RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 19:00
In the Parish Rooms, Lucy Stone Room

Present:			
Cllr Nick Chaloner (NC)	Cllr Margaret Crompton (MC)	Cllr Dave Duke (DD)	Cllr Linda Grange (LG)
Cllr John Kay (JK)	Cllr Jonathan Spencer (JS)	Cllr Gordon Sims (GS) - Chair	Cllr John Whitlock (JW)
Attendance:			
District/County Cllrs	Cllr Lucy Agace (LA) Cllr Johnny Denis (JD)		
Other	Alan Ash (AA) - PCSO Annie Hazzard (AH) - Clerk Gail Metcalfe (GM) - Administrator		
Members of public	13		

Agenda Items

1.	**To receive and accept apologies for absence** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Marcia Morgan (MM) and Sarah Phillips (SP).	
2.	**Declarations of Interest:** Disclosure by Councillors of their personal interests regarding matters on the agenda, and whether the councillor regards their interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct. JK declared an interest at Item 12.	
3.	**Dispensation requests** None.	
4.	**Minutes of previous meeting -** To agree the Full Council minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024. **RESOLVED:** To approve and sign the above minutes of the Full Council meeting.	
5.	**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. 4 members of the public expressed their opposition of Planning Application LW/24/0566 (Item 14.1) on the grounds of over development, overlooking, too many houses in too small a space with too small gardens, overshadowing, lack of parking and access problems.	
6.	**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.' None.	
7.	**Reports (Up to 15 mins) -** To receive and accept any reports submitted Clerk MP East Sussex County Councillor Lewes District Councillor(s) PCSO Reports were accepted from the Clerk, MP, PCSO. LG provided a verbal report stating that the Roundhouse Road entrance was no longer being used at the Persimmon development (although this was disputed). She also said that she was attempting an improvement to CIL payments by making developers pay more earlier on in a development rather than later after corresponding with JK. She also said that the Thakeham planning application LW/23/0752 was being discussed at the Lewes Planning Applications Committee meeting tomorrow.	

	JD reported that the swimming pool lease was with ESCC and was waiting to be signed off. He confirmed that the budget put aside for this was still in place as well as revenue funding to support it for the first few years. AA stated he had made a visit to a family regarding the complaint of a teenager riding a motorbike on the new skatepark. JK and LG reported a teenage boy in a red helmet riding an electric bike dangerously by the Village Hall that had nearly knocked someone over. AA said he would talk to his Sargeant about this as they had started seizing electric scooters but not bikes.	
8.	**Finance Matters**	
8.1	To receive the latest Financial Reports - Received.	
8.2	To approve and sign the latest bank reconciliation - Approved and signed.	
8.3	To approve and sign the list of payments - Approved and signed.	
9.	**Co-Option of Councillors** - To consider any expressions of interest in accordance with Parish Council's Standing Orders. None.	
10.	**Tree Planting Policy** - To consider changes shown in red. **RESOLVED**: To agree to the changes. **ACTION: Office to implement changes and upload onto website.**	OFFICE
11.	**Open Spaces and Related Matters**	
11.1	**Almond Field** - To provide an update. DD said that the two benches had been installed and were looking good. He is meeting with the National Park Biodiversity Officer and new Ranger on 11/11/2024 to discuss what work was required re. large scale maintenance. He said there would be an official opening soon.	
11.2	**Bin at the end of Bishops Lane (Norlington Lane end)** - To consider installing a dual bin. See Clerk's report. **RESOLVED**: Not to install a bin at this location. **ACTION: Office to advise the resident whose suggestion this was.**	OFFICE
11.3	**Fingerpost Field Skatepark -** To receive an update. JW reported that it was being used and had been well received. He explained there had been a delay in sorting the access from Lewes Road but said this would hopefully be sorted soon. It was decided to leave the muddy areas around the skatepark as they are for now. **ACTION: Office to put a review of the muddy areas on the agenda in the spring.**	OFFICE
11.4	**Holm Oak on Village Green (T0343) -** To consider the options. See Clerk's report. See Appendix A for the options. After much debate this was put to a vote and the results were: **Option 1** - to leave the tree, fence it off & divert the footpath - no votes. This was discounted to avoid having to divert the path as LDC had advised this was a lengthy and expensive process. This would incur an additional cost of permanent fencing. **Option 2** - to remove half the tree - 3 votes. There was concern that this option would not be safe as the remaining part of the tree could move and so would have had to have been fenced off. **Option 3** - to remove tree, grind the stump and to plant a replacement tree - 4 votes **Option 4** - as Option 2 plus plant a new tree - no votes. See Option 2 above. The Chairman did not vote. **RESOLVED**: Council decided on **Option 3** and agreed to delegate to the Clerk liaison with the tree surgeon to obtain suitable replacement tree options and location and to then put new tree options to Gus Christie who has offered to contribute. The aim is to have a "statement tree" that would make the same impact as the Holm Oak did. It was agreed that the cost of the tree removal should come from general reserves. **ACTION: Clerk to action the above resolution.**	CLERK
11.5	**Jubilee Gardens** - To provide an update. DD explained that work was suspended over the summer but would be moving forward again shortly now that the weather would be more favourable.	
12.	**Ringmer Area Community Land Trust (RACLT) -** To consider allowing them to use our office address as their registered address. **RESOLVED**: To allow. **ACTION: Clerk to inform the RACLT that Cllrs were agreeable to this.**	CLERK

13.	**Picnic on the Green, 25/08/2025 -** To agree who can man the RPC information stand next year. GS explained that a similar Parish Council presence as for the Hub was needed at this event and as such he was looking for volunteers. **ACTION: NC and JS volunteered their help.**	NC/JS
14.	**Planning Matters -** To consider responses to Planning Applications:	
14.1	**LW/24/0566 - Rest Harrow, Gote Lane, Ringmer** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3no four bedroom dwellings and 2no five bedroom dwellings, with associated landscaping and access for Caldwell Land Ltd (by 11/10/24) **RESOLVED**: Parish Council Decision - Object on the grounds of: Overdevelopment. Ringmer's housing needs not being met as a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms including bungalows would be more appropriate Loss of light/overshadowing impact especially on Nos. 44 and 46 along with overlooking for Mill View and Sadlers Way The impact of the setting of the National Park with all properties on the proposed site removing this view Against Ringmer's NHP 8.3 car parking policy, as based on Ringer Parish data an addition of 5 spaces is required as a bare minimum. Re. Biodiversity Net Gain - a management plan is needed as communal landscaping and planting appears to be indicated rather than private ownership. A surface drainage water scheme should be included as part of the full planning application and not left to a reserved matters condition. Poor visibility from proposed access onto Gote Lane. Visibility splays should be shown on the drawings due to blind bend on Gote Lane.	
14.2	**LW/24/0582 - Land Opposite Bishops Close, Ringmer** Erection of 1no. single stack advertisement sign to southern boundary (by 09/10/2024) **RESOLVED**: Parish Council Decision - Object as inappropriate for this location, details are incorrect - they assume that planning application LW/24/0146 has been agreed. The signage should be on the hording.	
14.3	**LW/24/0602 - Land Opposite Bishops Close, Ringmer** Discharge of Condition 3 (CEMP) of Planning Appeal Decision APP/P1425/W/22/313204 (Refused Application LW/21/0694) - Revised Site Logistics Plan (by 18/10/24) **RESOLVED**: Parish Council Decision - No comment.	
14.4	**LW/24/0609 - Acorn House, The Broyle, Ringmer East Sussex** Variation of condition 8 (Parking) and 10 (Turning Circle) relating to approval LW/22/0499 - Alternative car parking layout to accommodate safe manoeuvring of articulated HGV entering, turning and exiting the site, improvement to flow of car park and enhanced pedestrian access and provide additional green space (by 29/10/24) **RESOLVED**: Parish Council Decision - Support.	
14.5	**LW/24/0610/CD - Acorn House, The Broyle, Ringmer** Discharge of Conditions: 8 (Parking) and 10 (Turning Circle) in relation to approval LW/22/0499 (by 29/10/24) **RESOLVED**: Parish Council Decision - No comment.	
15.	**Planning Matters - All Decisions:**	
	LW/24/0288 - Clayhill House, Uckfield Road, BN8 5RU - Approved (RPC: Supports) LW/24/0299/CD - 2 Norlington Villas, Norlington Lane, BN8 5SH - Approved (RPC: No comment) LW/24/0343 - Averys Nurseries, Uckfield Road, BN8 5RU - Approved (RPC: Object) LW/24/0405 - Clayhill House, Uckfield Road, BN8 5RU - Approved (RPC: No objection) LW/24/0443 - Park Gate, Old Uckfield Road, BN8 5RW - Approved (RPC: No objection) LW/24/0477 - 25 Springett Avenue, Ringmer, BN8 5HD - Approved (RPC: No objection) LW/24/0515 - Land at Isfield Road, Ringmer - Prior Approval Approved (RPC: Supports) Noted.	

16.	**Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future Agenda Items** To consider any correspondence received after this agenda has been published for noting or action. LG said she would be requesting an agenda item proposing that we support the Weald to Waves project. She would be providing a paper on this. **Persimmon Development** - The possibility of a letter should be written to the Planning Head, Cllr Laurence O'Connor, asking if he was happy that the development was going ahead without the pre-commencement conditions having been met. JW thanked the Parish Council for the CIL payment that had allowed the Jubilee Committee to buy Blyth Cottage and said that the new tenants had moved in on 3rd October 2024.	
17.	**Urgent items at the Chairman's discretion requiring decisions which cannot be held over until the next meeting.** None**.**	
	Meeting closed at 20:20.	

Signed:		Chairman
Date:		

Ringmer Parish Council

Balance Sheet as at 30/07/2024

31st March 2024				31st March 2025	
		Current Assets			
1,522		VAT Control A/c	40,341		
94,760		Barclay's Current	270,390		
188,816		Barclays Premium	19,713		
90,287		Public Sector Deposit Fund	92,111		
100,000		Cambridge and Counties	0		
102,494		Unity Trust Savings	0		
0		Redwood 35 day acc	10,000		
100,000		Redwood Bank 95 Day CIL Funds	100,000		
677,879				**532,555**	
	677,879	**Total Assets**			**532,555**
		Current Liabilities			
89		Creditors	0		
89				**0**	
	677,791	**Total Assets Less Current Liabilities**			**532,555**
		Represented By			
	120,652	General Reserves			222,354
	51,602	EMR - CIL - unallocated			(13,421)
	16,359	EMR - Comm Asset Rnl & Repair			14,432
	8,600	EMR - Elections			8,792
	845	EMR - Office Equipment Replace			429
	500	EMR - Speed Reduction			500
	227	EMR - Events			71
	2,000	EMR - Old Church			2,000
	18,406	EMR - Lucy Stone Precinct proj			18,406
	10,360	EMR - Open Spaces Maintenance			8,715
	25,000	EMR - CIL - Ringmer NHP			25,000
	7,592	EMR - CIL - Bus Shelters			7,592
	135,116	EMR - CIL - Skatepark			88,722
	100,000	EMR - CIL - Fpost Field Park			17
	12,000	EMR - CIL - Shopping Precinct			12,000
	50,000	EMR - CIL - Cyclepath Extn			50,000
	100,000	EMR - CIL - Jubilee Cottages P			0
	10,000	EMR - CIL - Ringmer AFC			0
	0	EMR - CIL - Village Gateway			13,000
	0	EMR - CIL - Croquet Club			15,000

Ringmer Parish Council

Balance Sheet as at 30/07/2024

31st March 2024		31st March 2025
0	EMR - CIL - Ringmer Rifle Club	35,000
158	EMR -Lightsource Grant Funds	7,065
8,375	EMR - Almond Field	7,125
0	EMR - NHP Review Grant	9,756
677,791		**532,555**

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 30/07/2024 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :
Chairman _____ Date : _____

Signed :
Responsible Financial Officer _____ Date :_____

			Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
100	Council	Income	235,379	158,641	(76,738)			148.4%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		less Transfer to EMR	67,428					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	167,951					
110	Staffing	Expenditure	32,324	74,460	42,136		42,136	43.4%
120	Office & General	Expenditure	139,065	40,111	(98,954)		(98,954)	346.7%
		plus Transfer from EMR	126,679					
		less Transfer to EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(12,386)					
130	Income other	Income	100	0	(100)			0.0%
		less Transfer to EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	100					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0					
200	Allotments	Income	60	0	(60)			0.0%
		Expenditure	169	1,150	981		981	14.7%
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(109)					
210	Amenities	Expenditure	4,451	12,100	7,649		7,649	36.8%
		plus Transfer from EMR	2,097					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,354)					
300	Village Green	Expenditure	2,413	6,010	3,597		3,597	40.2%
		plus Transfer from EMR	2,054					
		less Transfer to EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(359)					
310	Jubilee Rose Garden	Expenditure	746	2,000	1,254		1,254	37.3%
		plus Transfer from EMR	196					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(550)					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0					
320	Anchor Field	Expenditure	0	800	800		800	0.0%
330	Fingerpost Field	Expenditure	91,688	1,200	(90,488)		(90,488)	7640.6%
		plus Transfer from EMR	192,041					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	100,354					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0					
337	Almond Field	Income	90	0	(90)			0.0%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		less Transfer to EMR	0					

Continued over page

			Actual Year To Date	Current Annual	Variance Annual	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	90					
340	Broyle Lane / Broyle Close	Expenditure	115	1,365	1,250		1,250	8.4%
350	Play Equipment Renewal	Expenditure	100,354	100,000	(354)		(354)	100.4%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(100,354)					
355	Pond	Expenditure	10	10	0		0	100.0%
360	Play Area Inspections	Expenditure	1,365	2,900	1,535		1,535	47.1%
370	Waste	Expenditure	1,380	4,300	2,920		2,920	32.1%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(1,380)					
380	Open Spaces	Expenditure	3,768	8,035	4,267		4,267	46.9%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,768)					
390	Other Areas	Expenditure	3,050	11,800	8,750		8,750	25.8%
		plus Transfer from EMR	0					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,050)					
		Grand Totals:- Income	235,628	158,641	(76,987)			148.5%
		Expenditure	380,898	266,241	(114,657)	0	(114,657)	143.1%
		Net Income over Expenditure	(145,269)	(107,600)	37,669			
		plus Transfer from EMR	323,067					
		less Transfer to EMR	67,428					
		Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	110,369					

Ringmer Parish Council

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 28 September 2024

		Account Description	Balance	
Bank Statement Balances				
1	30/09/2024	Barclays Current	270,389.57	
2	12/09/2024	Barclays Premium	19,713.47	
5	30/09/2024	Unity Trust Bank Instant acces	0.00	
6	30/09/2024	Redwood Bank 95 Day CIL Funds	100,000.00	
7	30/09/2024	Redwood Bank 35 Day CIL Funds	10,000.00	
				400,103.04
Other Cash & Bank Balances				
		Public Sector Deposit Fund	92,111.42	
				92,111.42
				492,214.46
Receipts not on Bank Statement				
0	28/09/2024	All Receipts Cleared	0.00	
				0.00
Closing Balance				492,214.46
All Cash & Bank Accounts				
1		Barclay's Current		270,389.57
2		Barclays Premium		19,713.47
4		Cambridge and Counties		0.00
5		Unity Trust Savings		0.00
6		Redwood Bank 95 Day CIL Funds		100,000.00
7		Redwood 35 day acc		10,000.00
		Other Cash & Bank Balances		92,111.42
		Total Cash & Bank Balances		492,214.46

Chairman_____

Date: 08.10.24

List of Payments made between 01/09/2024 and 30/09/2024

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
02/09/2024	Lewes District Council	160	234.00		Pay Area Inspections Sept
02/09/2024	ODM	161	40.08		Stationery
02/09/2024	Galaxy Technical Solutions	162	96.00		PA System Picnic
02/09/2024	Gordon Sims	163	40.00		Picnic Work IP
12/09/2024	Heather Manning	167	25.00		Office Cleaning
12/09/2024	RJS Trees and Gardens	168	270.00		Tree 0345 crown balance and ra
12/09/2024	St John Ambulance	169	158.40		St John Ambulance- picnic
12/09/2024	Ash Towner Ltd	170	148.92		Email licences and backup
12/09/2024	Ringmer Football Club	171	17,211.36		CIL Grant re pitch marking/goa
12/09/2024	Jubilee Cottages	172	8,500.00	FC 9/10 8.7	CIL Grant -Blyth Cottage
12/09/2024	Barclays Premium	correction	411.94		BPA int credited to C/acc erro
13/09/2024	O2 Mobile Phones	173	28.72		Mobile Sept
13/09/2024	Post Office	174	2.10	Postage-Large letter	Post Office
13/09/2024	Adobe Systems Ltd	176	19.97		Adobe Sept
16/09/2024	Castle Water	177	66.75		Allotment water
17/09/2024	RBL Poppy Shop	179	24.49		Remembrance Wreath
24/09/2024	Zen Internet Ltd	181	40.80		Broadband and Landline Sept
24/09/2024	Lewes District Council	182	201.60		VG Bins Aug
24/09/2024	Clear Insurance Management Ltd	183	2,287.72	FC 10.09.24 8.9	Year 1 of 3 Ins premium
24/09/2024	Lewes District Council	184	14.40		Broyle Rec Bin Aug
24/09/2024	RJS Trees and Gardens	185	204.00		Hedge roots FPF sight line
24/09/2024	Airtight Security Systems Ltd	186	498.70		Office Intercom Security
24/09/2024	Airtight Securlty Systems Ltd	186	-498.70		Contra incorrect amount
24/09/2024	Airtight Security Systems Ltd	186	498.97		Office Intercom
24/09/2024	RJS Trees and Gardens	185	-204.00		Contra
24/09/2024	RJS Trees and Gardens	185	204.00		FPF hedge gaps
25/09/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenanc	187	1,113.50		grass cutting 6 of 12
27/09/2024	HMRC Paye/NI	188	1,191.38		TAx/NI Sept
27/09/2024	Salaries	189	3,933.00		Salary Sept
27/09/2024	Nest Pension	192	260.07		Employer contribution Sept
		Total Payments	37,023.17		

Chairman:

Date: 08.10.24

Appendix A - Item 11.4

11.4 **Holm Oak (T0343)** - Following Council's decision on 10.09.24 Item 21, GS and the Clerk met with Matthew Stuart from Bonny's Wood (Tree Surgeon) on site on Monday 23rd September. He did not feel that cutting the tree back to clear the path would be a safe option and advised that the following 4 options were available:

1. To fence off with chestnut palling fence which may be temporary for a year and to leave the tree to see what happens. It is possible that it will regrow and after some years may even fill in the gap between the two halves. It would be clear by next summer if this was likely to happen but would take some years to completely infill. The area would need to remain fenced whilst this happens. **Cost: £1,930 +VAT. Issue: The path that is now blocked is a PROW. If the path is to remain blocked, it would need to be diverted. The Rights of Way Access Officer advised that this "can be a lengthy and costly process"**.

2. To remove the half of the tree that is overhanging the path right back to the roots and to fence off the remaining half as above. This would alleviate the path issue. **Cost: £2,220 +VAT.**

3. To cut the tree and grind out the stump. If the entire tree does have to be removed, Gus Christie would like to contribute towards a replacement tree to be planted and wondered if the Council has any particular species of tree in mind. **Cost to fell: £2,520 +VAT.** See papers for possible replacement.

4. As no.2 but to plant new tree - see Bonny's Wood recommended suggestions.