

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 19 January 2026 6.00pm, SPRING COTTAGE

1. **In attendance:** Chairman D. Jones, Vice Chairman V. McCully, Councillors J.B. Keenan, R.L. Harris, Councillor and Responsible Financial Officer, T. James-Ellett, Paul Ashcroft (United Utilities representative).

Apologies for absence: Kim Snape (town councillor), Alex Bannister (PCSO)

2. **Minutes of meeting held 17th November 2025**

Approved.

3. **Declaration of Interest:** Councillors to declare any personal or pecuniary interest in respect of matters on the agenda or up to any point in the meeting:

None.

4. **Public Time:** To invite/listen to matters raised by members of the public:

None in attendance.

5. **Correspondence from members of the public:**

- a) Raising of the banking near the chapel – agreed the council will pay for the cost . Paul will have a look at costings and liaise with clerk and council.

All agreed that the paving needs lifted to approx. 5 inches around the tarmac area.

- b) Illegal campers – United Utilities had put signs up but campers disposed of them. They were vocally told but all attempts were ignored. Legal team have drafted a letter which Paul will forward. Vans seemed to have disappeared in the last couple of days since a visit from police over the weekend.

6. **Planning & Highways**

- a. Top O'th Hill: Nothing has been done with this due to Christmas and New Year break. ***This will be discussed at the next meeting.***
- b. Vodafone mast Winter Hill: No further actions
- c. Highways; reg Sheephouse Lane - Email Kim Snape to explain that her email is unacceptable. Matt has sent an email to Bolton, but not Chorley. Why are Chorley not invested in public safety in the area. ***Clerk to email highways and Kim.***

- d. Highways/Paul Connell has erected a SPID on Rivington Lane for a small period of time. ***Clerk to request an update from this.***
- e. ***Councillor Jones is going to email Ian Pilling, Matt Higginson & Joanne for an update.***
- f. Planning hasn't come through from Chorley borough Council for car parking. ***Clerk to continue to check applications coming through from the council.***
- g. Councillor Keenan has raised that he will be a 'Free Individual' and is going to continue to champion the Liverpool Corporation Act, separate to the council to allow for free parking and access to the park. When asked what was meant by the term 'Free Individual' he explained that he would continue to voice his opinions on the matter. Chairman Jones explained that all councillors act as free individuals and voice their own opinions. Councillor Kennan asked for this to be noted.

7. Financial Matters:

a. Outgoings:

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	SUM £
02/02/26	Easy Websites	Website subscription	£30.36
18/12/25	Jennie Seddon	Clerk Invoice	£220.16
15/12/25	Rivington Chapel	Carol Service	£90.00
15/12/25	Vince McCully	Carol service cider	£18.80
02/12/25	Jennie Seddon	Clerk Invoice	£302.72
01/12/25	Easy Websites	Website subscription	£30.36
24/11/25	Judith Gilgun	Village green bulbs & planting	£81.93

b. Incoming:

DATE	PAID BY	DESCRIPTION	SUM £
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

c. BALANCE - £17,242.91 up to 19.01.25

- a) Clerk has provided invoices from July to December 25 – signed by 2 councillors.
- b) Rivington Primary School have been contacted regarding the donation of a maypole – the school has not responded.
- c) ***Jennie to send bank reconciliation to everyone***

d. Precept:

Spent over the last 12 months: £7,220

After reviewing last year's precept and looking at the budget for 2026 the council has decided on a precept of £9000.

Clerk to email Chorley Council with decision.

8. Reports from other organisations

A) UNITED UTILITIES: PAUL ASHCROFT UPDATE

- a) Had funds for fencing come through and they've done the fencing up Sheephouse Lane and will continue to make improvements.
- b) Liverpool Castle is finally being renovated for safety: railings have had planning permission agreed and they are going to curb the stone at the front to allow for a smoother entry with the stone being high. Half the castle has been fenced off for safety after having surveyors look at it.
- c) Tour De France – July 2027 – This event is going to be huge for the village. This needs lots of discussion as the village will be flooded with visitors. This will be discussed as a council at ***our next meeting.***
- d) Councillor Jones questioned Paul on the email from Kim Snape regarding Sheephouse Lane. ***Clerk will forward email to Paul to see if this can be raised within the UU meetings for traffic calming measures and support with this with Chorley Council.***
- e) Matt Higginson has given permission for Paul to share information regarding plans and monetisation with car parks. ***Paul will forward this on and Clerk to distribute.*** Councillor Keenan questioned Paul on the financial matters – Paul said that because they area plc everything has to be transparent so we could ask for an update with a Freedom of Information request.

B) PCSO UPDATE:

No update.

C) LOCAL COUNCILLOR: KIM SNAPE

See 7c.

D) HIGHWAYS: PAUL CONNELL

See 6

d.

9. A) Budget

Councillors reviewed the budget for 2025 and agreed that it should remain the same this year, 2026.

B) Precept

See 7d.

10. AOB:

A) Councillors asked what their main points of focus are for 2026:

1. Make a noise with Chorley council as to why they haven't made any noise about the meetings with united utilities and their plans for the village. It's their area and it seems the area has been side lined.
 2. Further like to know how Top o'th the hill could happen? It's not the parish council who are paid and trained in looking at housing and what's appropriate. How this could have been approved and communication to the parish council missed?
 3. Discussion had about parking and what's best for the village in terms of charging or not; Councillors were asked to voice their individual view: Views were mixed with some supporting the plans to charge and others against.
 4. Charging for parking means double yellows and parking permits all over the village. With no enforcements then all of this would be pointless. All councillors agreed.
- B) Councillor McCully kindly volunteered to attend some training on grey belt planning permission. He updated the council on the Government lead plan on 'Planning in Principle'. Councillor McCully went through notes taken about the issues that have arisen from this plan and the downfall of properties which have had planning approved under this initiative.

Chorley council have made their own town 'urban plan' for the next 5 years to oppose the 'Planning in Principle' plan made by the government. Their 'urban plan' is to get rid of/review grey belt.

Green belt developments have been going through as grey belt and lots of applications which would usually be declined have gone through with the 'Planning in Principle'.

An interesting update – Many thanks so Vince McCully for attending.

11. Date of next meeting: 16th March 2026, 6pm at Spring Cottage.

Prepared by Jennie Seddon, Clerk to Rivington Parish Council:
www.rivingtonparishcouncil.org.uk