



RIPPLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Ripple Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held at Ripple Parish Hall on 27th May 2022 at 7.00pm,

Present: M. Peters (Chairman), M. Baum, T. Armitt, M Davis, K Weyman
C. Cllr M. Allen and D. Cllr J. Owenson

Attendees: Clerk/RFO M Hinde, and 23 members of the public

27.05.22.1 Welcome from Chairman elect of Ripple Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming. He also encouraged people to ask questions at the end.

The chairman clarified that any donations would be made to the church yard and not the church itself.

27.05.22.2 To consider and approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th May 2021

Council **APPROVED** the minutes from 28th May 2021.

27.05.22.3 To present the councils thank you gift to Robin Jones

The Chairman requested to include this agenda item in his report.

27.05.22.4 Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

The chairman provided his report as per APPENDIX 1

27.05.22.5 West Mercia Police Report : Nick Elwell

Nick advised he had not been in the parish for long so had not prepared a report but was open to questions. Nick also confirmed that speeding and the cut through was the polices main priority.

Question from public - can you legally stop people using Ryall Road?

Nick Elwell confirmed that the police could not legally stop anybody using Ryall Road.

Cllr Armitt confirmed that the road was marked as access only.

Question from the public – why should we bother reporting to the police if you only get a crime number?

Nick Elwell advised it was important to report all crime to the police so they know what is going on. Crime in the parish of Ripple is very low.

Cllr Armitt asked would it be possible to put 20 -30 minute sessions for police attendance to review speeding rather than adhoc sessions?

Nick Elwell advised that would be fine but the council should be aware that not every location is suitable for speed enforcement.

Action the Council - provide a list of locations to the police where they would like the police to carry out speed enforcement.

27.05.22.6 Ripple Parish Council Financial Update : Chairman



The chairman provided a financial update as per **APPENDIX 2**

27.05.22.7 Report from MP Harriet Baldwin

The chairman read out the report provided by MP Harriet Baldwin as per **APPENDIX 3**

27.05.22.8 Report from Worcestershire County Council : Martin Allen, County Councillor

Councillor Allen introduced himself and confirmed it has been a busy year.

New High School – The new school near Worcester Royal Hospital near the Ketch Roundabout is expected to be completed this summer.

Traffic – Cllr Allen confirmed he has expressed grave concerns on traffic on the Ketch roundabout running north to south and south to north but unfortunately they have fallen on deaf ears.

Drains and Gullies – Cllr Allen confirmed there were 120,000 drains and gullies in Worcestershire which the County Council look after. The County Council have now started a study to see which ones need to be cleared out regularly and which can be left.

New roundabout on A38 – compared to the Ketch roundabout this roundabout has gone quite well and will be finished later this year. Cllr Allen confirmed there has been lots of battles to put spotters out when there are big festivals but there were 4 spotters on for the last festival.

The County Council have confirmed that Ripple and Upton can put the artwork on the roundabout but they would need to fund it. County Council will need to access the chosen design for safety before anything is installed.

Speeding – Cllr Allen expressed hope that the new cabinet member Cllr Rouse who is now the head of Highways would keep the promise made by the previous head of highways to review speeding on the A38 and A4104 once the new roundabout was completed.

S106 – Cllr Allen confirmed he had chased the £126000 in S106 money that was missing from highways dating back to 2015/2016. After chasing they finally admitted that they had not sent the invoice. The invoice had now been sent and the money received.

Some of this money will be used towards the crossing on the A4104 on Holly Green. The crossing will not be cheap as the road will need to be widened. Once the design is ready it will go out to public consultation. The contractor for the roundabout has refused for it to be tagged onto the end of the job so it has to go out to tender.

VAS- Cllr Allen has confirmed he is happy to put £1500 towards the VAS purchased by Ripple Parish Council.



Bus Service – Cllr Allen confirmed he had funded bus service which ran on a Monday in order to get the data. The data has been used to identify there was a need for a bus and there is now a community action bus running on a Wednesday. The community bus costs £70 a week to run and for those with a bus pass it is only a £4 return. Cllr Allen strongly encouraged people to use the bus so they don't lose it.

Cllr Allen also confirmed that the County Council didn't receive any of Boris Johnsons levelling up fund and he feels that there are about to be a lot of problems with busses and that there could be a drastic reduction in services.

Gravel extraction – Cllr Allen advised that he sits on the committee and that he had grave concerns over 2 of them. He confirmed he had attended the REACT meetings but has been careful not to break any rules of the committees.

White Gates – It was confirmed to the parish council that Worcester County Council don't fund the white gates anymore however Cllr Allen would look to help get the gates installed if the parish council decided to purchase them.

27.05.22.9 Report from Malvern Hills District Council : Jeremy Owenson, District Councillor

Cllr Owenson confirmed that there had been a change in leadership at the District Council and that the District Council has 3 priorities.

- 1. SWDP** – planning which shows where houses can be built locally. Malvern Hills District Council need to come up with a way to put a plan in place to show a 5 year land supply.
- 2. Malvern Hills college** – due to the massive catchment area a lot of the Malvern Hills District Councillors have agreed to acquire the college in order to keep it for education.
- 3. Malvern Hills Theatres** – There was a plan to build a big extension onto the Theatre but after covid everything has gone up the air. Malvern Hills District Council will support the extension going forward.

Cllr Owenson also confirmed that at the district council elections the number of councillors will drop from 38 councillors to 31 and that Ripple will either be a single member parish joining with Bushley or will be a 2 member ward joining with Upton Town.

27.05.22.10 Ripple Parish Church update: Roger Gillard

Mr Gillard firstly thanked the chairman for being allowed to speak. Mr Gillard advised that when he took over as church warden he was immediately struck about 3 things:

- 1) The magnificent building,
- 2) How large it was (largest of diocese of Worcester),
- 3) How old it is with original 12th century stone wear in place.



He then realised how much work needed to be done on the building externally and internally. Urgent repair work was necessary in 2018 costing in the region of £250k- £500k.

Work has already been completed on the guttering to ensure it is water tight but the other work is outstanding as the church does not have the funds. The church had appointed a professional fund raiser but unfortunately they are now looking for another as the lady appointed has been unable carry on. Mr Gillard confirmed that St. Marys belongs to the parish and does not belong to the Parochial Church Council and that the church is trying very hard to make sure that everyone feels welcome.

A list of a number of repairs and improvements has been put together and the most important for church are the major repairs on the roof including retiling, finishing and guttering. If and when they can carry out the repairs it will cost a lot of money.

Internally the church would like to remove a whole row back pews to provide opportunity and space within the church for activities such as coffee mornings to get more people in.

An improvement to ventilation is also required in the church. As the church had to be closed for several months the poor ventilation has led to a deterioration in the stoning.

Mr Gillard advised that whatever was done in the church depended on what funding can be raised. In order to help raise funds locally a list of activities had been devised which the church hopes will appeal to residents spread across the parish of Ripple. The church is keen to take its place in the village. A list of events were provided to the public throughout the year and have included a pet service, harvest supper and bank holiday tea and cakes. To conclude Mr Gillard advised that all residents should receive a letter and a leaflet explaining what is going on in the church and if anybody felt they could help with any of the activities help would be much appreciated.

27.05.22.11 Ripple WI update: Sue White

Sue White confirmed she was president of Earls Croombe and Ripple WI. The Women's Institute is a national charity which has been going 100 years this year.

It was confirmed that the WI has gained a lot of members post pandemic as during lockdowns people found it very lonely as they were normally out at work.

The WI meet in the parish on a Tuesday once a month for tea and cake and to make friends.

27.05.22.12 Report on Ripple Parish Footpaths



The Chairman read out a report from the Footpaths Officer as per **APPENDIX 4**

27.05.22.13 Invitation to electors to raise any matters of interest

Question 1 from the public: - Why has there not been any update on the wild flower area on the recreational ground?

Council confirmed things were moving at a slow pace and that they had now received the application form to apply for additional funding from Malvern Hills District Council. The council advised they were happy for the resident to chase up Worcester County Council for further information.

Question 2 from the public sent in by email read out by the clerk:

1. Once the A4104/A38 'roundabout' is completed I hope there will be zero tolerance of people using Ryall Road as a rat run between these two roads. The number of those using Ryall Road as such a rat run has significantly increased during these roundabout works, but it is hoped by all that such activity will cease once the roundabout is fully operational. In order to ensure such an outcome happens can I ask that a camera is fitted along Ryall Road, similar to one that I understand operates in Wyre Piddle, so that each vehicle that passes straight through the village (is breaking the law) is photographed and that a traffic violation notice is automatically sent to the address of the registered keeper of these vehicles.

Council confirmed that it would not be possible to fit a camera like the one that operates in Wyre Piddle. The council also confirmed a permanent Vehicle Activated Speed sign will be erected on Ryall Road.

2. I believe the proposed site of the pedestrian crossing over the A4104, for those wishing to walk from Holly green into Upton upon Severn, should be announced ASAP. And that the speed limit for vehicles approaching this pedestrian crossing is set at the correct level. Personally I cannot see how such a limit can be more than 20MPH!

As confirmed in Cllr Allens report the pedestrian crossing will go out to public consultation once finalised. Speed limits are currently under review however are unlikely to be 20mph.

27.05.22.14 Any Other Business

No Other Business raised.

Meeting Closed: 20:20



APPENDIX 1

Ripple Parish Council (RPC)

Chairman's Report May 2021 to May 2022

I had the privilege of being elected Chair of Ripple Parish Council in May last year, so this is my first report as Chair. It has been a very interesting first year in the role and one I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Parish Council Personnel

Mark Peters (Uckinghal),

Marian Baum (The Beeches)

Maggi Davis (Naunton)

Tim Armitt (Holly Green)

Keith Weyman (Ryal)

Roger Sutton (The Beeches)

Dawn Long (Holly Green)

Michelle Hinde is the Parish Clerk and like me she has just completed her first year in office.

There have been some personnel changes.

Cllrs Claire Cozens and Robin Jones resigned and left the council in December. Robin had previously served 13 years as councillor and as vice-chair. I would like to thank both Clare and Robin for their work on the council.

Robin has been a tremendous servant to the council and the wider parish. He has worked tirelessly to ensure the very best for all its residents and his knowledge of the parish and everything that goes on in it (and indeed has gone on) has been a fantastic resource for the council. And on a personal note, he has helped me transition into the Chair role. He will be sadly missed. [Presentation]

Dawn Long was co-opted onto the council on 17th January.

Following Robins departure, Marian Baum was elected vice-chair at the meeting on 17th January.

I can confirm that both Marian and I have been re-elected for a second term.

I would like to personally thank all the councillors for their continued hard work and the support they give to the parish.



We do have two vacancies for Councillors currently - Please consider joining us, you will contribute to your community and learn a lot. Please contact Michelle Hinde, details above.

In addition to the Parish Council, we also work very closely with **Jeremy Owenson**, Councillor for Ripple Ward on Malvern Hills District Council and **Martin Allen** the Worcestershire County Councillor for our area. I think we work well together to delivering on the needs of the parish.

RPC Finances

The accounts were approved at the Council AGM on Monday 23rd May 2022 and is available on the table here. The precept for this coming year is £23,656 compared to £23,015 (7.5%) for last year

Communications

All RPC meetings are open and begin with a Public Question Time. If you have anything you want to raise with us you can do so.

All residents have receive newsletter updates delivered through their letterboxes in May

The official website is updated regularly and the Facebook Page @RPC2017 continues to attract regular followers, and by sharing to and from other local Facebook groups certain posts are seen by in excess of a thousand local people. This is still the most effective way to find and share up to the minute news with residents.

As an alternative to social media the RPC noticeboards are still a reliable source of information and we do try to ensure all official notices are displayed in as large a font as the space available allows.

The communications brief, including day to day administration of RPC's social media presence, has recently been taken on by Councillor Dawn Long.

Roundabout A38/A4104 and other Planning Issues.

After a slightly delayed start, work is progressing well on the new roundabout and seems to be on schedule. Unfortunately, as many will be aware it has at times been necessary to put traffic lights on both the A38 and the A4104, which has caused delays and during the Spring Garden Show at Malvern, severely disrupted traffic. It was impossible to remove the lights due to the ongoing work, but after intervention by Martin Allen, more "spotters" were employed on site to monitor congestion and improve the flow of vehicles. It seems inevitable that due to the nature of the work there may be further periods of disruption, especially when there are festivals in Upton.

In other planning matters, Cemex have just made an application to Worcestershire County Council to extract sand and gravel on a site in Bow Lane, Ripple. This application is very close to residential properties and, if approved, will have a major impact on the Village of Ripple. RPC have objected to the plans and recommended rejection. Details can be viewed at Worcestershire County Council Planning using reference 22/000015/CM.

Speeding



Speeding seems to be a general problem everywhere, not just in our parish. To try and reduce the problem RPC will be purchasing a new Vehicle Activated sign, so that we can have one in more locations in the parish. RPC made an application Community Fund and we have been awarded £1550 towards the cost. Martin Allen has also indicated that he will also contribute towards the cost of purchasing the sign.



Litter & Dog Fouling

We continue to monitor littering (particularly discarded face masks and plastic gloves) within the Parish and we are aware of a number of fly tipping incidents. The recent litter pick in April collected 14 bags of rubbish on the morning of 2nd April.

Dog fouling also continues to be a concern, especially the number of discarded used poop bags littering the parish.

Fly tipping incidents should be reported to malvern hills.gov.uk, who are usually very quick to respond.



APPENDIX 2

**Ripple Parish Council
Financial Statement
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022
Opening Balance B/F**

	2022	2021	2020	2019
Opening Funds	23794.21	14,446.66	13,760.42	16,217.64
INCOME				
Precept	22015	20,966.20	19,060.18	17,327.44
Deposit Interest	1.49	2.77	5.76	5.73
Lengthman Scheme	2079.45	-	-	-
Grants	1500	-	500.00	415.00
Donations	1825	-	189.61	228.63
Grass Cutting	1543	3,345.00	1,299.00	2,400.00
Other Income (Vat Recovered)	355.87	2,540.93	-	-
Total Income	53114.02	26,854.90	21,054.55	20,376.80
EXPENDITURE				
Subscriptions	1014.82	1,013.98	1,044.85	881.76
Newsletter	200	245.00	1,918.60	1,479.00
Donations	258.5	-	70.00	108.50
Insurance	567.27	583.86	583.86	574.67
Gross Cutting/Trees	6100.59	5,569.20	7,740.00	7,362.00
Lengthman	4130	2,400.00	900.00	2,223.00
Chairmans Allowance	-	-	-	-
Prof Fees/ Audit	480	576.00	636.00	1,499.20
Clerks Expenses	1722.09	-	-	468.85
Clerks Wages	8148.62	6,472.08	6,458.41	6,091.08
Annual Public Meeting	-	-	862.00	1,109.00
Fixed Assets	4802.78	-	-	-
Hall Hire	96	234.00	24.00	536.00
Repairs	1640	298.36	233.64	138.69
Vehicle Activated Sign	-	-	-	192.00
Website	504.57	124.88	96.00	170.27
Other Expenses	70	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	29725.24	17,507.36	20,567.36	22,834.02
Closing Balance C/F	23388.78	23,794.20	14,446.66	13,760.42
Represented by				
Current Account	8,331.18	8,738.10	4,393.33	3,712.85
Deposit Account	15,057.60	15,056.10	10,053.33	10,047.57
Total Funds	23,388.78	23,794.20	14,446.66	13,760.42

Explanation

* Donations - Wreath and Bus

* Clerks Expenses - Includes Finance Software and Payroll.

* Fixed Assets - Includes new Ripple Noticeboard which is awaiting delivery. The other item is Noughton Defb which is in place

* Other Expenses - Advertising in The Bridge



APPENDIX 3

The main focus of the last year has been moving on from the pandemic. I would like to put on record my enduring thanks to the doctors and nurses for their tireless work helping us and our loved ones, the local authorities and volunteer network which mobilises to offer help and support to our neighbours and every one who made huge sacrifices to ensure we made it through Covid-19. My thoughts are with those who lost friends or loved ones in this terrible chapter of our history. The vaccination development and the NHS rollout have been outstanding.

The Economy

The economy has bounced back strongly after the pandemic, although the public finances still bear the scars. We've seen a number of measures to help local businesses and local employers to get back on their feet. Furlough has ended after protecting 11.7 million jobs at a cost of £70 billion. The good news is that unemployment is low and there are record vacancies. We've seen special support for farmers – the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme was expanded to help growers get the staff they need to pick their crops this year. Cider producers got a much-needed review on specific taxes on ciders and brewers benefited from a five per cent reduction in beer duty. Drivers have seen measures to help protect them from the rising cost of petrol with the five pence reduction in duty and small businesses continue to benefit from frozen business rates. I think the Government moved fast to creating innovative schemes to protect our jobs and livelihoods and continues to act when support is needed. Lower paid families have just seen the National Living Wage increase by 6.6 per cent to £9.50 an hour and changes to the taper rate of Working Tax Credits mean that families get to keep more of their wages. As energy bills have risen in line with the price cap, people who live in homes in Council Tax bands A to D should get £150 cash payments soon to help with energy bills while all of us will smooth £200 extra payments over five years.

Infrastructure

I've always campaigned for improved flood defences and I was pleased to see progress being made on the two further schemes, in Tenbury Wells and Severn Stoke and I hope both will get underway this year. The newly-opened Worcestershire Parkway station is getting rising passenger numbers and I continue to speak up for improvements to train services to and from Birmingham and London and the south east. The doubling of the Carrington Road bridge is nearing completion and we've seen much needed road improvement projects at the Pershore Link Road and the A38 Bluebell Farm roundabout both nearing completion.



And, of course, with all the Zoom meetings we have done in the last two years, I continue to press at a national level for vast improvements in the local broadband and mobile phone networks and I'm working closely with Worcestershire County Council and local communities to connect the final ten per cent of West Worcestershire homes.

Education and Climate Change

This year saw the United Kingdom host COP 26 with a summit in Glasgow and in preparation, I visited primary schools all over the constituency to hear their views on what we can do to improve our natural environment. I shared lots of great feedback to President Alok Sharma – the children who are at primary school today will be helping to deliver our net zero ambition in their 30s. I've also heard from pupils about their fears about busy roads and I have pressed for safe road crossings in Lower Broadheath and significant improvement to the very dangerous A46 through villages between Evesham and Ashchurch. I was saddened by the decision by Warwickshire College Group to close Malvern Hills College and I have met with a range of Ministers and stakeholders to try and find a solution which sees the return of teaching to this historic site. And I'm also keen to find a way to enhance rural transport to help young people to access study and employment more easily.

Health

Health and the NHS are everyone's top priority so the Social Care Levy came into force helping to improve investment in our local health and social care provision. The Primary Care Network is rightly focused on catching up on operations after the pandemic and I encourage people to make sure they go to see a GP if they are worried about any symptom. I am also pleased that we are due to see a new £15 million Emergency Department opened up at the main Worcestershire Royal Hospital later this year which will help to take pressure off both the health service and the ambulance service. I've also recently met with the local health chiefs to ensure that they understand the challenges of people living in the south and west of Worcestershire accessing health services and I am very keen we make much more use of our valued community hospitals.

Next Year

I'm sure that the biggest concern as we go through the year will be how we cope with rising prices and rising energy costs. There are specific funds that can help people who need it most and I urge anyone who needs assistance to speak to the local Citizens Advice Bureau who have access to emergency funds. You can find other help and advice on my website www.harriettbaldwin.com.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has worked as a parish councillor or with their local community. Covid-19 has shown us how important local communities are and I welcome the feedback of any councillor as we work together for a better future for our local residents.



APPENDIX 4

Ripple Parish Footpaths May 2022.

Unfortunately, due to a family 90th Birthday celebration, I am unable to attend this year's Parish AGM.

However, here is a brief overview of the last few months.

Following some communication from Mark, last Autumn I carried out a survey of most of the stiles and gates in and around Ripple and Uckinghall.

Those that appeared overgrown, or in need of easy attention were dealt with immediately. A number of the others required materials or more constructive repair, including replacing a small bridge between Uckinghall and Ferry Lane.

These were all referred to the countryside department in Worcester to be included in their work party programme. I also included some further suggestions that I felt would help to improve access to a number of paths.

Some of this work was carried out fairly promptly, however, some work required access permission from landowners or clarification of the actual landowners. I have spoken to Worcester about these on a few occasions and will continue to speak to them as necessary.

Unsurprisingly, Spring has brought forth a surge in undergrowth on many paths and hedgerows. Over the last few weeks I have been out with my slasher and secateurs cutting back on a number of these paths. However, I am aware there are more that need attention and will endeavour to get around to those over the next few weeks.

On that note I am extremely grateful to those landowners who have taken the time to maintain those paths that cross their land, regularly cutting the grass, or spraying out the line of the path across their arable fields.

I have recently been made aware of an issue with a gate and some electric fencing on the bridle path heading North from the A4104. I will investigate this next week and if necessary will report the situation to Worcester.

We are very lucky in this parish to have some 13 miles of footpaths, which are there for the benefit of as many people as possible. Can I ask everyone who uses them to remember to close all gates, if you're a dog owner, carry poo bags, pick up any mess left by your dog, carry it home or dispose of it in an appropriate bin.



Finally, if whilst you're out walking on the footpaths you see something that may be of concern, please let me know via my email address. I will investigate as soon as I can, if it is easy to put right, I will do so, if not, I will refer it on and advise you or the Parish Council accordingly.