additional-Information/2023-2024/July-25th-2023/RPC-Financial-Report-July-2023.pdf>

1. Clerk advised payments were minimal this month, with simply Clerk’s Pay and expenses to be paid. **It was AGREED** to approve all payments and receipts.
2. Clerk provided a budget monitoring report for the current financial year 2023-4. The report was distributed to councillors prior to the meeting and uploaded onto the website for all to view. Overall. there is projected to be an overspend on Audit costs, owing to increased costs as the council spent over £25,000 last year because of the play area. The rest of the budget is currently looking positive, with small overspends owing to cost of living, but overall, the expenditure of the Council is projected to come in under budget this year.
3. Clerk discussed the need to update the 3 year Business Plan for the Parish Council. **It was AGREED** that the previous Business Plan would be sent out to all Councillors and the item be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting for more detailed discussion.
4. Clerk discussed the need to update the Parish Emergency Plan. **It was AGREED** that the previous plan would be distributed to all Councillors and Clerk would put a note in the Parish Newsletter asking for anyone who could help with a working group for the emergency plan to contact them.

**RPC/34/23/24 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES**

1. Speed Watch Report – Peter Watson reported on data collected from the past two months from the Speed Indicator Board. High speeds through the village were noted as being 63,71 and 64 mph. Peter reported that staff from Wattisham had come into Ringshall, in uniform to make their own recordings of speeds that drivers were travelling through the village at. Council requested that data be collated included the times of the speeds and a comparison of speeds this year, versus 12 months ago. Cllr K. Oakes Agreed to pay for a speed survey to be carried out in the 60mph zone between Ringshall and Great Bricett.
2. Council discussed whether to purchase a second Speed Indicator Board for the village. Cllr Kay Oakes agreed to provide funding up to £2,500 to pay for a second Speed Indicator Board. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would purchase a new Speed Indicator Board on behalf of the Council.
3. The recent public meeting that was held to discuss the proposed extension of the 30mph limit in Ringshall was discussed. Cllr Oakes advised that an extension could be achieved, but costs would be incurred by the Parish Council, a small amount of which she could assist with, but the rest would have to be paid by the Parish Council covering items such as a Traffic Regulation Order, consultations, speed survey, consulting the Police, highways agency and advertising in newspapers of the proposal. The overall cost was suggested to be in the region of £6-10,000. Motions had been suggested,as a result of the meeting and were read out to Council, and the response was as follows:

i) Following public consultation and discussions with SCC Ringshall Parish Council resolves in principle to ask for amendment to Traffic Regulation orders affecting Lower Farm Road (West), Ringshall, and to work towards installing an extension of a 30mph limit,150 metres out past the new development of bungalows on the west side of the village to the existing village sign and mark white 30mph roundels at the new entry point on the carriageway.

Chair proposed the motion. No one seconded the motion. The Motion failed.

ii) Following public consultation and discussions with SCC Ringshall Parish Council resolves in principle to continue its efforts to extend the existing 30mph speed limit in Lower Farm Road (West), Ringshall, to include properties and a new proposed driveway access point at Broad View Farm, Ringshall.

Chair proposed the motion. No one seconded the motion. The Motion failed.

There was no discussion about the motions.

**RPC/35/23/24 PEOPLE AND PLACE PLAN**

Cllr Pratt had previously circulated a FAQ on a People and Place Plan and reported that it is a Community Planning Statement for the village. It does not have the statutory power of a neighbourhood plan but does enable community to have a say. Cllr Pratt had organised for two of his colleagues to attend the upcoming meeting in September to discuss the People and Place Plan in more detail.

**RPC/36/23/24 WATTISHAM NOISE COMPLAINT**

It was reported that an enforcement officer responded to the complainant, concerning the noise levels at Wattisham. Martin Kinsey reported that he has spoken via email with the complainant, and invited them to a families event at Wattisham in August, so they can see for themselves what takes place at events at Wattisham. Martin Kinsey also confirmed that all vehicles which took part in racing events were all tested for their noise levels before they were allowed to participate. **It was AGREED** that Clerk would write to the complainant to report the discussion from the meeting on this subject.

**RPC/37/23/24 RINGSHALL VILLAGE HALL ROOF REPAIR**

Cllr L. Hitchcock reported that the Ringshall Village Hall Management committee had decided to organise and pay for the roof repair out of Village Hall funds. The repair has now been done and the hall is watertight again in time for winter.

**RPC/38/23/24 NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT**

Council discussed the recent consultation and council reiterated its objections to the proposal**. It was AGREED** that Clerk wouldreissue the Parish Council’s previous objections to the proposal during the current consultation period.

**RPC/39/23/24 GRAFFITI ON VILLAGE SIGN**

Clerk has reported the graffiti to BMSDC and it is awaiting remedial attention.

**RPC/40/23/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 26th September at 7pm**

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**

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