

RIVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Spring Cottage on Monday 29th January 2024, start time 18:00.

PRESENT: Councillor David Jones (DJ) – Chairman

COUNCILLORS: Trevor James-Ellett (TJ-E), Barry Keenan (BK),

CLERK: Helen Skuce (HS)

OTHERS: Paul Ashcroft (PA) United Utilities

REF: 24/129

1		<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> <i>Resolved</i> that the meeting receive and accept apologies from and the reason be noted: Lisa Harris (LH), Vince McCully (VMcC) Councillor Kim Snape (KS) Councillor June Molyneaux (JM)</p>		<u>Action</u>
2		<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>		
3		<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> <i>Resolved</i> that the Parish Council agreed to allow the Chairman to be authorized to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on: 06/11/23.</p> <p><i>Signed as complete.</i></p>	29/01/24	Cllr. David Jones
4	<p>i</p> <p>ii</p>	<p><u>UU/RHT Update</u> RHT/Groundworks are applying for Lottery funding of up to £250k for restoration repairs in Lever Park, to make safe the ruin of Liverpool Castle. If awarded the monies received would also be utilised to fix the ravine in the terraced gardens and work to the Visitors Centre.</p> <p>Two days of volunteer work has taken place at Knowle House Car Park to increase the</p>	PA	

	iii	<p>disabled bays and cutback shrubbery which uncovered more parking bays.</p> <p>Knowle House toilets potentially opening from 06:30 – 14:00 throughout the week, which would be well received by visitors and potentially reduce traffic throughout the village.</p>		<p>PA to discuss with RHT</p>
	iv	Planting of hedge whips has begun. UU has assisted the owners of New Hall Barn by planting hedge whips to cover gaps in the wall on the perimeter of their property.		
	v	PA would like to inform RHT who the Council think should attend their feedback meeting to discuss future activities between RHT and their Volunteer community. All to send thoughts to HS who will collate and forward to PA.		
	vi	More ASB reported in the Terraced Gardens, Italian Gardens and Old Tennis lawn churned up by Quad bikes/Off Roaders. More Rangers planned. Graffiti in gloss paint on the Pike! Although not his/UU responsibility PA said he would notify his contact at Chorley Council to get the graffiti removed.		All to action and send to HS. HS to collate and send to PA.
	vii	Although conscious of too much signage, PA made the Council aware of new signs that could be available warning visitors that Lancashire constabulary had the right to seize their vehicle if being used to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. All to send thoughts to HS of where the signs would be best posted. HS to inform PA.		Once received HS to notify PA.
	viii	Forest Frontiers are being reviewed by RHT/Groundworks/UU with a view to increasing nature and diversity within the Country Park. Please forward any ideas of how we could improve the wild nature of the village eg wild flower fields – NOT THE GREEN!!!		HS to collate and forward to PA
	ix	The Council would like to record and pass on our appreciation & thanks to UU for their generous contribution of the		

	x	<p>Christmas Tree for the village green.</p> <p>Councillor T J-E updated the Council following his recent zoom call with RHT.</p> <p>T J-E explained that Chris Matthews had stated that RHT would no longer 'chase' grants or small amounts of funding but focus on larger amounts. Small amounts have been proven not to be cost effective due to the amount of time required to complete the necessary paperwork. T J-E stated on the call that communications between the Council and RHT required improvement.</p>	T J-E	
5		<p><u>Traffic & Parking Update</u></p> <p>HS explained that following a communication with Cllr Snape the letter due to be sent to LCC Cllr. Rupert Swarbrick had to be revised. Cllr. Snape had enquired with LCC Highways Dept. what was the process to allow for a temporary TRO to be enforced in Rivington due to the Traffic and Parking problems as they have in the Lake District Councils. The response was that LCC Highways were not aware that Rivington had any traffic issues and TROs are not something that LCC use.</p> <p>HS to revise the letter to Cllr Rupert Swarbrick, MP for Highways, copying Sir Lindsey Hoyle MP and Cllrs Snape and Molyneaux.</p>	HS	HS
6		<p><u>Police and Crime Update</u></p> <p>New Police Officer assigned to Rivington: PC Connor Cross.</p> <p>Contact detail: connor.cross@lancashire.police.uk</p>	PA	
7	i	<p><u>Planning Applications Update</u></p> <p>22/01238/FUL – Dryfield Cottage, Dryfield Lane</p> <p>Rebuild of partially demolished outbuilding. The Borough and Parish Councils have received complaints from neighbour Matthew Bennett due to the size of the proposed new dwelling and the impact it will have on not only his property but also the nature of Rivington as a whole</p>	HS	

	<p>Parish Council were in agreement that a site visit to Mr. Bennett's property should be requested</p> <p>Status: Awaiting decision</p> <p>ii 23/00894/FUL – Top O'th Hill Farm Demolition of existing dwellings and buildings and erection of dwelling/house and associated landscaping.</p> <p>Status: Permit full planning permission.</p> <p>iii 23/01016/FUL – Rivington Foundation Primary School Installation of LPG Boiler</p> <p>Status: Awaiting decision</p> <p>iv 23/00994/FUL – Wilcocks Farm Caravan Site.</p> <p>Change of use of land to campsite and erection of 2 camping pods to extend existing campsite.</p> <p>Status: Awaiting decision</p>																																																		
8	<p>i</p> <p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>HS</p> <p>Expenditure since last Meeting:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Payee</th><th>Description</th><th>Gross £</th></tr> <tr> <td>10/11/23</td><td>Suzy Orr</td><td>Boot out Cancer</td><td>110.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>25/11/23</td><td>Timber Tec</td><td>Erection of xmas tree</td><td>190.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>12/12/23</td><td>Rivington Brass Band</td><td>Carol Service</td><td>100.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>12/12/23</td><td>Cllr. McCully</td><td>Refreshments carol service</td><td>41.13</td></tr> <tr> <td>14/12/23</td><td>Clerk</td><td>Signed for mail</td><td>20.55</td></tr> <tr> <td>14/12/23</td><td>Clerk</td><td>Honorarium and stationery</td><td>511.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>14/12/23</td><td>Spring Cottage</td><td>Refreshments carol service</td><td>91.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>12/12/23</td><td>Adlington Town Council</td><td>Remembrance Day</td><td>8.45</td></tr> <tr> <td>21/12/23</td><td>Adlington Town Council</td><td>Remembrance Service</td><td>13.10</td></tr> <tr> <td>15/01/24</td><td>Timber Tec</td><td>Xmas tree removal</td><td>190.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>21/01/24</td><td>Cllr D Jones</td><td>Battery for Xmas tree lights</td><td>95.59</td></tr> </table>	Date	Payee	Description	Gross £	10/11/23	Suzy Orr	Boot out Cancer	110.00	25/11/23	Timber Tec	Erection of xmas tree	190.00	12/12/23	Rivington Brass Band	Carol Service	100.00	12/12/23	Cllr. McCully	Refreshments carol service	41.13	14/12/23	Clerk	Signed for mail	20.55	14/12/23	Clerk	Honorarium and stationery	511.99	14/12/23	Spring Cottage	Refreshments carol service	91.00	12/12/23	Adlington Town Council	Remembrance Day	8.45	21/12/23	Adlington Town Council	Remembrance Service	13.10	15/01/24	Timber Tec	Xmas tree removal	190.00	21/01/24	Cllr D Jones	Battery for Xmas tree lights	95.59		
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	ii	<p><u>Bank Balance as of 29/01/24:</u></p> <p>£8284.15</p>		
	iii	<p><u>Internal Audit AGAR 23/24:</u></p> <p>HS to meet with Internal Auditor in February, date to be arranged to review current finances and governance in preparation for audit completion in May '24.</p>		HS
	iv	<p><u>CIL:</u></p> <p>£2343 remaining from initial CIL budget. To be used (project in plan and costed) or returned by 31/03/25.</p> <p>Stone information board to be situated on the village green to be costed. Stonemasons in Blackrod did not respond to request for quote made in September '23.</p> <p>Stonemasons at Cowling Chorley to be contacted for quote once information for plinth received by HS from Chairman.</p> <p>Bernie Heggarty also to be contacted with current project update for £1,500 funding which could also be used in conjunction with CIL payment.</p>		DJ
	v	<p><u>TSB Bank Account update:</u></p> <p>Bank would not accept Clerk's identification or add her details to the Parish bank account as the records at the Bank were out of date and still held details and was sending all information to the previous Chairman. Councillors need to action as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>All Councillors to resolve.</p>		All
	vi	<p><u>Precept</u></p> <p>As discussed, budget precept was submitted 05/01/24, for £10,680 which affords up to £4k for Clerk monies, if the Council chooses to move to Easywebsites £1k to for setup, dedicated email address (which is mandatory for a Parish Council), £1k Governance which includes Parish insurance of £500. Grass cutting has increased by 10% total £600. Meeting room rentals £500.</p> <p>09/04 update – Cllr BK wanted the</p>		

	vii	<p>minutes to reflect that he was vehemently opposed to the precept increase. Apart from Cllr BK, all other Cllrs agreed to the figure that was submitted and approved by Chorley BC Finance Dept. Therefore, the Councils' decision to increase was a majority vote.</p> <p><u>Legacy – Mr Wallace</u></p> <p>HS Received and signed for Mr Wallace's bequest of 20 historical ring binders and a cheque for £2,000. Cheque was deposited 10/11/23.</p> <p>Historian Mr Martin Brownlow has been contacted to review the documentation with a view to the collection being housed at Horwich or Rivington Heritage Centre's. The council thought a memorial plaque and a time capsule buried in Rivington with an overview of his works, would be a good way to demonstrate the Parish's gratitude and remember Mr. Wallace's generosity to the village.</p> <p>Time capsule to be priced for next meeting.</p>	HS
9	i	<p><u>Local delivery Scheme – public rights of way, bio-diversity.</u></p> <p>£500 grant received. To be used towards fixing footpath next to Hall Brook.</p>	HS
	ii	<p><u>Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme.</u></p> <p>£300 grant received to be used for hives and wildlife area at Spring Cottage.</p> <p>Photos required to be sent to LCC on completion of both projects.</p>	DJ
10		<p><u>Village maintenance</u></p> <p>Weighman to be contacted to make good the village green stone walling.</p>	DJ
11		<p><u>Meeting dates 2024</u></p> <p>22/04/24 – Quarterly Parish Meeting</p> <p>13/05/24 – AGM to include AGAR review</p> <p>05/08/24 – Quarterly Parish Meeting</p> <p>28/10/24 – Quarterly Parish Meeting</p>	

To be approved 22/04/24

12		AOB Future Clerk appointment needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency.		All
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Meeting closed at 19:50

Chairman:

Date:

Prepared by Helen Skuce 06/02/24