



## **RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held 19 February 2024 at Ripple Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. M. Peters (Chairman), M Davis, M England, P Turner, C Cllr M Allen,

**Attendees:** Clerk/RFO M Hinde, Trainee Clerk D Hinde, Ian Davis and 3 members of the public

**19.02.24.1 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

**19.02.24.2 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)**

Member Of The Public 1 – Advised the council that the contact sheet on the noticeboards needed updating and that the minutes on the noticeboard were out of date. The chairman advised that the contact sheet will be updated once the new councillor and the footpath officer had started. He also added that the minutes are only added to the noticeboard when they are approved in a council meeting.

The member of the public also raised concerns over the sewage pipeline In Naunton as it keeps overflowing and going into the rainwater gullies. There is a resident in Naunton who is unable to use their toilet or shower as the sewage keeps coming up. C. Cllr Allen advised that the member of the public should take photos and send to the Environment Agency as they can hold Severn Trent to account and they should also write to the MP.

Member of public 2 – Raised concerns regarding speeding on A38 and advised he had requested for the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph with no success. The member of the public requested the council to move the VAS onto the A38. Council advised they would look into this and the clerk will look into if there was a permitted pole to hold it. The council also advised that they could speak to the local PCO to see a speed trap could be set up.

Member of the public 3 – advised it was annoying when travelling to Upton tip that they have to go round when it floods when they pay high council tax. C Cllr Allen advised that nothing could be done about water other than move the tip which he felt Upton would be against.

**19.02.24.3 To discuss co-option and agree actions**

Council **AGREED** to co-opt Ian Davis. Ian signed his acceptance of office

**19.02.24.4 To note apologies for absence**

Apologies received from D. Cllr J. Owenson

**19.02.24.5 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011) and to confirm the meeting quorate.**

There were no declarations of interest and the meeting was declared quorate



- 19.02.24.6 To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
Council **APPROVED** minutes from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**Proposed** Cllr Turner  
**Seconded** Cllr M Davis
- 19.02.24.7 To Receive Clerk's Report and agree actions**  
Clerk report was received as per **APPENDIX 1**  
Councillors **AGREED** that the clerk should contact the usual speakers to attend the annual parish meeting.  
Councillors **AGREED** that Cllrs M Davis and I Davis will complete the Internal control document.  
Councillors **AGREED** that Cllr M Peters would write a newsletter informing people of the annual parish meeting.
- 19.02.24.8 To Receive County Councillor's report and agree actions**  
County councillor's report was received as per **APPENDIX 2**. C. Cllr Allen also advised that a pedestrian crossing had been proposed on A38 but it would cost £250,000 to implement.  
C. Cllr Allen left at 20:26
- 19.02.24.9 To Receive District Councillor's report and agree actions**  
None
- 19.02.24.10 Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**
- 19.02.24.10a To approve bank reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report Up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**  
Council **APPROVED** the Bank reconciliation and Budget monitoring report.  
**Proposed** Cllr England  
**Seconded** Cllr Turner  
**To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since the last meeting**  
Council **APPROVED** payment list as per **APPENDIX 3** totalling £1852.63.
- 19.02.24.10b** £1801.33 was stated on the agenda but an additional invoice of £51.30 was received from PATA.  
**Proposed** Cllr Turner  
**Seconded** Cllr England
- 19.02.24.11 To approve monthly payment of Clerk's salary throughout the year based on regular core hours, any extra hours to be authorized**  
Council **AGREED** monthly payment of Clerk's salary throughout the year based on regular core hours. Additional hours to be authorised
- 19.02.24.12 To approve monthly payment of Lengthman's time sheet throughout the year based on regular core hours**  
Council **AGREED** monthly payment of Lengthman's time sheet throughout the year based on regular core hours up to £100 in mileage
- 19.02.24.13 To discuss replacing the damaged bin on A38 and review quotes**  
Council **AGREED** to speak to insurance to see if they could contact the driver who damaged the bin.
- 19.02.24.14 To discuss the provision of a bin on Ryall Court to replace the container currently being used for dog waste**



Council **AGREED** to report the container as fly tipping to Malvern District Council and have it removed.

**19.02.24.15 To discuss a new bin at The Beeches and review quotes**

Council reviewed the following quotes

Supplier	Price
Glasdon 120l bin	£190.73 + VAT
Recycling Bins Direct 90l bin	£219 + VAT
Bin Shop – 120l bin	£179.99 + VAT

Council **AGREED** to purchase a 120l bin from Glasdon to be located at The Beeches  
**Proposed** Cllr England

**Seconded** Cllr Turner

**19.02.24.16 To appoint an internal auditor and agree actions**

Council **AGREED** to appoint Oliver O’Kane who is independent of the council

**19.02.24.17 Working Groups – To review members of the following working groups and agree actions:**

**19.02.24.17a Planning Working Groups**

Council **AGREED** that Cllrs England, Turner, I Davis

**19.02.24.17b Communication and Social Media**

Council **AGREED** that Cllr Peters would take over the Communication and Social Media working group

**19.02.24.18 Policies all documents circulated to the meeting**

**19.02.24.18a To consider the adoption of Disciplinary Policy**

Council **AGREED** to adopt a Disciplinary Policy

**19.02.24.18b To consider the adoption of Grievance Policy**

Council **AGREED** to adopt a Grievance Policy

**19.02.24.18c To consider the adoption of Training Policy**

Council **AGREED** to adopt a Training Policy

**19.02.24.18d To consider the adoption of a Communications Policy**

Council **AGREED** to adopt a Communications Policy

**19.02.24.18c To consider the adoption of a Risk Assessment**

Council **AGREED** to adopt a Risk and Management Policy

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

**19.02.24.19a Consultation on Planning Application 23/000046/CM**

Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application

**19.02.24.20 Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

**Meeting Close – 21:02**



## **APPENDIX 1**

### Clerks Report 19.02.24

**Accounts** – Corrected the discrepancies in the finance programme and attached all the invoices to each payment so ready for audit.

**VAT** – Resent the VAT claim I sent 15/12/22 for period 31/03/20-30/11/20 £1060.68 to ask why not been paid.

Sent in VAT claim for period 2022/23 for £2519.18.

**Lengthsman** – Scheme has contacted me to correct the submitted worksheets which I have done so now they can be passed for payment.

Tim is contracted 16 hours a month 4 hours a week. Do you want him to stick to 16 hours in a 5 week month or increase to 20? Council agreed

**Banking** – Urgently need more signatories on the account.

**Annual Parish Meeting** – Is there anybody specific I need to invite or just the usual? Will there be a newsletter inviting people if so who will be writing it?

**Internal Control** – needs completing



## APPENDIX 2

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN

#### REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024

Good evening,

#### COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

##### WCC BUDGET HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED

On the 28/01/24 I sent you an email about the forthcoming WCC budget. The information provided was from Steph Simcox, who is the Deputy Chief Finance Officer for WCC

##### UPDATE FROM FULL COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS TAKEN FROM COUNCIL PAPERS

Now we have had the full WCC meeting on 15/02/2024 and the budget has been approved. Please see below from the Chief Financial Officer at WCC answers to my questions about WCC financial situation:

- 1. For the financial year April 2023 to 2024 how much of a deficit is there forecasted to be?**  
The total gross overspend (structural deficit) currently forecast for 2023/24 (as at P9) is £35m or 8.7% of our net revenue budget. This gross overspend is being partially mitigated by additional business rates income of £4.1 million and planned additional use of reserves of £9 million, giving a net forecast overspend of £19.2 million (4.8%).  
*Paragraph 32*
- 2. For the financial year April 2023 to 2024 how much of WCC reserves have or are going to be used?**  
The forecast as at the end of December is that c£61.1m of reserves will be used in 2023/24  
*Table 18 in paragraph 85 which is the difference between the £144.1 at end of March 2023 and the £83m at end of March 2024*
- 3. For the financial year April 2024 to 2025 how much of WCC reserves will have to be used?**  
The current forecast is that c£27.5m will be used in 2024/25  
*Table 18 in paragraph 85 which is the difference between the £83m at the end of March 2024 and £55.5m at the end of March 2025*
- 4. What reserves will then be left?**  
At the end of March 2025, the forecast is that c£55.5m will be left  
*Table 18 in paragraph 85*



In just three short years, the Conservative Administration at County Hall will have spent £98.989 million in reserves.

By the end of March 2026 the reserves will be reduced further to £45.208 million. Table 18 in paragraph 85.

No doubt a glossy leaflet will come out claiming that all is well. With just short of £100 million being taken from the Councils Reserves I cannot see how anyone can pretend this is good news.

### **300 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES FOR WCC**

WCC are currently looking for 300 voluntary redundancies.

### **150 COUNTY COUNCIL LONG TERM EMPLOYEES ARE FACING A PAY CUT**

WCC are about to cut the pay of some of the lowest paid employees of WCC by 5.4% from April this year.

### **BOW FARM MINERAL EXTRACTION**

As you know, following the planning inspectors ruling the extraction is now most likely to proceed. The full decision has come out this week.

All members of the County Council Planning Committee were emailed all of the documents relating to this ruling with this email below:

*Dear Planning and Regulatory Committee,*

*For your information, please find attached an update on land at Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Ripple (Proposed Bow Farm Quarry), which is a cross-boundary application with Gloucestershire County Council, and the appeal outcome relating to Gloucestershire County Council's decision. The appeal was allowed, and planning permission granted in January 2024. **Full costs were also awarded to the appellant as it was found that Gloucestershire County Council had acted unreasonably** in refusing planning permission (please see attached Appeal Decision and Costs Decision).*

*Recently Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) updated its 'Members Planning Code of Good Practice' (attached), which I wish to draw to your attention.*

### **RYALL EAST QUARY APPLICATION – Nr Ripple and Uckinghall.**

As I said at our last two meetings, I have spoken to officers at WCC, and they are still waiting for the applicant to send in more information before it goes to the committee.

I have asked for another briefing prior to this application going to WCC planning committee.

### **RIPPLE SCHOOL LANE QUARY FOR MINERALS APPLICATION (CEMEX)**

20222342



The planning application has been received. I have commented on it.

#### **ON DEMAND BUS**

I have sent you a PDF of the new leaflet; this is an improvement from the last one.

My understanding from talking to Officers at WCC that the service is going well.

I am especially pleased that it will now take you to Tewkesbury.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW**

You may be aware that the boundary Commission have now propose no change in the Division of Croome. They appear to be looking at a minor change in the Division of Trinity in Malvern.

This is good news for your residents, consistency is important.

#### **HEREFORD & WORCESTESHIRE FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATION**

We have two County Councillors sitting on the fire committee, following their and many others raised concerns, I understand the Chief Fire Office has changed his mind about removing one of the two crews in Malvern.

Worcester is still to lose a crew and go from three to two crews.

This is the link if you need it again:

<https://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation/>

#### **FUNDING**

I have managed to find you extra funding for £500.00, you will need to send Tanya and invoice before the end of March.

#### **THE GROVE PEDESTRIANS IN THE ROAD SIGNS I HAVE REQUESTED.**

Just to let you know that I have received an email from WCC Highways stating that the Pedestrians in the Road signs will be up for the A38 approaches by the end of April.

#### **ADDITIONAL GULLY/DRAIN INSTALLED**

At my request WCC Highways Department have installed an additional Gully/Drian alongside the Bluebell in The Grove. It took longer than expected, I understand there were some complications.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

#### **PLANNING MATTERS**



70 Homes on the A4104 at Holly Green – As I said last month I still have no more news when this will come before the Southern Area Planning Committee.

#### **LAND AT SCHOOL LANE**

02/02/24 I forwarded an email to you from MHDC Enforcement, it looks like this issue is coming to an end and the trailers etc have now been removed.

#### **SWDPR UPDATE**

The two inspectors, Mr Dean and Mr Lewis have come back asking more questions. One of the main issues appears to be that the County Councils 2019 Transport Modelling/Data although having been revised since 2019 is not robust enough and more up to date information will need to be provided by the County Council.

I am aware the Wychavon, MHDC and Worcester City Councils are seeking to meet with the County Council.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL FINANCES**

MHDC is having to make savings over the next five years of £1.55M to balance the books.

The good news is that MHDC do not have any debts hanging over them. There is a sensible plan to resolve this problem, part of which is to levy an additional 100% Council Tax Charge on Second Homes. currently there are 418 second homes within the district, 375 our Band D. This would raise £780664.00, of which £65K would go to MHDC, the remainder going to WCC, The Police and H&W Fire Brigade.

#### **The plan will be voted upon at the next full MHDC meeting which is tomorrow evening.**

MHDC is raising its part of the Council Tax by £5.00 for a band D property, 2.82%

Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority increase is £2.82, 2.99%

West Mercia Police Authority increase is £13.00, 4.91%

Noticeable is that WCC are increasing their increase to £73.14 for a band D property which is the highest increase of £4.99%

#### **MHDC 5-Year Plan**

MHDC have voted through the next five year plan. You can view it on their website if you wish.

The main points are that MHDC will continue to concentrate on Health & Wellbeing, the Economy including Tourism and the Environment. There was the possibility of consultation with district Councillors attending the Oversee and Scrutiny committee meeting prior to the full council meeting to vote this through.

Warmest Regards

20222344





Cllr Martin Allen

**APPENDIX 3**

<b>Ripple Parish Council</b>	<b>To Be Authorised</b>
Clerk Salary	1234
PATA	51.3
Clerk Expenses	38.38
Namesco	528.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1852.63</b>