

**RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.15pm at Ripple Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. M. Peters (Chairman), M England, P Turner, D Cllr J Owenson

**Attendees:** Interim Clerk M White, one member of public

- 18.09.23.1** **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
- 18.09.23.2** **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)**
- 18.09.23.3** **To note apologies for absence – Cllr Maggie Davis and District Cllr Martin Allen**
- 18.09.23.4** **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011) and to confirm the meeting quorate**  
Cllr England declared an interest in item 18.09.23.11b Land at Furrow Close, and the meeting was declared quorate.
- 18.09.23.5** **To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**  
Council agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 via email and any observations to be made to the Clerk ASAP. All comments now received and meeting minutes updated.  
**Proposed** Cllr England                      **Seconded** Cllr Turner
- 18.09.23.6** **To Receive Clerk’s Report and agree actions – Clerk’s report was received as per APPENDIX 1**
- 18.09.23.6a** The AGAR and all supporting documents are now approved and on the council website.
- 18.09.23.6b** The defibrillator at The Bluebell is now paid for and fully working.
- 18.09.23.6c** The Clerk advised that a recent complaint was made to MHDC regarding the parking at the Platform Housing site, but they have responded stating that they can’t get involved and that we should persist with PHG. This has now also been added to the items of concern with the Local Policing Community Charter. It was agreed that the Clerk will now approach the CEO of PHG to raise this as health risk due to residents driving in pedestrianised areas, a process that was recommended by a member of CALC, and everyone agrees that we take this next step.



- 18.09.23.6d** Review of Planning applications. It was agreed that while the council is low on numbers, all Councillors will form the working group and review all planning applications and provide observations or objections to the Clerk until our numbers improve. The Clerk was asked to resend all current planning applications to Councillors for review.
- 18.09.23.6e** The Clerk advised that Cllr Maggi Davis has reminded us that we will soon be harrowing and sowing meadow seed. Before we do this there is some cutting back hedges and scything long grass between the trees needed. Maggi has suggested asking Alex Portch to do this, or we could ask Smart Cut. We'll also need to buy sand to mix with the seed to help with spreading. We need to agree how to manage and finance this. The Chairman agreed to reach out to Alex Portch to see if this is something he can do for us.
- 18.09.23.6f** The Clerk advised that Councillor vacancies have been advertised on the parish website, and notice of the resignation of Cllr Dawn Long registered with Electoral Services at MHDC.
- 18.09.23.7** **To receive County Councillor's Report and agree actions – APPENDIX 2**  
**The Chairmans read the County Councillor's report in the absence of Cllr M Allen and the following key areas of interest were:** Ryall East Quarry at Bow Lane; the County Council have delayed the decision and put on hold their plan for gravel extraction and this in turn will delay the decision for extended extraction at Ripple. The continued Enforcement Order at School Lane regarding the parked vehicles, and the planning application at Furrow Close. It was agreed that we should send at least one councillor to attend the Sothern Planning Committee meeting, which was planned for September but has been postponed.
- 18.09.23.8** **To receive District Councillor's Report and agree actions.** District Councillor Owenson updated the meeting on the On-Demand Bus, and wished to remind the Parish that this is a pilot scheme, and that we should continue to promote the service and further updates will follow.
- 18.09.23.9** **Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**
- 18.09.23.9a** **To approve the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report up to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** Due to reconciliation variances the Clerk agreed to re-run reports showing our September payments and the next precept, and review at the next meeting.
- 18.09.23.9b** To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since the last meeting. Payment List was received as per **APPENDIX 3**. Concerns raised over the current balance, and the Clerk confirmed that two items on the payments list had in fact been paid a) the bench and b) Smart Cut. The Chairman also pointed out that the Parish precept was due, and that balances will be confirmed by the next meeting.
- 18.09.23.10** Parish Council Insurance renewal due 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The Chairman advised that whilst the annual premium with Zurich has increased by £34.00, it was felt that this was still a competitive quotation for the parish. It was agreed that we would allow the policy to auto-renew on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Proposed** Cllr England

**Seconded** Cllr Turner



- 18.09.23.11** The Chairman advised of the current and ongoing vacancies within the Parish, and where necessary consider remedies:
- a) Councillors
  - b) Footpaths Officer
  - c) Lengthsman
- 18.09.23.11a** The Chairman reminded the meeting that encouraging new member has been difficult, and that all Councillors need to be involved in recruiting potential candidates, and fresh methods of attracting interest and encouraging involvement from the parish is required. Possible advertisements and articles in the Upton News from Councillors and the Chairman with their views on parish activity over the last couple of years may be useful, and invitations to attend parish meetings that include consultations or attendance by external guests who may be presenting on issues that are particularly contentious or important. The Cemex consultation was discussed as a possible attraction, as well as Local Democracy Open Days. The Clerk was asked to contact Democratic Services at MHDC to canvas support with this.
- 18.09.23.11.b** The Chairman agreed, again, to contact Alex Portch regarding the Lengthsman position. A member of public raised the issue of the overgrown footpaths in general and the issues of having no Footpaths Officer. The member of public advised that in particular the footpath in the field behind the telephone box in Naunton is inaccessible as the landowner is ploughing the field over the footpath. The Chairman agreed to contact Fiona Argyle regarding the maintaining of the path through the field, and to discuss the shared responsibility of the role and to assist the Parish Council to establish a process for overseeing the footpaths and grass cutting going forward. The Clerk also raised the issue of the ongoing disputed footpath at Ferry Lane which is now badly overgrown and access dangerous due to apparent attempts to prohibit walkers along the perimeter of the land.
- 18.09.23.11** To discuss the following planning applications/appeals made since the last meeting and agree actions:
- a) M/23/00077/FUL – Green Street Farm, Strensham Road, Naunton for arena lighting - objections
  - b) M/22/01073/FUL – Land at Furrow Close (OS 86374103) for construction of 25 homes
  - c) M/23/00794/RM – Land at Holly Green, Upton for development of 6 new homes
  - d) M/ENF/23/0108 – Land at School Lane
  - e) M/23/00205/HP – Court Lea, Holly Green for proposed extension
  - f) M/23/01061/HP – Ripple Cottage for restoration and repairs
  - g) M/23/01192/HP – Chandos, Ryal Grove for space for LPG tank
  - h) M/23/1048/HP – The Cottage, Naunton for single and 2 storey extension. The Chairman read a complaint letter regarding this application from a member of public with concerns over the extent to which the property is being changed. Council agreed to review along with comments and feedback at the next meeting.
  - i) The Solar Farm development at Strensham – not in our Parish but we were asked to be aware of the works as access to this site will go through Naunton:  
TBC 23/0049/FUL  
WDC W/23/01011/FUL




# Ripple

PARISH COUNCIL

There was concern that Councillors had not received all of the ongoing planning applications. The Clerk agreed to resend ALL applications and Enforcement Orders for review and immediate feedback. The Clerk agreed to compile responses and add findings to the MHDC website and report back at the next meeting.

It was agreed that we should invite a representative of Cemex to the next Parish Meeting and invite the public to attend to hear the organisations' plans for the gravel extraction to the southeast of the current site.

**Date of Next Meeting : Parish Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Signed 

Dated 16-10-23



**APPENDIX 1**

**Clerk Report**

- AGAR** AGAR and all supporting documents have been approved by PK Littlejohn and added to the Parish website.
- The bench** The bench is due soon and will be placed on the prepared area by the noticeboard at Ryall. Alex Portch has agreed to secure it in place.
- Defibrillator** The defibrillator at The Bluebell is now operational. We're now using a supplier called Primary Care Supplies, who were able to deliver much quicker, and their prices are considerably more competitive.
- Primary Care Supplies - £165.00 plus VAT for a complete pack, and a lead-time of 3 days.
- Safelincs - £ 338.08 with a lead-time of 6-weeks.

**Platform Housing Parking at Ryall**

As suggested at the last meeting, I lodged a complaint with MHDC, but they have responded stating that they can't get involved and that we should persist with PHG. I have also added this to the items of concern with the Local Policing Community Charter. I will now approach the CEO of PHG, a process that was recommended to me by a member of CALC, if everyone is in agreement.

**Planning applications** Only two listed on agenda – there is also an ongoing application for the land at Holly Green, and the land at School Lane which Martin has emailed about.

**Latest News**

Councillor vacancies – I contacted CALC due to our low numbers and they can advertise on their website, however, this rarely gains results. They suggested using local news letters, so we should consider advertising in the Upton News. Reaching out to local sixth form schools or colleges to encourage younger members has also been suggested. They've provided a recruitment pack to assist.

**Recreation Ground**

Maggi has reminded us that we will soon be harrowing and sowing meadow seed. Before we do this there is some cutting back hedges and scything long grass between the trees needed. Maggi has suggested asking Alex Portch to do this, or we could ask Smart Cut. Either way, it's un-invoiced work and an unknown cost at this stage, unless we ask Alex to give us a quotation. We'll also need to buy sand to mix with the seed to help with spreading. We need to agree how to manage and finance this.

**APPENDIX 2**

**District Councillor Allen's report**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN**

**REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2023**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

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

I have spoken to officers at WCC, and they are still waiting for the applicant to send in more information.

At the AGM one resident asked for trees to be planted as part of the restoration process. On 27.05.23 I submitted an information request asking if a Woodland could be planted #4602. This has gone to the County Council Planning Office to be considered, they have now confirmed they are talking to the applicant about this.

**COMMUNITY BUS TO TEWKESBURY**

I would like to remind everyone it is still running each Wednesday morning.

It continues to be a success.

**ON DEMAND BUS**

Finally, Cllr Tom Wells and I have had a briefing just over a six weeks ago. We pointed out that this new bus does not go to The Worcester Royal Hospital, Harefield House, Worcester. Tesco's, Aldi, or St Peters Garden Centre. In fact, part of my Division, Croome and High Green had been totally missed off the Zone of Pick up and Travel! We have raised the issues and asked that Officers come back about the requested changes.

Despite numerous requests for another meeting, WCC officers have not agreed to a meeting. I will keep pressing. Unless WCC alter the destinations that the buses can go to, I fear this trial will end in failure.

**BOUNDARY REVIEW WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

I have submitted my comments, but as there is now agreement from the Boundary Commission that the numbers are balanced across the district, there will not be any changes in the MHDC area.

This is the link to the boundary review: [https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all\\_reviews/worcestershire](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all_reviews/worcestershire).

**REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT IN HOLLY GREEN**

Due to the two planning applications, which if both are granted, will bring more pedestrians crossing the A4104 to walk into Upton, I have requested a change to the speed limit from the start of Holly Green, just east of the Ryall Road to the Marina.

I would like the speed to be reduced to 30mph. I have not received any answer yet.

The reference number I used to report this is #5321 Submitted 10/08/23



#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

##### **MHDC 5-YEAR LAND SUPPLY & PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Following the Post Office Lane, Kempsey planning appeal, I am pleased to say that the application was turned down. I noted that in the appeal it stated that MHDC does not have a 5-year land supply. At each appeal the way that the 5-year land supply is calculated differs, I am not sure what to make of the present ruling.

However, the planning application was turned down, I did note the reasons, which hold a lot of weight for the 2 applications coming up in this area in the next 12 months.

1. Furrow Close, Holly Green, my understanding is that a 5-year land supply would not help because the planning application is for social housing.
2. 70 Homes at Holly Green, this does come under the 5-year land supply remit, but the land is in the SWDPR, and it will at some stage get planning permission again. I am concerned about the flooding problems which don't seem to me to have been resolved. It could well be that permission to build is given, but no one builds there, just like last time when planning permission was given. Please see below for more information about this application.

##### **FURROW CLOSE**

It is possible that this will now appear in the September Southern Planning Committee meeting. It would be helpful if a representative from Ripple Parish Council went and spoke at the planning meeting.

##### **LORRIES PARKED OFF SCHOOL LANE AT THE OLD OIL DEPOT.**

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.

##### **SUNSHINE FESTIVAL**

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 causing traffic to queue on the A4104 and A38.

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

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen

APPENDIX 3

Invoices sent for Payment in September

Date	Company	Amount	Comments
31-Aug	Smart Cut	£780.00	Grass cutting on 14/8 and 28/8
13-Sept	PATA payroll services	£51.30	For July Aug Sept