

LITTLE RIBSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Little Ribston Parish Council meeting

held on Thursday September 5th 2019 at 7.00pm in Little Ribston village hall

PRESENT: Cllr M. Bell, Cllr G. Leather, Cllr. M. Hullah, Cllr. S. Orriel

IN ATTENDANCE: Melanie Spencer (Clerk and RFO), no parishioners

The Chairman welcomed the new Councillor Cllr. G. Leather to the Parish Council.

1933 TO NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES

Cllr. W. Marr

It was proposed by Cllr. Leather that all motions be proposed and seconded to avoid uncertainty.

Seconded by Cllr. Orriel

Resolved: To accept and note absence and accept all apologies made.

Resolved: To propose and second each motion on the agenda.

1934 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 31 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INTERESTS UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved: To note that no further interests were declared

1935 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 12th 2019 as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr. Bell, Seconded by Cllr. Hullah

Resolved: To confirm and approve the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 12.06.19 as a true and accurate record and signed and dated by the Chairman.

1936 Parishioner's questions

No Parishioners in attendance

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1937 To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary

Ethical training September 11th 2019

Resolved: To note that places have been booked for Cllr. Marr, Cllr. Orriel and Cllr. Leather on the September training

Planning matters

1938a TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning Application Ref No 19/02527/OUT at Land Comprising Field At 438770 45338 north of Wetherby Road –refused

Planning Application Ref No 19/02379/DVCON at Land at 438512 453260 Spofforth Lane - approved

TPO 32/2019 - LAND COMPRISING FIELD AT 438770 453388, WETHERBY ROAD – approved

Resolved: To note the planning decisions received from HBC.

1938b TO APPROVE DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

No applications received

Financial matters

1939a To note previously authorised payments

Grass cutting invoice G. Marsden £84

Resolved: To note the payments that have been previously authorised.

1939b To approve invoices for payment

Grass cutting invoices to G. Marsden £84 x 3

Internal audit invoice to Robert Whitehead £150

Motion proposed by Cllr. Leather, that the Clerk write to G. Marsden requesting that the Council receive an invoice after each cutting of the grass verges.

Seconded by Cllr. Orriel.

Resolved: To approve the above payments and action the Clerk to write to G. Marsden

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1940 To Note Correspondence received

Open letter received November 2018

An open letter from the Monitoring Officer had been received by little Ribston Parish Councillors in November 2018. The letter reported on the findings of two Code of Conduct complaints against residing Councillors.

Cllr. Orriel opened a discussion about how the Parish Council had dealt with the findings of the Code of Conduct complaints against Cllr. Bell and former Councillor A. Sewell.

Cllr. Orriel expressed concern that it could be interpreted as selective reporting if only the findings of one complaint were minuted.

For clarification the Clerk asked Cllr. Orriel if she was proposing a motion to publish all the findings within the open letter.

Cllr. Orriel stated that she was not proposing that the open letter be published and referred the matter to the Chairman to update the Council on the progress regarding the complaint against Cllr. Bell.

Cllr. Bell read out the following statement to update the Council

Cllr. Bell's statement

At the time when all Councillors received the open letter reporting the findings that I and Councillor A. Sewell had been found guilty of breaching the code of conduct, I didn't receive it.

In my case it was stated that I had a monetary and pecuniary in a planning application and therefore breached the Code of Conduct. I would not accept this as neither I nor my husband had any pecuniary interest in this application as no payment was received. I merely wrote on an envelope that I had no objection to the planning application and as far as I am concerned the Clerk ignored my comment and sent in the majority view to the planning department.

The Monitoring Officer suggested my breach could be resolved by ethical training which I declined, as accepting this, would in my view be the same as accepting my guilt.

I have written to the Monitoring Officer explaining the reasons for not accepting the findings and that I was taking legal action. I have not had a reply from her even though it's been several months.

Cllr. Leather proposed that it be noted that the complaint against Cllr. Bell was still ongoing as Cllr. Bell had not accepted the findings and was awaiting a reply from the Monitoring Officer before considering her position.

Seconded by Cllr. Orriel

Resolved: To note that Cllr. Bell's response to the findings documented in the open letter was still ongoing

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1941 To discuss the issue of speeding traffic in the village

Cllr. Leather opened a discussion about the problem and possible solutions

Cllr. Bell reported on the measures tried over the last twenty years which included Placard demonstrations, speed stickers on bins, liaising with the police, speed gun volunteers, flashing signs and rumble strips, discussions with Audi Garage

Cllr. Leather proposed that the Clerk write to the authorities to ask how the Parish Council could try and reduce the speeding problem.

Cllr Bell to pass onto the Clerk the contact details of the Policeman she has recently contacted in her capacity as Chairman.

Cllr Orriel seconded.

Resolved: To action the Clerk to contact the Police about the issue and to pass on the details of the community speed gun group to Cllr. Leather to follow up.

1942 To consider using the village group email and Facebook to advertise meetings.

Cllr. Leather opened the discussion about the use of Facebook and emails.

Cllr. Bell explained that LRPC publish meetings, agendas and minutes on the village noticeboard and the village website (littleribston.com) therefore everyone had access to the information.

The Clerk explained that she doesn't use Facebook and there would be a GDPR issue with emailing everybody in the village (may be considered spam). Also the administrator of the Facebook Group had expressed reservations about previous Facebook postings of the Council.

Resolved: That the Council would not use social media or the village email list to advertise LRPC meetings

1943 To consider improving the biodiversity of the village's verges.

Cllr. Leather distributed leaflets explaining how biodiversity can be improved and opened a discussion about how it could be introduced to the village verges.

Resolved: To action Cllrs. to read the literature and consider the issue.

1944 To consider the adoption of the NALC standing orders

Due to time constraints it was agreed to place this item on the next agenda

Resolved: to add standing orders as an item on the next agenda

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1945 To Note items for the next agenda

- Nalc standing orders

1946 To approve and note the date for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To note and approve December 3rd 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall as the date, time and venue for the next meeting

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Melanie Spencer Clerk/RFO Ribstonparishclerk@gmail.com

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June 24th 2019