

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Ripple Parish Council
held on Monday, 1st March 2021 at 7.00pm
in order to consider the following business:**

MINUTES

Participants: Cllrs Aldridge, Armitt, Cozens, Davis, Jones, Peters.

County Cllr Middlebrough

1. **Apologies** - To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence Cllr Baum & RPC Clerk.
Cllr Baum submitted written responses to the agenda, raising a number of points and questions which were considered during the meeting. The clerk was unable to access the Teams meeting due to technical issues.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - b. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.
None
3. **Minutes** - To consider the approval of the minutes of the Virtual Meeting
Time had to be given to read the minutes during the meeting as some councillors had not received them ahead of time. Members noted from the District Councillors Report he has discussed various issues with Pennywell residents. It was agreed that under item 14 the actual precept amount requested for 2021/2022 (£22,015.00) be entered along with the figure for the current year of £20,966.20 for comparison purposes. Minutes approved by those present with above adjustments.
Proposed: Cllr Peters Seconded: Cllr Armitt
4. **To receive report from District Councillor**
No report received. It was requested that the clerk should seek updates from Cllr Owenson regarding outstanding MHDC enforcement issues relating to the alpaca farm in Naunton and the Bow Lane traveller site.
5. **To receive report from County Councillor**
Cllr Middlebrough confirmed that local elections would go ahead, as scheduled, on the 6th May. He also mentioned that during the current lockdown there had been a significant increase, across the county, in the uptake of free school meals but Worcestershire had managed to accommodate this.
6. **Progress reports from:**

Clerk: General administration of correspondence emails and post. Uploading of documents to WCC website. Thanks to Cllrs Aldridge and Jones for their assistance during period of limited broadband. Monitoring and conveying various agencies COVID information. Follow up on on-going matters and exploring potential flood fund opportunities. Submission of Precept request to MHDC. (Acknowledged) Communication with WCC Highways regarding on-going issues of Ryall Road verge infringement, various fly tipping incidents. Further letter sent to WCC regarding the Section 106 payments outstanding from Taylor Wimpey. Submission to MHDC of documentation for co-option of new councillors. Liaison with contractors regarding repairs/replacement of the fencing at the Recreation Ground. Discussions with ISP regarding updating additional web storage and additional email – current facility only permits 10 email addresses and currently RPC has issued 9. A requirement for additional storage space for contents of clerks mailbox also required. Quote awaited. Research into legality of donations policy for church buildings. On-going discussions on Uckinghall road flooding and drainage issues. Discussion with MHDC regarding the delivery of sandbags to Ripple Parish Hall rather

than The Cross and outside Thoulds Barn in Uckinghall. Distribution of newsletters. Preparation of meeting arrangements for this meeting and liaison with the Parish Hall Committee. Communication with WCC regarding Footpaths Officer and discussion with Brian Goddard.

Management: Setting of the agenda for this meeting. Review of minutes of last meeting. Discussions regarding Flood Grant and Donation Policy. Discussion on requirements for repairs to Recreation Ground fencing.

Finance: Updating budget to reflect amendments approved at last meeting. Ledger updated, VAT Refund received from HMRC.

Bank Balances: Current Account: £10,753.02

Deposit Account: £15,055.86

Urgent Decisions: None.

Staff and Training: Nothing to report.

Planning:

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Status
<u>21/00153/CLPU</u>	Brookfields Strensham Road Ryall Grove Upton Upon Severn Worcester WR8 OPS	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed loft conversion and installation of roof windows.	Pending Decision
<u>21/00159/TPOA</u>	Cobwalls Uckinghall Tewkesbury GL20 6ES	Undertake tree works to T1, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information	Pending Decision
<u>21/00274/CAN</u>	Cobwalls Uckinghall Tewkesbury GL20 6ES	Undertake tree works to T2 and T3, as detailed on application form and in any accompanying information	Pending Decision
<u>21/00163/FUL</u>	Holly Bank Ryall Road Holly Green Upton Upon Severn Worcester WR8 OPG	Proposed new dwelling and garaging. Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 18/01550/FUL.	Pending Decision
<u>20/02056/OUT</u>	Upton Marina East Waterside Upton Upon Severn Worcester WR8 OPB	Outline planning application for the erection of up to 70 residential units with all matters reserved except for means of access as approved under permission 17/00372/OUT - variation of condition 2 and 4, removal of condition 11.	Pending Decision
<u>20/01342/S106</u>	Land At (Os 8594 4112) Holly Green Upton Upon Severn	Application under section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to modify the requirements relating to the legal agreement dated 5th July 2016 associated with planning permission ref. 15/00617/OUT.	Pending Decision
<u>19/01297/FUL</u>	Land At (Os 8726 3749) Bow Lane Ripple	Change of use of land to use as residential caravan site for one Gypsy family with 2 caravans, including no more than one mobile home, laying of hard standing and erection of ancillary amenity building.	Pending Decision

Planning Group (schedule circulated

20/02056/OUT -Upton Marina East Waterside.

Councillor Jones reprised for Members the application for a modified access to the outline planning approval for 70 houses on the Marina development.

The issues considered by the Council and from residents covered flooding , pedestrian and cycle safety, road safety to include the suggestion of a central waiting lane and provision pedestrian crossing point on the A4104 and/or the provision of a southern pedestrian A4104 footpath. The recommendation to both of the RPC submissions was for refusal.

21/00163/FUL Holly Bank Ryall Road

Members apprised the application.

Recommend Approval

7. **Bow Lane Gravel Extraction Update**

Nothing to report.

8. **A38/A4104 Roundabout Update**

Cllr Middlebrough reminded councillors that there is an online Liaison Group meeting scheduled for Monday 8th March at 4.00pm and an RPC representative is invited to participate. With regard to traffic calming along the Ryall Rd during construction, Cllr M thanked RPC for raising public awareness and reported that 30 plus residents had contacted him with suggestions. In the first instance, No Access for Works Vehicles signage will be erected at each end of Ryall Rd.

Consideration is also being given to road narrowing options.

9. **Parish Enhancements & Flood Grant**

1. Cllr Middlebrough acknowledged receipt of RPC's draft submission of minor projects which might be funded from available £1,500 flood grant. He has put this into the system. Cllrs Aldridge, Jones & Peters to make contact with UFAG who have agreed to facilitate a meeting with local residents where other ideas might be considered.
2. Ripple/Uckinghall/ Naunton Community Broadband Scheme. 110 premises (34 in Naunton) have registered an interest. The organisers are currently awaiting quotes for costs. The existing voucher scheme has been cut short but another should be coming online in April. By this time, they are optimistic that they will be in a position to get on board with one of the available schemes.
3. Grass cutting of the 'Threshing Barn' slope appears to have been carried out by Worcs CC at the same time has hedge and tree maintenance along that end of the Ryall Rd. Clerk to clarify that Worcs CC have taken responsibility for grass cutting on this corner.
4. Cllr Baum has requested that the pinboard section of the community noticeboard at the end of The Beeches be refreshed. The legs having recently been replaced, it was agreed that the clerk should get quotes from local carpenters and proceed with the replacement. Clerk to action.
5. Cllr Baum has drawn attention to the colourful display of daffodils along the grass verges of Kempsey – which also serve as a parking deterrent – and whether something similar may be appropriate along Ryall Rd. Cllr Middlebrough reported that the Kempsey daffodil scheme had not been cheap and there had been initial problems, now resolved, co-ordinating with grass cutting so that they were not cut down in their prime. Cllr Davis commented that if a scheme of this type were to be considered it should be extended across the parish so that all areas would benefit. Decision pending

10. **Parish Trees Policy Review**

- a. Cllr Peters reported that having read the policy and considered it from an insurance point there was nothing in his view in the proposed Tree Policy that needed to be amended.
- b. Cllr Baum raised awareness of the concerns of elderly residents on The Woodlands (Ryall) regarding the maintenance of a tree on the adjacent roundabout which is affecting their properties. This is not considered to be a tree for which RPC is responsible but it was agreed that Cllr Baum should canvas the opinions of Woodlands residents about what action they might like to see taken. Cllr Baum to action

12. **Application for Financial Assistance from St Mary's Church**

Cllr Jones reported in some detail regarding his research into whether RPC is able to provide financial assistance to St Mary's Church for either the upkeep of the churchyard or the building. Advice had been sought from CALC and NALC regarding the apparently contradictory legislation provided by the 1894 and 1972 Local Government Acts. The Church Care document with regard to local authority investment in church property has also been consulted, particularly with regard to the 2011 Localism Act. Having given all of this due consideration RPC considers that until national government undertakes to disentangle the ambiguities which currently exist RPC will not be able to provide St Mary's with any type of grant from parish council funds. Cllr Jones will provide St Mary's Church with written feedback on how RPC came to its conclusion. It was further agreed that should St Mary's Parochial Church Council choose to call upon national government to provide clarification of the existing situation RPC would be pleased to back them up in this. Cllr Aldridge to speak to St Mary's Churchwarden and Cllr Jones to prepare a full written response to their grant application.

13. **Winter Newsletter Review**

Councillors were thanked for delivering in a timely fashion. Any comments received from residents were positive.

14. **Recreation Ground Renovations & Fencing Repairs**

It was agreed that the perimeter fence to the Ryall recreation area was in need of replacement with a sturdier barrier, to afford better protection and provide a greater deterrent to those attempting to gain access to the adjacent steep slope. The clerk was requested to gain quotes and action the work as a matter of urgency. Clerk to action.

15. **AOB:** Councillor comments and items for next agenda

Cllr Aldridge announced that he has submitted a letter of resignation to the clerk and that he will stand down as both chairman and councillor with effect from the RPC AGM on 24th May 2021.

Date of Next Meeting – 12th April 2021

Public Questions:

- (Ripple Parish Hall) has raised the issue of two replacement memorial trees, which RPC had agreed to plant nearly two years ago, and why it was taking so long for this to be actioned.

The chairman has emailed an apology for the unacceptable delay.

Clerk to action as a matter of urgency.

- (Ryall resident) has asked that RPC increase the size of pages, and the text size, on official Parish Council notices, that are posted on the noticeboards, in order to make the information more easily accessible and inclusive.

It was agreed that this is a valid request and that henceforth all official RPC notices, whilst remaining on A4 paper, should be in a minimum size 11 font. If more display space is required within the secure glazed sections of the board, up-coming meeting agendas and current minutes should take precedence over older notices which should be removed or transferred to the community section of the board.

Chairman to notify.

- (Naunton Resident) raised the issue of ‘the shocking amount of rubbish’ in the two A38 lay-bys close Naunton, and urging the council to do its best to implement a permanent solution to an on-going problem.

Everyone was in agreement that littering, particularly along A-roads including lay-bys, is a persistent problem and one that has arguably worsened during lockdown. Considerable discussion ensued.

County Cllr Middlebrough confirmed that Worcestershire Highways has no remit for dealing with litter.

The responsibility lies with Malvern Hills District Council.

Ripple Parish Council may assist by purchasing additional litter bins (to be serviced by MHDC) and by organising voluntary litter picks within the parish.

MHDC run an ‘Adopt A Street’ scheme (equipment provided) which volunteers can sign up to. Cllr Davis is a volunteer in Naunton village and she does litter pick the A38 lay-by near the Naunton turn off.

It was pointed out that RPC had previously been advised that for health and safety reasons volunteers should not litter pick along A- roads and that she should take care in doing so.

Unfortunately, District Councillor Owenson was not present and so the meeting was unable to establish whether there is a regular scheduled collection from the lay-by bins or not. It was agreed that Cllr Owenson should be asked to follow this up. It was noted that following previous one-off requests, MHDC had been responsive in coming out to clear the lay-bys of litter.

It was agreed that the existing litter bins in the A38 south-bound lay-bys, near to The Bluebell and the Naunton turn off, be replaced by bins with a larger capacity. A bin of similar size should be installed in the north-bound lay-by. A standard size bin previously discussed, and to be funded by Cllr Owenson, should also be installed next to the bench on the A4104 (opposite Upton Marina).

It was noted that the clerk had acquired quotes for bins, previously discussed, to be sited around the parish close to popular walking routes. It was agreed that all of the above should be purchased and installed as a matter of urgency once the siting of the bins had been approved by MHDC as safe and in a location that could be accommodated by the emptying schedule. Clerk to action. Chairman to notify the resident of agreed action.

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