



## **RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held 6 December 2021 at Ripple Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. M. Peters (Chairman), R. Jones, M. Davis, M. Baum, T. Armit and R Sutton (ARRIVED AT 19:26), D. Cllr J Owenson, B. Cllr Allen

**Attendees:** Clerk/RFO M Hinde, and 5 members of the public

**06.12.21.1 The Chairman will formally ask if anyone is intending on recording or filming the meeting.**

There were no requests to record or film the meeting

**06.12.21.2 To receive comments from the public - no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)**

**Resident 1** – Asked if the bus could stop at the layby outside of Naunton. The council explained the bus would be discussed later in the meeting.

**Resident 2** – Raised concerns of overgrown vegetation within the village. They advised that they had already reported three areas to Worcester County Council but only received a standard reply. The resident requested if this should be down to the Lengthsman to resolve.

The council advised the Lengthsman is not allowed to cut vegetation on peoples personal property. The Overriding principle is it is the owner of the lands responsibility to maintain their land. They also advised that any vegetation obstructing the roads should be reported to Highways.

**06.12.21.3 To note apologies for absence**

None received

**06.12.21.4 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011) and to confirm the meeting quorate**

Cllr Peters declared an interest in agenda Item 13a as that was his property.

**06.12.21.5 To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 October 2021**



Council **APPROVED** minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2021

**Proposed** Cllr Cozens

**Seconded** Cllr Davis

**06.12.21.6 To receive Clerks report and agree actions**

The clerk's report was given as per Appendix 1

The Council **APPROVED** to use Handyman Jim'll Fix It if recommendations could be found. The Clerk advised only one handyman was willing to quote.

The Council **APPROVED** moving the start of the meeting to 19:15.

**06.12.21.7 To receive County Councillors report and agree actions**

The County Councillors report was given as per Appendix 2

Council passed on their thanks to Cllr. Allen for all his hard work on the bus.

**06.12.21.8 To receive District Councillors Report and agree actions**

The District Councillor advised:

The council passed a motion to respect the covenant on Malvern Hills College. The motion suggested ramping up pressure on Warwickshire College Group to continue to run as an art college. This would mean no decision can be taken on the convenance without coming back to full council.

Enforcement have reviewed the tail of the soil in Uckinghall and have advised it was planning matter. They have requested that residents are informed that the soil will need to be removed again if the planning application is unsuccessful.

Council asked what was happening to the Housing Needs Survey? Cllr Owenson advised it was due to come out after Christmas.

**06.12.21.9 Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**

**06.12.21.9a To approve Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report Up to 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Council **APPROVED** Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report as per Appendix 3

**Proposed** Cllr Jones

**Seconded** Cllr Cozens

**06.12.21.9b To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since last meeting.**

Council **APPROVED** Payments List totalling £2875.50 as per Appendix 4

**Proposed** Cllr Baum      **Seconded** Cllr Weyman

**06.12.21.10 To consider and resolve to agree 2022/23 budget/precept**

Council agreed precept of £23656 which was an increase of 7.5%

**Proposed** Cllr Baum      **Seconded** Cllr Cozens

**06.12.21.11 To consider adopting a publication scheme and agree actions**

Council **APPROVED** the adoption of the publication scheme

**Proposed** Cllr Baum      **Seconded** Cllr Jones

**06.12.21.12 To discuss the bus service and agree actions**

This was covered by C. Cllr Allen earlier in the meeting and the council had nothing further to add.

**06.12.21.13 To discuss the following planning applications/appeals made since the last meeting and agree actions:**

**06.12.21.13a 21/01976/HP, Thoulds Barn, Uckinghall**

The council responded to this under delegated powers and had no objection

**06.12.21.13b 21/00563/HP, Yew Tree House, Ryall Road, Holly Green, Upton Upon Severn**

This application has been approved by Malvern Hills District Council

**06.12.21.13c 21/01589/LB, Elm Tree Cottage, Uckinghall, Tewkesbury**

This application was for an upstairs shower room and was approved Malvern Hills District Council

**06.12.21.13d 21/01830/LB Manor Barn, Naunton, Upton Upon Severn**

This application was to add on an extra room. As the council could not see any of the building from the road they had no objection.

**06.12.21.13e 21/01829/HP Manor Barn, Naunton, Upton Upon Severn**

The council had no objection to this application

- 06.12.21.14 To delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Councillors by electronic means or telephone, to make decisions on behalf of the Council, where such decisions cannot reasonably be deferred in the event of Covid restrictions on Council Public Meetings. The Clerk will further consult with the Chairman for guidance as necessary**

Council **AGREED** to delegate authority to the Clerk in the event of Covid restrictions on public meetings.

**Proposed by** Cllr Cozens

**Seconded** Cllr Baum

- 06.12.21.15 To discuss the purchase of a new speed sign in the parish and agree actions**

The Council **AGREED** to purchase a new speed sign and to apply for the Commissioners Community Fund.

- 06.21.21.16 To review an update on the notice board to be replaced in Ripple**

The council agreed to defer this item to the next council meeting as further information was required.

- 06.12.21.17 To discuss footpaths and agree actions**

The Chairman advised he was liaising with Worcester County Council and the footpath officer and things are starting to move.

- 06.12.21.18 To discuss the application for the National Lottery grant to purchase waste bins and agree actions**

The council agreed that Cllr Weyman should proceed with the application for the National Lottery Grant.

- 06.12.21.19 To receive agenda items for the next meeting of the council**

Ripple Noticeboard

Members of the public, the County Councillor and the District Councillor left the meeting 20:50

- 06.12.21.20 To carry out Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer probationary review and agree actions, in a confidential session**



The council confirmed that the Clerk has passed her probationary period and the position was confirmed. Due to passing the CILCA qualification the Clerks salary will be increased from level 18 to 19

**06.12.21.21 Date of Next Meeting : Parish Council Meeting 17th January 2022**

**Meeting Close: 21:09**

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**APPENDIX 1**

**Clerks Report 06.12.2021**

- CILCA** This has now been completed and passed
- Footpaths** Broken sign on Ryall Lane footpath has been reported to Worcester County Council – Reference 1166411 and also raised with footpath officer.  
Footpath Officer has also been asked to replace the circular footpath markers and to Have a look at the badly weathered sign at the opposite end of Ryall Lane Footpath.
- Lengthsman** Invoices submitted for 2021 to the lengthsman scheme and still awaiting payment.  
Total cost submitted = £1930. I have chased this up.
- VAS** Requested 3 quotes for VAS signs and chased up but still awaiting their return.
- Memorial Tree** A request has been sent in to pre order a pink perfection 5 foot tree. Currently awaiting a pro forma invoice to pay via bank transfer.
- Handyman** Requested 3 quotes only 1 has been returned and one person has advised they do not want the work. Quote attached.
- Defib Pads** Defib pads ordered for the Bluebell have been returned and awaiting the correct ones to come back into stock. The wrong model number was stated on the manual.



APPENDIX 2

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN**

**REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER 2021**

FERRY LANE

Having spoken to officers at WCC they have stated that this lane is privately owned.

A38 ROUNDABOUT

There is a CLG meeting later this week, can I suggest if you have not already done so that you get your questions in to Nick Churchill before that so he has time to get a full answer to you. I had a Teams meeting with him today, so far there have been no questions.

I have chased up the lack of signage at the Blue Bell end of Ryall Road and I have been promised it won't happen again!

MONUMENT/ART WORK ON THE NEW ROUNDABOUT

I have formally asked Cllr Alan Amos if he would consider a Monument or Work of Art be installed upon the new roundabout. I am still waiting for an answer.

TREE NEAR THE BRIDGE/BRAMBLES & DIRTY SIGNS

I have again chased Hannah for an update as to the tree near the bridge.



As for the brambles and dirty signs, Highways feel that you have a Lengthsman and

and he should be used for this purpose. Highways cannot identify the owner can the parish council help to identify the individual. It was agreed that I would go back to Highways to get a clear understanding that the Lengthsman can in fact cut back brambles and I would seek assurances as to who indemnifies the Lengthsman and who will cover the cost of the time taken to do the job.

#### DRAINS

I have reported the Head Wall that is covered over by April House, Station Road, Ripple.

Ref Number 1136976.

I have had a reply that this is not WCC land and the Head Wall is not the responsibility of WCC. I have asked if we can find out who is responsibly for it.

I have spoken to Mr Tyre who says that the WCC workers have in fact cleared the brambles and looked into the chamber and it is running clear. So I propose to now

leave this along.

A4104 TREES 19 RIPPLE, 11 UPTON Ripple agreed to Hedges.

I have been told that the work has been programmed in for the first two weeks on Jan 2022 and that the dead trees will be removed and the live ones left. I have put this in my calendar to check in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Jan.



## BUSES

Following my email to the Bridge Magazine I can see that in the November issue they have corrected their error with the timetable.

The uptake has been poor and the income from each journey is less than will cover the fuel. One of the better days was on 15<sup>th</sup> of November, there were 23 passengers, that includes passengers from Worcester. This generated a revenue of £12.00 outbound to Tewkesbury and £6.60 on the return. I do not know how long First Bus will keep the route running but I expect the routine will end soon. More importantly out of the 23 passengers, there were 9 from Ryall and 3 from Ryall Turn (This includes Uckinghall and Ripple).

I have emailed you about Community Transport and I welcome your thoughts.

On Thursday I am meeting Madeleine Sumner of WCC and Kate Walton who runs the community transport scheme called Community Action. I have the proof that there is a need, without the First Bus trial I would have not been able to prove the need.

It appears that I have provisionally secured funding for the 3 month trial, I should be able to confirm this when we next meet. Clearly nothing is certain until I get the formal acknowledgement.



My intention is to provide a minibus service once a week on either a Wednesday or a Saturday from:

A38 Earls Croome, Earls Croome Village Hall, Baughton, Ryall, Uckinghall, Ripple, Cottages on the A38, Naunton, Ripple Turn (Café) to Tewkesbury.

Each journey would need to be prebooked at least 24-hours in advance. I hope that the pass holders will be charged £4.00 return, others £6.00 return. I am pushing for a two hour stay in Tewkesbury.

Once I have had the meeting I will know more and I will let you know the outcome.

#### BUS TIMETABLES

In the November full County Council meeting I asked Cllr Alan Amos the Conservative Portfolio Holder for Transport about whose responsibility it is to update and change the timetables at bus stops. He was crystal clear in his response it is the responsibility of the Bus Companies and the Bus Companies alone. I have since spoken to the Operations Manager of First Worcester, who said they may do something in Jan 22.



## WORCESTERSHIRE BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The department for Transport (DFT) has recently published the National Bus Strategy (NBS) outlining its ambition to improve bus services in England. WCC, as the Local Transport Authority, has decided that it wishes to enter and Enhanced Partnership with Local Operators by the end of March 2022. This decision will have implications for the local bus network in Worcestershire, the majority of which is currently operated on a commercial basis. I will be pushing for our area to not be forgotten.

WCC must create a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) first so that 86 millions pounds worth of funding can be applied for. If WCC don't do this there will not be any money.

I will update you as more information becomes available.

## CONCERN OVER SPEEDING

Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> Nov we had a meeting with the APCC Tracy Onslow, the PCC again cancelled. Only I and two other County Councillors attended. I was the only one who had submitted any questions and most of the time was taken up discussing the Ryall Road.

The Police have a problem enforcing the Restricted Access Order. They have to follow a motorist from one end to the other before they can stop them. They are going to have a few days in the next coming months when they will at least stop and question drivers. I understand that this has now happened. It was made clear to me that this matter was not regarded as a high priority by the Police.



I have also asked about speeding, again they acknowledge there is an issue, but again it's a question of resources. They say they are doing what they can.

I did forwarded you an email from the PCC to you.

#### A4104 OVERTAKING ISLANDS LIGHTS

Streetlighting have confirmed that the team went out last Thursday and the reflective arrows are still in place as of today.

The new reflective bollards have been ordered and the team are currently waiting on permitting to grant permission for four-way lights . We have asked permitting to grant as a matter of urgency but with Christmas coming, they may not allow us on the road this side of Christmas. It has been classed as a high priority and the team will continue to drive the network to ensure the arrows are in place until the works have started

The very large bushes on the right hand side as you go into Upton did obstructs the view of oncoming traffic when trying to cross from North to South have been cut back the visibility splays are much improved.

#### A4104 CROSSING

I have been promised a report and costings by the end of December. I will then approach Cllr Amos and ask for action.

#### SECTION 106 HIGHWAY FUNDS OUTSTANDING



This matter is now in the hands of a senior WCC officer, I have agreed with Rachel that I will give her until January 2022 before approaching her again. She did say that this issue is tied up with other issues between TW and WCC.

I have asked why it has taken so long in sending the invoice and why was no one aware, I have not been given an answer. I may eventually raise this at full council.

#### BOW FARM

This has again been delayed in going to the Planning and Regulatory Committee we do not yet have a date when it will appear. I do note that there is now a proposed access onto the A38 so that traffic will not go through Ripple.

#### DEFIBRILLATOR

I am happy to offer £500.00 of my divisional fund towards the cost of a defibrillator.

What was the outcome. Can I have a formal request.

#### WCC QUESTIONS

In September I asked Cllr Amos that once the new roundabout is completed that he would instruct officers to conduct a review of speed limits from the M50 up the A38 to the Ketch Roundabout. He agreed to do so.

This month (November) I asked if he would also instructed officers at the same time to conduct a review of speed limits from Boughton Hill up to and including Tunnel Hill.

Again he agreed.

#### WCC RESOURCES REPORT – REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

I was concerned to see that WCC have now published the total long-term debt outstanding

as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is 522.7 million. I does say that this is within plan!

#### LEVELLING UP FUND

WCC failed in their bid for funds.

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APPENDIX 3

3 November 2021 (2021 - 202

Ripple Parish Council

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

<b>Bank Reconciliation at 30/11/2021</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2021		23,794.21
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2021 - 30/11/2021		24,696.87
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2021 - 30/11/2021		48,491.08 19,664.98
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 30/11/2021</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>28,826.10</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 09/09/2021	0.00	
	Deposit Account 30/11/2021	15,057.11	
	Current Account 30/11/2021	13,768.99	
			<b>28,826.10</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		
			28,826.10
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>28,826.10</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

**Ripple Parish Council**  
**Monthly breakdown of Receipts and Payments**  
 All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022)

30 November 2021 (2021 - 2022)

<b>PAYMENTS</b>															
	Budget	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Variance
<b>Expenditure</b>															
Subscriptions	1,200.00	845.68												845.68	354.32
Newsletter/Adverts/Flye	1,500.00					100.00								100.00	1,400.00
Donations	750.00					67.48								67.48	682.52
Insurance	600.00							567.27						567.27	32.73
Grass Cutting/Trees	5,000.00	357.00	714.00		1,785.00		1,428.00		714.00					4,998.00	2.00
Lengthsman	3,000.00	920.00						1,280.00	650.00					2,850.00	150.00
Chairmans Allowance	100.00														100.00
Prof Fees/Audit	750.00				240.00		200.00							440.00	310.00
Clerks Expenses	500.00			12.60	99.74		6.30	26.21	47.85					192.70	307.30
Clerks Salary	6,250.00	539.34		1,397.92	698.96	698.96	698.96	698.96	674.96					5,408.06	841.94
Annual Public Meeting	750.00														750.00
Hall Hire	250.00														250.00
Repairs	500.00														500.00
Vehicle Activated Sign	200.00														200.00
Recreation Ground Refit	2,000.00		1,640.00											1,640.00	360.00
Tree Survey/Maintenance	1,500.00														1,500.00
Website	1,000.00														1,000.00
Admin/Training	1,000.00								120.30					120.30	879.70
Clerks Equipment	1,000.00			502.81	485.00									987.81	12.19
<b>Income</b>															
Precept															
Deposit Account Interest															
Lengthsman Scheme															
Grants															
Donations															
Grass Cutting															
Other Income															

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**APPENDIX 4**

Date	Supplier	Invoice	Detail	Price	VAT	Total
05.11.2021	Royal British Legion		Poppy Wreath	£18.50		£18.50
31.10.2021	Community Heartbeat Trust	8267	Defib and cabinet	£2,215.00		£2,215.00
31.10.2021	Community Heartbeat Trust	10309	Annual Support	£165.00	£33.00	£198.00
01.12.2021	Lengthsman		October Worksheet	£320.00		£320.00
29.11.2021	The Bridge		1/4 page advert Jan-Dec 2022	£70.00		£70.00
05.12.2021	Community Heartbeat Trust	10711	VETS	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
						<b>£2,875.50</b>

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