RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th April at 19:30
In the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room

Present:			
Cllr Gordon Sims (Chariman) (GS)	**Cllr Sarah Phillips (SP)**	**Cllr Tara Barber (TB)**	**Cllr Johnny Denis (JD)**
Cllr John Kay (JK)	**Cllr Gavin May (GM)**	**Cllr Marica Morgan (MM)**	**Cllr Richard Turner (RT)**
Cllr Margaret Crompton	**Cllr John Whitlock**	**Cllr David Duke from item 7**	
Members of the Public:	**3**		

Apologies	**Matthew Crisp, David Terry**	
Item	**Agenda Item**	Action
1.	**To receive and accept apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Cllr Matthew Crisp and Cllr David Terry	
2.	**Declarations of Interest:** JD declared an interest in 9.1 Swimming Pool due to his involvement with a potential organisation managing the swimming pool.	
3.	**Minutes of previous meetings:** The minutes of the meetings held on 11th January 2022, 9th March 2022 and 15th March 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman	
4.	**Public questions or comments:** Up to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person) will be available for the public to make representations or questions. Please note that under Data protection regulations we ask members of the public to only state their name if they agree to their name being recorded. **Issues raised:** • David Robins enquired whether the Parish Council could install a hearing loop or similar to allow the hard of hearing to listen to meetings. • He also asked to know when the Ringmer Village sign, which is not currently in place due to damage, will be reinstated. GS reported that payment has been approved for the reinstatement of the sign and we now await confirmation of date.	
5.	**If the Committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed:** 'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'	
6. 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4	**Reports received via email from District and County Councillors were circulated to councillors** East Sussex County Councillor [copies attached to these minutes] Lewes District Council [copies attached to these minutes] To receive and accept any reports submitted. New PCSO Alan Ash attending meeting to introduce himself All reports received and accepted. JD(District) confirmed the contents of his report orally. PCSO was unable to attend due to unexpected urgent situation	
7.	**Co-Option of Councillor – To consider any expressions of interest in accordance with Parish Council's Standing Orders** David Duke was unanimously voted in as a Co-opted Member of the Parish Council. Having signed the Declaration of Acceptance he joined the meeting at 7.38pm GS advised that DD would like to help the Council improve communications.	

8.	**Planning Matters: To consider responses to Planning Applications**	ALL
8.3	**LW/22/0209 – 9 Mill Road, Ringmer, Eat Sussex, BN8 5HY** Demolition of conservatory, formation of roof, single storey rear extension **RESOLVED: Parish Council Decision – No objection**	
8.4	**LW/22/0161 – 11 Elphick Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5PR** Single-storey rear extension **RESOLVED: Parish Council Decision – Supports this application**	
8.5	**LW/22/0017/TCA – 4 North Road Ringmer, BN8 5JS** T1 - 4 No. Leylandii - reduce tops by approximately 1.8 metres. T2 - 1 No. Yew - prune to shape by no more than 1.0 metre. T3 - Leylandii hedge - reduce top by 0.6 metres approximately. **RESOLVED: Parish Council Decision – Supports this application subject to Tree Officer's report.**	
8.6	**Planning matters: All Decisions**	
	TW/22/0001/TPO – T9 & T10 (x2 Horse Chestnut) – 10 Christie Avenue, Ringmer, Bn8 5JT- **Approved**	
	TW/22/0009 – 2 Upper Broyle Farm Cottages, The Broyle, Ringmer, BN8 5AL - **Approved**	
	LW/22/0181 – Elf Cottage, Broyle Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5PH - **Approved**	
	LW/22/0098 – Pilon Danes, Laughton Road, Ringmer, BN8 5HH - **Refused**	
	LW/22/0077 – The Stables, The Holdings, Old Uckfield Road, Ringmer, BN8 5RY - **Approved**	
	LW/22/0078 – 31 Harvard Road, Ringmer, BN8 5HH - **Approved**	
	LW/22/0021 – 72 Harrisons Lane, Ringmer, Bn8 5LJ - **Approved**	
	LW/22/0009 – 2 Upper Broyle Cottages, The Broyle, Ringmer, BN8 5AL - **Approved**	
	LW/21/0931 – Oak Side Farm Campsite, Green Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5AD - **Approved**	
	LW/21/0910 – Barn on Land at Isfield Road, Ringmer – **Prior Approval Approved**	
	LW/21/0687 – Westbourne, Lewes Road, Ringmer, BN8 5ES - **Approved**	
	LW/21/0423 – Norlington Farmhouse, Norlington Farm, Norlington Lane, Ringmer, BN8 5SH - **Approved**	
	LW/21/0321 – 9 Middleham Close, Ringmer, BN8 5EN - **Approved**	
	LW/21/0060 – Caburn Field, Anchor Field, Ringmer - **Withdrawn**	
	LW/18/0345/CD – Green end, North Road, Ringmer, BN8 5JP - **Approved**	
9.	**Governance Matters**	
9.1	Swimming Pool – To receive an update on the Swimming Pool Group's response with further information and a more detailed business case. JD reported on this at ref 6.2	JD
9.2	To receive an update on combining the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) and the Communications Working Group (CWG). SP advised not yet progressed as there had been no Clerk. **Carried forward.**	SP
9.3	To receive an update on RPC Assets of Community Value. In discussion Anchor Inn, Fingerpost Field, Ringmer Swimming Pool, Anchor Field and Car Park. GS advised not yet progressed as there had been no Clerk. **Carried forward.**	GS
10.	**Highways Matters** To receive an update. SP and the Clerk are preparing a range of items for discussion at the next SLR meeting.	SP/Office
11.	**Open Spaces and related Matters:**	
11.1	To receive an update on the Parish Council's Assets Survey and bin audit. GS requested that all outstanding information is sent to the Clerk asap. SP will assist Clerk to complete.	OFF/SP
11.2	To receive an update on the Bus Shelter at The Cock Inn (per Dave Smith's email of 16/03/22, 13:18). JD advised that Nick Skelton, Assistant Director for Transport and Environment, is reviewing the previous decision and expects to write to the Parish Council in the next week or so.	JD
11.3	Skatepark – To receive any updates and agree any actions	JW

	JW is preparing the planning application on behalf of the Parish Council. GM advised that Bendcrete have all relevant documents needed.	
11.6	Village Green Play Area – To receive any updates and agree any actions GS reported that the Office and Finance Committee had agreed to the additional surfacing. Works due to commence 3rd May 2022 and to be completed before late May bank Holiday. Posters to be put up around village and on noticeboards, communication on website and Facebook page and primary school to be advised.	GS/Office
11.7	Grounds Maintenance and "In Bloom" application – To receive any updates and agree any actions In Bloom application not progressed as deadline has passed. GM advised that Office & Finance Committee decided that the Wildflower Ringmer Project would not be supported as it would result in a variation of the existing grass-cutting contract. This to be reviewed when the grass-cutting contract is renewed in 2023. It was agreed at the recent Office &Finance meeting to increase the number of grass cuts at Fingerpost Field from 12 to 20 per year.	GM
11.8	Little Learners on the Green – permission to use the Village Green by Bishops Lane all day on Friday 5th August 2022 **RESOLVED – The Parish Council agreed permission.**	ALL
11.9	Field House – Chairman to confirm he has written to the executors and expressed the Parish Council's gratitude and acceptance of the legacy and to update on his review of the conditions. GS met with the executors. JD requested clarification re access. There is no access at present GS and SP to meet with church officials to take it forward.	GS
11.10	Update on water pipe leak at allotments (fixed!) and to discuss how to best thank Dick Davis for his help in this matter Leak fixed. GS suggested a letter of thanks to Dick. JD requested we check the latest bill for cost implication of lost water.	Office
12.	**Communications Matters**	
12.1	To receive an update on RPC Newsletter Nothing to report.	OFFICE

13.	**Finance Matters:**	ALL
13.1	To receive the latest Financial Reports **Received and accepted**	
13.2	To approve the latest bank reconciliation **Approved**	
13.3	To approve the list of payments MC wanted clarification re many small email provider fees. These relate to the cllrs' individual email licenses. IT review suggested. **Approved**	Office
14.	**To receive an update on the LDC Consultation – Re Housing Targets and Methodology** JD proposed that Ringmer Parish Council sign the joint letter. **All in agreement.**	GS
15.	**Staffing Matters** New Clerk, Annie Hazzard, appointed. Interviews arranged for admin support role.	GM/SP/Office
16.	**Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future Agenda Items** To consider any correspondence received after this agenda has been published for noting or action • JK attended the memorial service for Alan Grindley. • JK – Reported that a tree surgeon was stopped cutting down a tree on the corner of Anchor Field and Fairlight Field as there was a bird nest and it had not been established that there was no nesting bird there. The contractor was unable to say who had instructed him other than "the council". JD to investigate • JK requested a report on the outcome of the latest round of grant applications. GS supplied this orally. • JW requested the deadline for the next round of Special Projects grants. He was advised that the deadline is the end of May. • RT spoke about the recent LDC PAC where the application for the Avery's Site was discussed. He felt that the developers had shown no commitment to our neighbourhood plan. The planning committee rejected this application and he was pleased that the committee had really taken onboard the ideology of the neighbourhood plan, with regard to providing employment opportunities, in their decision-making process. • SP reported that whilst dealing with the bin audit had noticed damage to the bus stop and kerb at Paygate Corner. This was reported and some repairs made. It was suggested that a village wide report on roads may be beneficial.	JD
17.	**Urgent items at the Chairman's discretion requiring decisions which cannot be held over until the next meeting** None	
18.	**Meeting closed 8.18pm.**	

THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS HAVE A RIGHT AND ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Date of Next Council Meeting **Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 19.30**

in the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room

Parish Report: Cllr Johnny Denis

1. Speed - County Council is still reluctant to set 20mph zones. A recent attempt at a motion, at a full meeting of the county council, to make it easier for communities to apply for 20mph school streets to be considered, was lost. Two things which were striking were; 1) The number of members of the administration who claim to be in favour of 20mph areas who then vote against them, and 2) the seamless opposition support for the motion from 4 different parties.
2. Swimming Pool - The Lead member for Resources and Climate Change, Cllr Bennett, is due to make a decision on what next for Ringmer Swimming Pool at his next Lead Member mtg at 2pm on the 28th April. Rumours suggest that there are 3 options being considered including one from Ringmer's own Ringmer Community Pool Group. The Lead Member is not obliged to choose one of those organisations who have expressed an interest.
3. Jointing work is now complete at Ballard Drive and Kiln Road. If you recall, residents wer unhappy about the state of the road - made up in short sections- as the joints caused significant disturbance to residents particularly with larger vehicle such as buses. For some unknown reason Broyle Close, in the same or worse condition and on the same bus route, has not been done. I have written asking for an update on these works.
4. The Cock Bus-Stop. Having raised the nonsensical situation of a bus shelter not being approved because the road is not safe enough to encourage people to cross and works to mitigate that not being a priority, I raised it at full County Council mtg as a question to Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Cllr C. Dowling. She invited me to write to her with full details. I received a follow up and investigation by Asst. Director, Nick Skelton who is reviewing the decision and expects to write to the Parish Council in the next week or so.
5. Have been invited to a consultation on the A27 East of Lewes Project – though annoyingly just as a Glynde & Beddingham Cllr rather than a County or District Cllr.
6. Ongoing casework;
    a. Crossover request (ie crossing from highways to a premises) issues for a Housing association tenant
    b. Crossover for an LDC tenant
    c. Condition of drive access for LDC tenant
    d. State of roads and pavements – various
7. New Rights of Way Claim: Glynde Place to Saxon Cross under consideration by Rights of Way Team. Consultation phase.

Update for Ringmer Parish Council
April 2022

Sorry I am unable to join you at your meeting tonight. I just wanted to update you on a number of issues since your last meeting.

1) Planning

I have recently objected to planning applications LW/22/0104 Land South of Lewes Road and Laughton Road, Chamberlaines Lane, Ringmer and LW20/0011 Averys, Uckfield Road Ringmer with Lewes District Council. Both of the proposed developments are in contravention to policies set out by the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan and would have a detrimental impact on local infrastructure and the rural landscape. I have also written to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP who is Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and asked him to call in these applications for determinations by himself.

2) Parris Lawn Time Capsule

At the beginning of April, I was delighted to join staff and residents at Parris Lawn care home in the village to help bury a time capsule in the garden. The time capsule contains memory cards written by residents of the care home, as well as letters from the local school, football club, cricket club, and letters from local residents of Ringmer detailing their experiences of growing up in the village. The time capsule is due to be opened in 2050.

3) Covid-19 Boosters

Covid-19 Spring Boosters are now available for those at most risk including:

- Those aged 75 and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- All those over the age of 12 who have a weakened immune system

If you are eligible the NHS will contact you directly to book.

4) Community Safety Funding for East Sussex

This funding from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, totals £445,762.88 in East Sussex including £34,829.03 in Lewes District. Wider projects include £118,131 for the Youth Offending Service and £114,948 for the Drug Intervention Programme. There is also £1,707,368 for Co-commissioning and Victims Services with funding for things such as specialist services for victims of rape, domestic abuse, fraud, and hate crime. I am sure that this funding will go a long way to keep our communities safe and provide specialist support to those who do fall victim to crime.

5) New Family Hub in East Sussex

I have welcomed the news that East Sussex will receive one of 75 new Family Hubs under plans to Level Up access to childcare, mental health services, housing advice, and employment across England. Family Hubs offer localised early help and intervention, from early years support to counselling or parenting classes, all of which can make a transformative difference in the lives of parents and carers who may not have a support network. This will ensure that vulnerable families and young people leaving care can access key support services in one place.

6) Funding for Museums and Galleries

I am encouraging museums and galleries across the constituency to bid for the £4 million in new funding to the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund. This cash boost will support the improvement of displays, protect collections, and make museums and galleries more accessible to visitors – helping to level up people's opportunities to participate in and enjoy our culture across the country. Applications for the new round will be open from 9 May to 1 August 2022, with funding decisions expected in autumn 2022. Information on the fund including eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dcmswolfson-museums-and-galleries-improvement-fund-2022-24