



RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held 16th October 2023 at 7.15pm at Ripple Parish Hall

- Present:** Cllrs. M. Peters (Chairman), M England, P Turner, D Cllr J Owenson, C Cllr Martin Allen
- Attendees:** Interim Clerk M White, two members of public, Roger Gillard of St Mary's Church, Nicky Reeves and a colleague from React to discuss the consultation of the Ripple Quarry expansion.
- 16.10.23.1** **The Chairman will formally ask if anyone is intending on recording or filming the meeting.**
There were no requests to record or film the meeting
- 16.10.23.2** **To receive comments from the public - no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)**
- 16.10.23.3** **To note absence – Cllr Maggie Davis**
- 16.10.23.4** **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011) and to confirm the meeting quorate**
- 16.10.23.4a)** Cllr England declared an interest in planning application for Land at Furrow Close, and the meeting was declared quorate.
- 16.10.23.4b)** Nicky Reeves from REACT attended the meeting at the request of D Cllr Jeremy Owenson to update the Parish on the gravel extraction plans and applications at Ripple and Ripple East.
- Nicky advised that the Cullimore consultation group are holding a one-day hearing at Puckrup Hall on the 5th December, and a decision will be made by 31st January 2024. All documents will be sent to the Planning Directorate after the hearing on the 5th December, and all existing objections will be carried forward.
- REACT is encouraging the Parish to get behind this consultation, attend the hearing and object to the negative environmental impacts that the plans will have on the area. Nicky also advised that the plans for the Ripple East site currently has no planning application meeting date set as yet but will be a continuation of the Ryall site. Ripple East will not start until Ryall is complete. The plans present good restoration of the land and strong reinstatement plans, and Nicky felt that as WCC have approved the plans there were little chances of the plans not proceeding and Nicky felt that objections should still be made on health grounds. Objections on these plans must be made by the 25th October.
- REACT has prepared an Opposition Document and is seeking endorsement from the Parish Council and would be issuing the document to the council in due course, noting the submission date is quite tight.

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- 16.10.23.4c) Roger Gillard of St Mary's Church addressed the meeting and thanked the Council for the new noticeboard. Roger also provided an update on church activities; the Sealed Knot gathering and the Founders Celebration Day, both of which were well-attended and supported by the public. Roger continues to invite all members of the public from all backgrounds to join in activities at the church. All are welcome.
- 16.10.23.5 **To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September 2023**
Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023. Cllr England advised this his declaration of interest in the Land at Furrow Close was not noted on the minutes, and this was amended. All comments now received and meeting minutes updated.
Proposed Cllr England **Seconded** Cllr Turner
- 16.10.23.6 **To Receive Clerk's Report and agree actions – Clerk's report was received as per APPENDIX 1**
- 16.10.23.7 **To receive County Councillor's Report and agree actions – APPENDIX 2**
- 16.10.23.8 **To receive District Councillor's Report and agree actions.** District Councillor Owenson addressed the meeting and introduced Nicky Reeves from React who was in attendance to discuss the consultation of the Ripple Quarry expansion. D Cllr Owenson reiterated the importance of members of the public and councillors' attendance at local and regional meetings where significant consultations are being held, and to encourage their support and involvement where possible. D Cllr Owenson advised that any consultations regarding the flood wall should include the Uckinghall Flood Action Group. He also updated the meeting on the current challenges faced within the MHDC Planning Applications and Environment departments. As the council were looking to recruit a new head of these departments, applications had fallen behind, and the processes were taking much longer to complete.
- 16.10.23.9 **Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**
- 16.10.23.9a **To approve the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report** The Clerk explained that due to reconciliation variances it was necessary to liaise with Scribe regarding a recurring discrepancy of £1.20 so that the monthly reconciliations could be run, and an All Banks reconciliation. The Clerk provided the October bank statement along with the payments lists to assure council that the Parish funds are healthy after the October payments have been processed. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the bank reconciliations prior to the next meeting as soon as the variance had been resolved. Run reports showing our September payments and the next precept, and review at the next meeting. **APPENDIX 3**
- 16.10.23.9b **To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since the last meeting.**
Payment List was received as per **APPENDIX 4.**

16.10.23.10 To discuss the installation of the bin at Ryall Court Lane

The Clerk advised that Tim Armitth had been in contact about the final bin installation; following the circulation of new bins in the Parish this year, the bin in Ripple was not put in place due to a complaint over the location. Tim provided details of the apparent new location, and this was discussed. There were concerns that the location suggested is still an area of concern and the Clerk was asked to review the minutes of the meetings held in January and March to establish what locations were agreed. The Clerk advised that the bin is available and in storage ready for installing.

16.10.23.11 To discuss the issue of the Parish footpaths and the Footpaths Officer vacancy

16.10.11 a) The Chairman reiterated that the Parish is still in need of a Footpaths Officer and implored all Councillors to encourage members of the public with an interest in walking and serving the Parish to consider this role. The Chairman also advised that with the introduction of our new Lengthsman, we would start to see improvements in the condition of the footpaths in due course.

16.10.23.11.b) A member of the public, with the Chairman's agreement, raised the issue of the drainage problems along the footpath at Ferry Lane and the recurring flooding problems because of it. This led to a conversation regarding the issue of Himalayan Balsam and/or Japanese Knotweed in the drainage ditches preventing proper drainage clearance, and this had been raised in an email on the 16th October from David Harrison, District Councillor for Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot. D Cllr Owenson advised that as the offending weed had been confirmed as being Balsam, and not the more invasive Japanese Knotweed, and as it has already seeded it would be pertinent to dig out the drains now. Cllr Harrison's email stated that he was keen to advise when this work could be carried out and D Cllr Owenson agreed to contact him to discuss this. It was agreed that the landowner should be notified of this work. The Clerk agreed to write to Cllr Harrison and the landowner.

16.10.23.12 To discuss the Kissing Gate on the footpath from Ryall Meadow to the Marina

The Clerk reminded the Council of the email circulated in late September regarding the condition of the Kissing Gate and lock. Council agreed that as there have been no reports of individuals riding motorbikes along this path in recent years, the gate should be removed, and the path restored to allow proper access to all members of the public. Council agreed that this should take priority for our new Lengthsman. C Cllr Martin stated that we should advise him of any significant cost associated with this and he would do all he could to seek funds to compensate the Parish, as this will not have been a budgeted cost. Cllr England agreed that he would be happy to accompany the member of public who initially raised the complaint to view the restored footpath when works are complete. The Clerk agreed to advise the new Lengthsman of this as a priority.

16.10.23.13 To discuss the following planning applications/appeals made since the last meeting and agree actions:

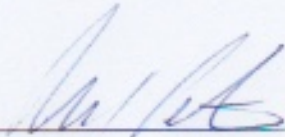
a) **M/23/01267** Ripple Farm Change of use from agricultural building to a row of 5 houses. This is an application that's been objected to in the past, but it has been resubmitted and needs new response. Council is not in favour of this application. It was noted that RPC were not on the consultation list, and equally there are documents missing from the Planning Applications website.

23/00001/REFUSE Land at Bow Lane, Twyning. This is a GCC application but is part of the wider gravel extraction projects at Bow Lane. Council noted that Refusal has been given by Gloucester County Council.

Meeting closed at 20.45

Date of Next Meeting : Parish Council Meeting 27th November 2023

Signed



Dated

27-11-23



APPENDIX 1

Clerk Report 16th October 2023

Parish insurance

Parish Council Insurance renewal due 9th October 2023 and the payment information of £642.80 sent for payment this month

Lengthsman

I have advertised privately on FB for a handy person – we had several responses and at least 3 are suitable with relevant skills and their own equipment. We have decided to go with someone who is currently the Lengthsman at Rushwick, and he can start on Wednesday if I can manage to get the paperwork sorted.

The bench

The bench has arrived will be placed on the prepared area by the noticeboard at Ryall. We'll ask the new Lengthsman to install it.

Platform Housing Parking at Ryall

As agreed at the last meeting I have drafted an email to two directors at PHG for the council's approval. Any feedback.

Planning apps. Thank you all for your feedback on the planning applications. These have now all been responded to on the MHDC website in line with your responses.

Access to RPC Facebook page Does anyone in council have the logins? I'd like to publish the following:

Mobile library – a new timetable has been received and I have put this on the website

Christmas refuse collection schedule available on the website

Latest News

Councillor vacancies – Jeremy Owenson has written an article appealing for candidates and will be placed it in the Upton News.



APPENDIX 2

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2023

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

FOOTWAY BETWEEN RYALL AND UPTON MARINA.

I Sent you an email about a Kissing Gate and Radar Padlock on 21/09/23. Can I please have an update on your intentions.

RYALL EAST QUARY APPLICATION – Nr Ripple and Uckinghall. SEPTEMBER. I have spoken to officers at WCC, and they are still waiting for the applicant to send in more information. I have asked for another briefing prior to this application going to WCC planning committee.

RIPPLE SCHOOL LANE QUARY FOR MINERALS APPLICATION No formal planning application has yet been received.

COMMUNITY BUS TO TEWKESBURY SEPT

I would like to remind everyone it is still running each Wednesday morning. It continues to be a success.

ON DEMAND BUS SERVICE

I have been told that the Worcestershire On Demand Bus Service will be relaunched on 19th of October 2023. Cllr Tom Wells and I are still waiting for our meeting with Officers to see if they have agreed to the Hospital, Haresfield House Surgery, Tesco's, Aldi, and St Peters Garden Centre being included as destinations. I will let you know more when the meeting has taken place.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

PLANNING MATTERS

SWDPR This has now gone off to the Secretary of State. All the MHDC voted in favour of the SWDP-R being dispatched. I would respectfully remind you that planning applications can only be refused if there is a Lawful Planning Reason why it should be turned down.

- a. Furrow Close – This was to go before this month Southern Planning Committee, but the meeting has been cancelled, I expect it to appear in November now.
- b. 70 Homes on the A4104 at Holly Green – I have no more news at present.

LORRIES PARKED OFF SCHOOL LANE AT THE OLD OIL DEPOT. SEPT

I have forwarded what I have had from MHDC, I will continue to chase MHDC Officers for an update. Seb Ash is now the enforcement officer running this case. I have sent you some information, which I have asked you to keep confidential at the moment.

SUNSHINE FESTIVAL SEPT

There were a few complaints about the noise from the Sunshine Festival, also the traffic on the Thursday was horrendous. This was partially due to an accident on the M50, where I understand one casualty has suffered life changing injuries. Also, the organisers of the festival could not keep up with the number of arrivals, thus

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causing traffic to queue on the A4104 and A38. There is to be a meeting with Worcester Regulatory Services with Jeremy and I later this week.

Jeremy will be seeking a meeting with the organisers to discuss the issues.

FERRY LANE CONCERNS FROM DISTRICT CLLR DAVID HARRISON i/c FLOODING.

I see that Cllr Harrison has copied you into an email to the EA about his concerns. No doubt he will keep you informed with any response.

FERRY LANE PAST THE FLOOD GATE

Cllr Harrison has also emailed you about the Himalayan Balsam.

Part of his email says:

Ian cannot issue a notice to clean the ditches – starting from the river and working up to the flood gate as first of all the landowners must remove all the Himalayan Balsam. This has to be "PULLED" and disposed of. When a section has been cleared it may (and I stress may) be possible for Ian to get the ditches dug out and cleared.

I was informed on our site visit that it is usual for the local Parish to initiate with the landowner to get them to remove the Balsam from the verges and possibly the Water Courses to the river. I hope that you will be able to initiate this knowing the landowners.

Regards

Cllr Harrison

RAILWAY INN AT RIPPLE

I have been contacted about application to register the Railway Inn as Asset of Community Value, I have willingly written in to MHDC my support for this very worthwhile initiative and I fully support the application.

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen

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APPENDIX 3

Report in lieu of our Bank Reconciliation	
Precept received on 27th September	£12,070.00
Bank balance as at 9th October	£12,828.39
Payments due out in October	
Audit fee	£252.00
M White salary	£814.84
M Hinde salary	£725.33
Web hosting	£22.79
Web hosting	£39.47
TOTAL DUE IN OCTOBER	£1,854.43
ANTICIPATED BALANCE AT END OF OCTOBER	£10,973.96

APPENDIX 4

Invoices sent for Payment In October

Date	Company	Amount	Comments
25/9	PFK Littlejohn	£252.00	Audit fee
16/10	M White salary	£814.84	
16/10	M. Hinde salary	£725.33	
21/9	Web hosting	£22.79	
11/10	Web hosting	£39.47	
TOTAL		£1854.43	