



RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held 8 April 2024 at Ripple Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs. M Davis (Vice Chairman), M England, P Turner, I Davis, C Cllr M Allen, D Cllr J Owenson

Attendees: Clerk/RFO M Hinde and 2 members of the public

08.04.24.1 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

08.04.24.2 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)

Parish Hall committee asked if the piece of land behind the parish hall could be included in the smart cut agreement. Councillors **AGREED** to add this to the next agenda.

The council were also informed that it is 80 years in August since a plane crash in the village. A memorial is being organised on Saturday 24th August and the RAF are involved. A religious service will be held and a nuclear bunker will be open for people to look around. The event will be advertised in posters and press and the organisers would like councillors to be involved. Councillors **AGREED** to share advertising on to the parish council Facebook page and to attend the event if available.

08.04.24.3 To note apologies for absence

Cllr M Peters sent his apologies as he is unwell

08.04.24.4 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

08.04.24.5 To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 February 2024

Council **APPROVED** minutes from the meeting held on 19th February 2024

08.04.24.6 To receive Clerks Report and agree actions

Clerk report was received as per **APPENDIX 1**

Council **AGREED** the Beeches bin should be delivered to Cllr England

Action Clerk - Councillors **AGREED** to get a price from GAPTC/CALC for group training.

Action Cllr Peters - Councillors also **AGREED** to advertise councillor roles and the work the Lengthsman carries out on Facebook.

Action Cllr M Davis – to contact WI to see if they can cater the annual parish meeting

Action Cllr England - send Clerk address for bin to be delivered

20222337



- 08.04.24.7 To receive County Councillors report and agree actions**
County Councillors report was received as per **APPENDIX 2**
- 08.04.24.8 To Receive District Councillor's report and agree actions**
D Cllr Owenson advised that as the Bluebell is up for sale councillors may wish to consider considering a asset community value on it. There is already an asset community value on the Railway Inn Ripple.
MHDC still has allocated reserves c. 400k for the art college. The council are advised to come up with projects which benefit community which they could apply for funds for.
C Cllr Allen and D Cllr Owenson had a meeting about Upton in bloom who have been trying to raise money individually when MHDC should be paying for it. Councillors have advised that the project and any projects Ripple may undertake should align to the right part of MHDC. Example putting in an Orchard. For any projects council should make a case for money from a budget already allocated.
- C Cllr M Allen left at 19:58**
- 08.04.24.9 Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**
- 08.04.24.9a To approve Bank Reconciliation up to 31st March 2024**
Council **APPROVED** the Bank reconciliation as per **APPENDIX 3**
Proposed Cllr I Davis **Seconded** Cllr England
- 08.04.24.9b To approve Budget Monitoring Report for financial year 2023/24**
Council **APPROVED** the Budget Monitoring Report for financial year 2023/24 as per **APPENDIX 4**
- Proposed** Cllr I Davis **Seconded** Cllr Turner
- 08.04.24.9c To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since the last meeting**
Council **APPROVED** payment list as per **APPENDIX 5** totalling £396.30.
£6.30 was stated on the agenda but an additional invoice of £390.00 was received from Smartcut.
- Proposed** Cllr I Davis **Seconded** Cllr Turner
- 08.04.24.10 To discuss the continuing problem of dog waste on Ryall Court and agree actions**
Cllr England confirmed he had reviewed the area and there were no bags present. Cllr England confirmed he would keep an eye on the area and advise the council of any concerns.
- 08.04.24.11 To agree the location of the final litter bin in Ripple/Uckinghall and agree actions**
Council advised there was still a query over who owned the land where the bin is due to be installed.
- Action Clerk** - to ask Cllr Peters for an update on if he has been able to identify the land owner so the final bin can be installed.



- 08.04.24.12 To discuss servicing of the defibrillators and agree actions**
Council reviewed the quote of £105 from Safelincs and **AGREED** to cover the cost of the service at The Railway, Bluebell and Beeches.
- 08.04.24.13 To discuss the following planning applications/appeals made since the last meeting and agree actions:**
- 08.04.24.13a Planning Application M/23/01422/HP - Wells Furlong Uckinghall Tewkesbury GL20 6ES**
Council had no objections to this application and confirmed it had already been approved by Malvern Hills District council
- 08.04.24.13b Planning Application Consultation M/24/00135/ADV Bluebell Farm Pershore Road Earls Croome Worcester WR8 9DJ**
Council **AGREED** for Cllr England to contact the commercial estate agent regarding S106. Council also **AGREED** that Cllr England would write a response on behalf of council as council believed development is too large.
- Action Cllr England – Contact commercial estate agent and write planning response**
- 08.04.24.13c Planning Application Consultation M/23/01422/ HP Wells Furlong Uckinghall Tewkesbury GL20 6ES**
Duplicate of 08.04.24.13a
- 08.04.24.14 To receive agenda items for the next meeting of the council**
.gov email addresses
Adding Parish Hall land to Smartcut agreement
Ideas for Recruitment of Parish Councillors
- 08.04.24.15 Date of Next Meeting: 20th May Annual Meeting**
24th May Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting Close – 20:30



APPENDIX 1

Clerks Report 08.04.24

Lengthsman Dashboard – Attended training session on Lengthsman dashboard being launched in April to submit invoices.

Lengthsman Mileage – Now been corrected from 0.65 to 0.45 and any overpayment was deducted from February [invoice](#) so everything is now balanced.

Annual Parish Meeting- Emails sent to Nick Elwell (confirmed attendance), Tim Hughes (confirmed attendance), Harriet Baldwin (awaiting response), Church Wardens (confirmed attendance).

Insurance Claim – claim submitted for bin

VAS A38 – contacted Tanya regarding a suitable pole to install the VAS on A38 but she has informed that as this road is over 50mph it is not suitable for a VAS.

Councillor Training – Training courses emailed out please let me know if you wish me to book you on [any?](#)

Beeches Bin -Where shall I get this delivered?



APPENDIX 2

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN

REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2024

Good evening,

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

COUNCIL TAX INCREASES

I gave you both WCC and MHDC increases last month, so I won't repeat myself.

VETERANS BUS PASSES

In November 2022 I brought a Motion to a full County Council meeting for all veterans who live in Worcestershire to receive a bus pass, similar to the pensioners bus pass. This passed unanimously and was to become live this April. The majority of veterans who live here are retired and already receive a pensioner's bus pass, so the costs will be relatively small.

However, the ruling administration have now delayed the start of the scheme and intend to look at it again in September 2024. I feel very disappointed with this outcome.

However, I'm not prepared to give up, I have requested that Cllr Mike Rouse; who is the cabinet member responsible for transport look at providing a trial with the on Worcestershire On Demand bus in Bromsgrove and the divisions of Powick and Croome.

HS2 MONEY TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2025/2026 ONWARDS

Following the Government's announcement that part of HS2 is now cancelled, WCC are going to receive £209 million pounds over 7-years. Personally I believe a quarter should go into reserves, however we will have to wait and see on how the administration intend to use the funds. I did contact the leader of the council, Cllr Simon Geraghty about this funding and its use for a Veterans Bus Pass and received this reply:

Hi Martin,

Many thanks for your email regarding the Veterans Pass and the recent announcement of a new Local Transport Fund as a result of the changes made to HS2.

Whilst this source of funding for future transport projects is most welcome, the guidance has not been published yet as the fund commences in 2025/26 rather than the next financial year. My understanding is that the majority will be for capital rather than revenue projects and so unlikely to help fund revenue spending. However, we will have to await the guidance before this can be confirmed or otherwise.

I appreciate this will be disappointing news but hope it provides some clarity that it's not available for us in 2024/25.

20222341



Kind regards,

Simon

As the funding is to be used for transport, I still have hopes it can fund the Veterans Bus Pass.

SEND SCHOOL IN MALVERN UPDATE

This is a Government funded project; it is expected to open in September 2027. Currently there are 83 children of primary school age with Special Educational Needs, each costing £58K per year to send them out of area for education. The long trips to school are not ideal. By building the school, we will shorten their travel time and reduce the cost to £25K per pupil. Initially the school will be designed to take up to 120 children, but with the capacity to be extended to take 160 if required.

MORE NEWS ON THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN WORCESTER NEAR THE COUNTY COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

There are currently 89648 children in Worcestershire, 80K attend school. The remainder are either too young to go to school or they are home schooled. The new school opening has had to be set back to September 2028, there are problems with the access onto the school from the highway.

BOW FARM MINERAL EXTRACTION

I have no more news following the Planning Inspectors decision that the extraction of the minerals can go ahead except that Gloucestershire County Council lost their case with the planning inspector and now have to pay costs in excess of £180K!

The Cllrs who sit on the planning committee at WCC that vote on mineral extraction sites were sent 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.

I have spoken to officers at WCC, because of the application for extraction of minerals on near School Lane, they are still waiting for the applicant to send in more information before this application goes to the committee.

20222342



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

RIPPLE SCHOOL LANE QUARY FOR MINERALS APPLICATION (CEMEX)

I have no more news. but I will let you know when I hear more.

THE GROVE PEDESTRIANS IN THE ROAD SIGNS,

These have now been installed.

28/02/24 I did send you the latest data road speed survey, which was taken in November 2023. Unfortunately, it is not helpful.

SOUTHBOUND 4510 Vehicle movements per day, with a mean average speed of 38mph and an 85th %ile speed of 44mph.

NORTHBOUND 4487 Vehicle movements per day, with a mean average speed of 41mph and an 85th %ile speed of 48mph.

I have sent you an email from PC Kevin Johns on 14.03.24 effectively saying that the Police do not see a problem with speeding at The Grove.

WORK COMPLETED ON THE RYALL ROAD

When work commenced to resolve the drainage matter on the corner of the Ryall Road and The Beeches, it was found that there was a serious problem that needed the Ryall Road closing. The problem has now been resolved.

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.

SWDPR UPDATE

As I said to you last month, 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.

I will give you an update when you have one.



CARPARKING CHARGES FIRST INCREASE IN 12 YEARS.

The consultation has now closed.

The following is proposed:

The most popular tickets are 50p for one hour, and £1 charge for two-hours parking will remain. These are some of the lowest charges in Worcestershire.

As well as this, there will be an increase to three hours for vehicles displaying a valid disabled person's blue badge across all sites.

Other changes could include a cost increase of a 24-hour stay car park from £3 to £4 at the Council House, Victoria Road, Hanley Road, New Street, Priory Road North, Priory Road South, and Teme Street car parks.

Also, an increase of the cost of the evening operating hours tariff (4pm to 8am) from £1.50 to £2 at all car parks and an increase in the cost of the Resident Annual Two Hour Permits from £25 to £30 per year.

I am disappointed the campervan issue has not been addressed.

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen



APPENDIX 3

**Ripple Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation Up to 31.03.24**

Ripple Parish Council	Receipts	Payments	To Be Authorised
Three		12	
T Hughes (Lengthsman)		1005.85	
Ripple Parish Hall		121.5	
Worcester County Council	1355.75		
M Hinde (Clerk Salary)		2152.32	
M Hinde (Clerk Expenses)		38.38	
Namesco		528.95	
PATA		51.3	
IONOS		19.2	
HMRC VAT REFUND	3579.86		
SMART CUT		390	390
TOTAL	4935.61	4319.5	390

Bank Reconciliation

Current Acc. Opening Balance	
31.03.24	5988.39
Plus Receipts Above	4935.61
	10924
Less Payment Above	4319.5
Closing Cash Balance	6604.5
Plus Payments to be Authorised	390
Closing Bank Bal 31.03.24	6994.5

Bus Acc. Opening Balance	15213.23
Interest Received	33.62
Closing Bank Bal 31.03.24	15246.85



Ripple

PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX 4

PAYMENTS															
	Budget	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Variance
Expenditure	1,013.00													1,013.00	
Subscriptions	1,013.00													1,013.00	
Newsletters/Adverts/Fivers/Media	301.00													301.00	
Donations	56.00													56.00	
Insurance	700.00							642.80						642.80	-47.20
Grass Cutting/Trees	2,300.00				1,625.00	325.00	1,950.00	650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,550.00	2,250.00
Lendishman	4,385.00								200.00	527.45	168.10	670.10	335.75	1,901.40	2,483.60
Chairmans Allowance	100.00													100.00	
Prof Fees/Audit	230.00							210.00						210.00	-20.00
Clerks Expenses	756.00		3.39	35.45			108.00		48.00	102.97	43.09	510.17	5.00	856.07	-100.07
Clerks Salary	10,479.00	840.84	710.71	1,623.13	1,377.16	1,401.54	2,109.74	1,540.17	1,564.34	1,540.16	1,478.48	1,208.00	918.32	16,312.59	-8,833.59
Annual Public Meeting	927.00													927.00	
Hall Hire	114.00				155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	121.50	0.00	276.50	-162.50
Repairs	662.00													662.00	
Vehicle Activated Sign														0.00	
Recreation Ground Refurbishment								160.00						160.00	-160.00
Tree Surveys/Maintenance									54.06		42.00		16.00	117.06	-117.06
Website		1.00	3.00			1.00	-1.00							4.00	
Adman Training	100.00				60.00									60.00	40.00
Clerks Equipment	131.00		5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00						40.00	91.00
Dubs	150.00						158.50				165.00			323.50	-323.50
BUS									385.00		220.00			605.00	150.00
HANDYMAN	2,000.00													2,000.00	
Waste Bins														0.00	
Recreation Ground							291.63							291.63	208.37
Bench	500.00													500.00	
Payroll charges		49.65		25.80	15.00		51.30					51.30		193.05	-193.05
HMRC		376.56												376.56	-376.56
Association Memberships					905.15							0.00		905.15	-905.15
Software			345.60				50.99							396.59	-396.59
Election fees								50.00						50.00	-50.00
	29,236.00	1,272.06	720.10	2,037.98	4,142.31	1,942.03	4,514.67	3,483.97	2,031.40	2,555.58	1,731.67	2,561.07	1,275.07		
RECEIPTS															
Income															
Interest	24,140.00	12,070.00					12,070.00			1,543.00				25,683.00	1,543.00
Deposit Account Interest	5.00	9.56	8.58	9.62	10.27	11.19	14.14	13.05	16.74	17.30	15.70	16.80	16.82	160.66	155.66
Lendishman Scheme	2,301.37									200.00		168.10	1,187.65	1,555.72	-354.35
Grants	500.00													500.00	
Donations	200.00													200.00	
Grass Cutting	2,000.00		1,118.78											1,118.78	-881.22
Other Income													3,579.86	3,579.86	
	29,236.37	12,079.55	1,127.36	9.62	10.27	11.19	12,084.14	13.95	16.74	1,760.30	15.70	184.90	4,784.33		

PATA have advised that the council applies for a £5124.61 refund from HMRC to claim back SMP

Expenditure
Total: 28,247.95
Variance: 988.10

Income
Total: 32,098.05
Variance: 2,861.65

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APPENDIX 5

Ripple Parish Council	To Be Authorised
M Hinde (Clerk Expenses)	6.3
SMART CUT	390
TOTAL	396.3